

COBES Meeting held on 15th April 2008 in the Physiology Department, Board room

Attended by:

- Julia Royall
- Ronald Kiweewa
- Lubega William
- Sekayombia Brian
- Ojwang Joseph
- Fred Magala
- Nelson Igaba
- Simon Ndira
- Isaac Okullo
- Andrew Mwanika
- Harriet C. Kisakye
- Hama Daniel
- Kiige Deborah
- Dr. Ibingira

Agenda:

1. Opening remarks and welcoming of the Hon. Min. of Health, Primary Health Care
2. Minister's response
3. Discussion on Minister's response
4. Students' presentation
5. Discussion after Minister's presentation
6. Further exploration of the partnership arrangement
7. Date for next meeting

Note: Along with these high level Minutes is a detailed narrative of discussions during the meeting.

Type interpretation: I = Information; A = Action; S = Suggestion

| No | Topic | Discussion / Point put forward | Type | Person in charge | Status | Status Date |
|----|-----------------|--|------|------------------|--------|-------------|
| 1 | Opening remarks | The main purpose of the meeting was to present COBES to the Hon. Min. Dr. Otala and to explore further steps with the partnership arrangement. | I | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2. | Opening remarks | The meeting which began at about 9:10am was opened by Dr. Andrew Mwanika. He briefly explained the COBES program to the Hon. Min. Dr. Otala – <u>see narrative for details.</u> | I | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 3 | Opening remarks | <p>Dr. Mwanika also cited challenges faced by COBES and possible solutions:</p> <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ students have a problem of accessing learning materials while out in the fields ▪ Supervision is a problem because site tutors are very busy ▪ The COBES team would have loved to spend time with students in the fields and while there perform critical treatment/operations ▪ Students welfare while in the fields, i.e. accommodation, feeding, transport etc. <p>Possible solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set up resource centers in the districts with a dormitory, recreation rooms, communication center (Internet). This could be done through development partners and the district ▪ Increase uptake of family medicine as a useful program ▪ Lobby for the allocation of students' training in | I | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| No | Topic | Discussion / Point put forward | Type | Person in charge | Status | Status Date |
|----|---------------------|---|------|---------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| | | <p>district budgets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government should consider including COBES activities in the students' fees structure. | | | | |
| 4 | Opening remarks | <p><u>Request to the Minister:</u> Dr. Mwanika then placed the following request to the Minister:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champion COBES to become a national training policy. He cited that development partners, e.g. DFID, cannot support COBES due to lack of a national policy. <p><u>In conclusion:</u> Dr. Mwanika noted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COBES has a high potential. The skill shortage issue in the health sector is an outcome of a poor education system all over the world, one which is not in tune with reality. Link up students' curriculum with community based education and services as a policy. A policy in place will enable roll out to all tertiary institutions Finally, COBES enables the tapping of the huge man power resource of students, which if obliged through curricular activities to go to the community will ensure success without a national fall out. | I, T | Hon. Min. Dr. Ojala | Open | 15 th Apr 08 |
| 5 | Minister's Response | "There is no doubt that this is the real program that we should have thought about thirty years ago when Almata | I | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| No | Topic | Discussion / Point put forward | Type | Person in charge | Status | Status Date |
|----|---------------------|---|------|---|--------|-------------------------|
| | | <p>declaration was made regarding PHC as a strategy for providing health care to the people. As Archimedes said, Eurake, you got it. Linking training to service provision is an important aspect that could be rolled out in Uganda and even to other countries”</p> <p>The Minister thanked all partners engaged in the COBES program including MIFUMI.</p> | | | | |
| 6 | Minister's Response | The Minister, who appreciated the role of COBES, pledged to invite the COBES team to make a presentation to the Health Policy Advisory Committee, which consists of not only Ministry of Health technocrats but also stakeholders | T | <p>Hon. Min. Dr. Ojala</p> <p>Dr. Andrew Mwanika</p> <p>Dr. Joseph Ojwang</p> | Open | 15th Apr 08 |
| 7 | Minister's response | The Minister further pledged to establish linkages with Ministry of Education. “Education and Health doing their own things does not help the opportunities we could exploit as partners”. | T | <p>Hon. Min. Dr. Ojala</p> <p>Dr. Andrew Mwanika</p> <p>Dr. Joseph Ojwang</p> | Open | 15 th Apr 08 |
| 8 | Minister's response | The Minister recommended that an evaluation of the COBES program be performed, since it is coming to five years since the program started. | S | COBES team | Open | 15 th Apr 08 |

