

**J&K State AIDS Prevention & Control Society,
Department of Health & Medical Education,
Government of Jammu & Kashmir**

Sub: Minutes of the 2nd State Grievance Redressal Committee (SGRC) meeting.

The 2nd State Grievance Redressal Committee meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, in his office chamber on 15th September 2015 in which following members participated.

1. Dr. Showkat Zarger, Director SKIMS.
2. Dr. Rafiq Ahmed, Principal, GMC, Srinagar.
3. Dr. Ghanshyam Dev, Principal, GMC, Jammu.
4. Dr. B. S. Pathania, Director, Health services, Jammu.
5. Dr. Sameer Mattoo, Director, Health Services, Kashmir.
6. Dr. Mohan Singh, Mission Director, NHM, J&K.
7. Director, Finance, H&ME Deptt.
8. Dr. Anil Mahajan, HOD, Medicine, GMC, Jammu.
10. Dr. Parvaiz Kaul, HOD Medicine, SKIMS, Soura.
11. Abdul Ahad, Representative of PLHA (Kashmir Division)
12. Mrs. Sunita Nanda, Representative of PLHA (Jammu Division)
13. Mrs. Rajni Devi, Representative of PLHA (Jammu Division)

At the outset, the Project Director introduced the SGRC members & PLHA representatives of both the provinces of State to Chairman of State Grievance Redressal Committee.

The Project Director brought out the problems being faced by the People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) in systematic manner for timely response. The following agenda points came into discussion.

Agenda No: 1:

Implementation of Decisions taken in the 1st SGRC meeting held on 17th July 2012.

An update on Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) Programme in J&K:

The Project Director informed that in the last meeting of SGRC, there was space problem for both the ART centres functioning in the State. The present space provided by the Director, SKIMS and Principal GMC, Jammu is not as per the guidelines of NACO. Further, no institutional Nurse for both the centres has been provided by the concerned so far.

The Project Director informed the Chair that Toilet facility for ART Centre has not been provided by the Director, SKIMS/ Principal, GMC, Jammu.

The Chairman of SGRC requested the Director, SKIMS and Principal GMC, Jammu to look into the matter and resolve the issues at the earliest.

Agenda No. 2

Social Protection for PLHIVs through Mainstreaming

The Project Director informed the Chair that PLHIVs are getting financial assistance from the State Government but there are various other areas which consume a major portion of the resources of the People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIVs) a great deal. Because of their lower health status PLHIVs are not able to work for their livelihood in their advanced stages of infection. Some lose their jobs because of the discrimination at the work places.

The Project Director said that a special status for PLHIVs can be achieved by getting the directions issued for exempting the PLHIVs from the criteria of eligibility for availing the already existing schemes within the state or by creating a few favouring PLHIVs.

On this the Chairman, SGRC asked the Project Director to submit a proposal to different departments for inclusion of PLHIVs in their existing schemes or to create new ones which accommodate them suitably.

Agenda No. 3

Requirement of Blood/Blood Components in case of PLHIVs :

The Project Director informed that many times it has come to the notice that PLHIVs have to suffer for want of blood/blood products especially in case of emergencies. He observed that though the blood bank people are mostly cooperative, at times but many a times PLHIVs suffer due to the lack of knowledge or for the want of completion of formalities.

Representative from PLHIV's conveyed that they face problems in securing blood at Medical College Jammu/SMGS. Principal GMC, Jammu was conveyed that all efforts must be made to ensure that they do not suffer on this account.

All the concerned heads assured the Chairman that needful would be done in the matter and that PLHIVs will be provided free blood without replacement subject to availability.

Agenda No.4

Sub Agenda No. 4.1:

Provision of Ambulance for PLHIVs :

The Project Director, JKSACS informed that it has been noticed that many a time PLHIVs, especially from far flung areas, who need to be admitted in hospitals or who are admitted in hospitals for treatment are not able to reach the hospital or their homes respectively because of lack of transportation.

On this the Representative of Jammu/Kashmir Division informed the Chairman of the committee that when they require Blood for themselves, they are deprived because of being PLHIV.

One Representative from PLHIV requested that they are getting the medicine from ART Centres for one month only. To avoid expenses on travelling they should get two months medicines in advance. HOD, Medicines, GMC, Jammu informed the members that as per NACO guidelines we can give medicine only for one month.

The Chairman, SGRC asked the Project Director to submit a proposal to NACO informing it about the practical difficulty in this regard and to considering revising the period for giving medicine in advance to two months instead of prevalent one month.

Sub Agenda No. 4.2:

Free Transportation for taking ART Treatment :

The Project Director informed the committee that many of the PLHIVs fail to take medicines on time as they are physically and economically very weak and cannot afford the transportation to reach the ART centers and proposed that free transportation facilities be provided to PLHIVs at-least for taking medicines from respective ART/Link ART centers as per their schedule of taking medicines.

The Principal, GMC, Jammu informed the Chairman that they don't have any spare vehicle to carry out the PLHIV's. He further requested that if JKSAACS provides a vehicle and a driver, transporting the PLHIVs from one place to another will not be an issue.

It was agreed that a proposal should be sent to the Secretary, Transport and Secretary/Director Social welfare for considering providing transport facilities and other benefits to PLHIVs. A separate card needs to be issued in favour of PLHIVs for getting free transportation facilities. Project Director suggested that it has already been done in Jammu & same may be replicated in Kashmir as well.

Agenda No.5

Widows Pension Scheme for PLHIVs :

Project Director informed that in many cases the widows of PLHIVs have to suffer a lot of mental, physical, social and economical stigma and discrimination as most of them are either very poor or illiterate and cannot support themselves or their families and are forced to get into wrong practices.

It was decided that a proposal addressed to Secretary/Director Social Welfare for providing regular pension and other facilities to PLHIVs and for their inclusion in the different schemes being run by the department of Social Welfare should be drafted and put up for consideration.

Agenda No. 6

The Director SKIMS, Principal GMC, Jammu, HOD Medicine, GMC, Jammu/SKIMS Srinagar informed that they are facing a lot of problems in their Centre. Some of these issues presented were:

1. Vacant post of Counsellor, Nurse & Pharmacist.:

It was informed that new recruitments have not been approved by NACO. Three posts of counselors have been approved for ART Jammu against which two are already working and the vacant post of one counselor will be filled as and when allowed by NACO. Further, rest all the human resource sanctioned under NACO is posted in both the ART centers.

2. Computer for Data Manager.

Computers for Data Managers at both the ART centers are in place.

3. Additional Space/infrastructure for both the centers.

(It was informed that there are 2000 HIV patients registered in ART center Jammu, but the space provided is very less which can cater only 500 patients and as such requested for allotment of additional space in GMC Jammu): Principal, Government Medical College, Jammu for necessary action.

4. Creating Centre of Excellence Research on AIDS.

The issue needs to be taken up with NACO for approval.


5. Shortage of funds for O I Drugs.

This shall be looked into as per the guidelines and practices being adopted by other States.

6. Permission for installation of Cooler & Exhaust Fans.

This shall be looked into as per the guidelines and practices being adopted by other States.

The meeting concluded with thanks to the Chair //


19.10.15
Project Director

No: JKSACS/SGRC/15/5149-61

Dated: 19-10-2015.
20

Copy to the:-

1. Secretary to Government, Health & Medical Education Department, J&K Srinagar for information.
2. Director, SKIMS, Soura for information.
3. Principal, Government Medical College, Srinagar/Jammu.
4. Director, Health Services, Jammu/Srinagar.
5. Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, Srinagar.
6. Director, Finance, Health & Medical Education, J&K, Srinagar.
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