



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1st Flr., Bldg. 13-A, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz Manila 1003
Tel/Fax 711-7846 Trunkline: 743-8301 Loc. 1700-1701



July 10, 2006

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ORDER

No. 2006-1869

SUBJECT: Creation of the National TB/HIV Collaborating Committee

Rationale:

Tuberculosis (TB) is the most common treatable infectious HIV-related disease of people having AIDS in countries with high burden of tuberculosis. It is estimated that HIV-infected persons have a 5%-10% annual risk and 30% lifetime risk of developing TB disease. And while, TB epidemic has no direct impact on the HIV epidemic, it does affect the course of HIV infection, with TB being the most common opportunistic infection and cause of death in people having AIDS.

In the Philippines, TB prevalence is high while HIV prevalence in the general population and among TB patients in the country is low at <1% (WHO 2005 Global Report). However with the worsening HIV/AIDS epidemics in the neighboring countries, there is a need to address the TB/HIV co-infection.

Based on the World Health Organization framework to address TB/HIV co-infection in the Western Pacific Region, in countries with national adult HIV prevalence rate below 1% and no administrative areas with adult HIV prevalence rate $\geq 1\%$, the recommended collaborative TB/HIV activities are to have a joint national TB/HIV planning to have a surveillance of HIV prevalence among TB patients and to decrease the burden of TB in PHA (with focus on high HIV and TB risk groups, e.g. IDUs, CSW and congregate settings. The activities would include intensified TB casefinding, Isoniazid preventive therapy and TB infection control in care and congregate settings.

Objective:

To ensure proper collaboration between the National AIDS and STI Prevention and Control Program (NASPCP) and the National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP) to improve diagnostic, care and preventive services for people living with HIV and TB.

Roles and Functions:

The following shall be the roles and functions of the committee:

1. Formulate policies/guidelines for the operationalization of the TB/HIV Collaboration through the Technical Working Group(TWG)
 - a. Establish cross-referral mechanisms between NTP and NASPCP to provide access for TB/HIV services
 - b. Standardize management of TB/HIV co-infection to ensure quality of care among cases with TB/HIV co-infection
2. Provide Technical Assistance through collaboration of key stakeholders involve in the management of cases with TB/HIV co-infection.

3. Provide a forum for the discussion of issues and concerns on the operationalization of the TB/HIV collaboration
4. Set the directions for TB/HIV Collaboration vis-à-vis NTP and NASPCP policies and guidelines.

Frequency of Meeting:

The National TB/HIV Coordinating Committee shall meet every quarter while the Technical Working Group will meet every other month or as deemed necessary by the body.

Composition:

The following shall compose the TB/HIV Collaborating Committee:

Chairperson: Director Yolanda E. Oliveros
Director IV
National Center for Disease Prevention and Control

Co- Chairperson: Director Jaime Y. Lagahid
Director III
NCDPC-IDO

Vice-Chairperson: Dr. Ferchito Avelino
Director III, PNAC Secretariat

Members:

1. Mr. Cesar Montances - PNAC Agency Representative – Government as represented by the Department of Interior and Local Government
2. PNAC Agency Representative – Non-government as represented by the Positive Action Foundation Philippines, Inc (PAFPI)
3. Dr. Juanita Basilio - Division Chief of the Child Health Program
4. Dr. Mario Baquilod – Division Chief of the Infectious Disease Office

Technical Working Group committee:

1. Dr. Rosalind Vianzon - NTP Manager
1. Dr. Anna Marie Celina Garfin - MS IV, NCDPC
2. Dr. Gerard Belimac - NASPCP Program Manager
3. Dr. Dorothy Agdamag - Laboratory services for HIV/AIDS – SACCL
4. Dr. Melvin Magno - NTP Partner Agency (NGO) – World Vision
5. Dr. Imelda Quelapio - DOTS Plus Coordinator, TDFI - Makati Medical Center
6. Treatment hub representative – SLH/RITM/UP-PGH
7. Ms. Vicenta Borja – IYCF Program Manager, Family Health Office

Committee Advisors:

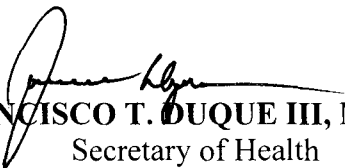
1. USEC Ethelyn Nieto - Department of Health Undersecretary for Health Operations
2. Dr. Michael Voniatis - World Health Organization Country Officer for TB
3. Dr. Nerissa Dominguez – World Health Organization Country Officer for HIV-AIDS
4. Dr. Marlyn Borromeo - UNAIDS Medical Officer – Philippines
5. Dr. Evelyn Lagamayo – President of the Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

Secretariat

1. Mr. Joel Atienza – Head secretariat, SVHPO, NCDPC
2. Ms. Cirila Negad - SVHPO, NCDPC

Under this order, the committee is hereby directed to convene immediately upon approval of this order.

Expenses related to this undertaking, shall be charge to the funds of the GFATM/NTP, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health