| No | Topic | Discussion / Point put forward | Type | Person in charge | Status | Status Date |
|----|------------------------------------|---|------|------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| | | He noted that usually after graduation the impact of doctors' presence in the community is not felt, as most tend to prefer remaining in the city. It will be important to note the trend of graduates relocating to communities having appreciated the COBES program during studies. | | | | |
| 9 | Minister's response | <p>Further remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Continuous assessment</u> of student's engagement in the COBES program beyond just engagement due to exam drive will be necessary to determine the reality on the ground to this side ▪ There is need to put family medicine practice at the forefront. There is need for many more family practitioners. ▪ Regarding the district funding COBES activities, the Minister suggested a centralized approach at COBES to reduce authority centers. <p>The Minister then concluded with reassurance of his support.</p> | S, I | COBES Team | Open | 15 th Apr 08 |
| 10 | Students' presentation – by Nelson | <p>The medical students then made a presentation on examples of activities executed under COBES.</p> <p>Generally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students design tools for education people on health issues brining on board their interpretation of the tools ▪ Students design ICT health interventions that are relevant to end users and contribute toward improvement of health in Uganda ▪ Students have designed tutorials in collaboration/partnership with NLM (National | | | | |

| No | Topic | Discussion / Point put forward | Type | Person in charge | Status | Status Date |
|----|--------------------------------|--|---------|--|--------|-------------------------|
| | | <p>Library of Medicine), MedLine Plus and Faculty of Medicine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tools designed are translated in several languages. | | | | |
| 11 | Discussion after presentations | <p>Dr. Ibingira, Deputy Dean Research, suggested closer linkage between the Ministry of Health and the Faculty of Medicine in order to easily influence policy.</p> <p>He cited the sustainability of COBES as a big issue, and requested the Ministry to see how it can best help.</p> | S | <p>Hon. Min. Dr. Ojala</p> <p>COBES Team</p> | Open | 15 th Apr 08 |
| 12 | Discussion after presentation | <p>Response from the Hon. Min. to No. 11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister committed to organize for COBES to present to various people who matter, e.g. HIPA, Members of the Social Services Committee of Parliament; specifically for the Chairman of the Social Services Committee to meet with the COBES team and where possible see a way of allocating a budget for COBES. <p>The Minister advised that research should be geared toward real problems we are experiencing and endeavour to disseminate research findings.</p> | T, I, S | <p>Hon. Min. Dr. Ojala</p> <p>COBES Team</p> | Open | 15 th Apr 08 |
| 13 | Partnership | <p>Working groups were formed to address the different partnership objectives outlined in the previous meeting, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a Gender Based Violence (GBV) curriculum Development of a Health Informatics curriculum Development of domestic violence referral tools | | | | |

| No | Topic | Discussion / Point put forward | Type | Person in charge | Status | Status Date |
|----|-------------|--|------|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening leadership and management ▪ Wealth for Health ▪ Addressing political mileage | | | | |
| 14 | Partnership | <p><u>Development of a Gender Based Violence / Domestic Violence curriculum:</u></p> <p><u>Working group:</u> Atuki Turner, Dr. Ssali, Henry Oboke, Annet Kutesa, Dr. Ojwang Joseph, Deborah, Simon Ndira</p> <p>This group is also responsible for developing DV referral tools</p> <p><u>Tasks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cause a meeting by latest 15th May 08 | I, T | GBV working group | Open | 15 th Apr 08 |
| 15 | Partnership | <p><u>Development of a Health Informatics curriculum:</u> The longterm objective is have Medical Informatics as a course, however, begin by offering basic trainings within the COBES program, e.g. training on searching medical databases and how to create tutorials.</p> <p>The training should probably fetch students some marks so that they take it seriously.</p> <p>Further ideas were cited – see narrative.</p> <p><u>Working group:</u></p> | | Informatics working group | | |

| No | Topic | Discussion / Point put forward | Type | Person in charge | Status | Status Date |
|----|-------------|--|------|---------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| | | <p>Julia Royal, Dean Stephen Kijjambu and Isaac Okullo</p> <p><u>Tasks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Isaac and Julia to organize to meet the Deputy Dean to discuss the Health Informatics curriculum and how it can be best integrated ▪ Andrew, Simon and Julia to organize to meet Dr. Mukoyo of the Resource Center and Andreas of the Catholic Medical Bureau. ▪ Need to explore Continuing Medical Education (CME) ▪ William to link Isaac with the gentleman in Stanford university to discuss possibilities of using the mobile phone technology to the benefit of COBES | | | | |
| 16 | Partnership | <p><u>Wealth for Health</u> There is need for COBES to rekindle contact with NAADS, identify pilot districts and include MIFUMI in the wealth for health initiative.</p> <p><u>Working group:</u> Dr. Mwanika, Ian, Deborah and Simon</p> | T, I | Wealth for Health working group | Open | 15 th Apr 08 |
| 17 | Partnership | <p><u>Addressing political mileage:</u></p> <p><u>Working group:</u> Dr. Mwanika, Ronald, Brian, Nelson, and Dr. Ojwang Joseph.</p> <p><u>Task:</u> Work toward commitments by Dr. Ojala.</p> | T, I | Political mileage working group | Open | 15 th Apr 08 |

| No | Topic | Discussion / Point put forward | Type | Person in charge | Status | Status Date |
|----|---------------------------|---|------|------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| 18 | Partnership | Relevance of the PSMP program was presented by Dr. Joseph Ojwang – see narrative for details COBES could explore how students could possibly benefit from the PSMP program | S | COBES Team | Open | 15 th Apr 08 |
| 19 | Date for the next meeting | The next meeting is scheduled for 4 th June 2008 | T | All partners | Open | 15 th Apr 08 |

Contact details of persons who attended the meeting

| No | Names | Phone | Email |
|----|--------------------|-------------|--|
| 1 | Julia Royall | 0773-073918 | jroyall@nlm.nih.gov ; |
| 2 | S. C. Kijjambu | 0772-501652 | sckijjambu@med.mak.ac.ug ; |
| 3 | Dr. Ibingira | 0772-437351 | |
| 4 | Atuki Turner | 0752-581123 | atukiturner@mifumi.org ; |
| 5 | Kiweewa Ronald | 0752-999350 | ronaldkiweewa@yahoo.com ; |
| 6 | Anthony Okoth | 0772-645556 | Osunajoy2002@yahoo.co.uk ; |
| 7 | Lubega William | 0773-367906 | Lwilxeza2000@yahoo.com ; |
| 8 | Nixon Niyonzima | 0782-677395 | nnyonzima@med.mak.ac.ug ; nyonix@yahoo.com ; |
| 9 | Sekayombya Brian | 0774-155507 | Denisbrian16@hotmail.com ; |
| 10 | Ojwang Joseph | 0772-601606 | josewangc@yahoo.co.uk ; |
| 11 | Fred Magala | 0772-466577 | Magala311@yahoo.com ; |
| 12 | Simon Ndira | 0751-580071 | simonndira@mifumi.org ; |
| 13 | Glyn Turner | 0752-615339 | glynturner@mifumi.org ; |
| 14 | Isaac Okullo | 0782-303625 | iokullo@med.mak.ac.ug ; |
| 15 | Andrew Mwanika | 0712-812294 | amwanika@med.mak.ac.ug ; |
| 16 | Nelson Igaba | 0772-648296 | Nelson_kb@yahoo.com ; |
| 17 | Harriet C. Kisakye | | Hkiskakye2002@yahoo.com ; |

| | | | |
|----|---------------|-------------|---|
| 18 | Deborah Kiige | 0774-030150 | Deb_namb@yahoo.com; |
| 19 | Hama Daniel | 0721-952434 | Hama-salt@yahoo.com; |