

HIV/AIDS Twinning Center



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University of Pretoria Partners Open New Clinical Learning Center at Tembisa Hospital

Twinning Center partners at the University of Pretoria in South Africa celebrated the launch of a new Clinical Learning Center at Tembisa Hospital on April 2.

US Consul General Earl R. Miller, Tembisa Hospital Chief Executive Officer Dr. Sandile Mfenyana, University of Pretoria Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, and Arcadia University Chair of the Department of Medical Science and Community Health Michael Dreyer were among those who spoke at the opening ceremony at Tembisa, which serves as a training site for Clinical Associates students at the University of Pretoria.

In 2011, with support from PEPFAR and CDC/South Africa, the Twinning Center launched its third partnership to assist South Africa's efforts to train Clinical Associates, linking the University of Pretoria with Arcadia University.

At the request of CDC, AIHA helped to equip the new Clinical Learning Center at Tembisa, which is expected to serve as a demonstration site for CDC programs in South Africa, as well as a model for future clinical training sites.

AIHA has also been working with the University of Pretoria to pilot the use of tablets by students at Tembisa to facilitate better access to evidence

-based information resources.

Through AIHA's USAID-funded Strategic Health Partnership Initiative, a Russian IT specialist was placed in South Africa for three months, where he developed content and installed medical apps on tablets used by the Clinical Associates.

The Russian expert also played a key role in organizing the official launch of the Clinical Learning Center and supported AIHA Regional Learning Resources Coordinator Sailas Nyareza in the demonstration of Tembisa Center's capabilities.

US Ambassador to Mozambique Visits Twinning Center Partners at Maputo Central Hospital

The Honorable Leslie V. Rowe, US Ambassador to Mozambique, toured Maputo Central Hospital's pediatric ward on April 4, where she learned about the efforts of a PEPFAR-supported Twinning Center partnership designed to improve quality of care for newborns and critically ill children, including those living with HIV or AIDS.

Launched in 2011 with funding from CDC/Mozambique, the partnership linking Eduardo Mondlane University

and Maputo Central Hospital with the University of California at Los Angeles has been working to improve the quality of care, with particular focus on pediatric services.

Partners explained their efforts to provide ongoing training in neonatology and pediatric critical care, as well as training in pediatric general and orthopedic surgery. They also shared their plans to launch a much-needed infection control program.



Ambassador Leslie V. Rowe meets with partners from Maputo Central Hospital and UCLA to learn more about their PEPFAR-supported activities.

Tanzania Kicks Off Process to Establish National Social Work Council, Improve Social Services



The Hon. Danfold Makala, Tanzania's Commissioner for Social Welfare (center) provides opening remarks during a stakeholders meeting at the Peacock Hotel in Dares Salaam on May 8. AIHA Country Director Sally Chalamila (right) and Tanzania Association of Social Workers acting Chairperson Mr. Enoch Mbise (left) also spoke at the opening of the event.

Laying the groundwork for marked improvements in the quality and accessibility of social support services for people in need, Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare recently launched the formal process to establish a regulatory body that oversees the practice of social work throughout the country.

Once approved by Parliament, the proposed new Social Work Council will help clearly define professional standards of conduct and monitor the practice of social work in Tanzania.

Because Tanzania's health-care workforce is severely overstretched, Social Workers and Para Social Workers play a critical role in ensuring vulnerable individuals and segments of the population have access to the care and support services they need.

Tanzania has never had an overarching formal code of social work practice, however, nor a formal body to perform regulatory functions and enforce professional standards.

As a result, issues related to professional conduct have been shrouded in uncertainty, which in turn has led to questions about the professional knowledge and integrity of some social workers.

The Social Work Council is the missing link between social work education, social work ethics and code of conduct, and professional social work practice in Tanzania. As such, it has the potential to make significant and positive differences in the practice of social work in the country by raising accountability and helping to improve public confidence in social work as a profession.

The Honorable Danfold Makala, Tanzania's Commis-

sioner for Social Welfare, presided over a stakeholders meeting conducted May 8 at the Peacock Hotel in Dar es Salaam.

Calling the event a turning point in efforts to protect the rights of both the public and social workers alike, Commissioner Makala told participants that the Tanzanian Government is committed to addressing social welfare workforce challenges in the country.

Citing a 2008 Ernst & Young report on the Department of Social Welfare's capacity, Commissioner Makala pointed out that only 53 percent of Tanzania's regions have social welfare personnel.

He went on to explain that joint efforts between the Government, development partners, and civil society organizations have resulted in a number of graduate and postgraduate courses in social work being launched at various institutions of higher learning in the country.

With funding from PEPFAR and USAID in Tanzania, AIHA has been supporting efforts to strengthen social work education and practice in Tanzania since 2006. Through its HIV/AIDS Twinning Center, AIHA established a capacity building partnership between the Institute of Social Work in Dar es Salaam and the Jane Addams College of Social Work and the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

In close collaboration with the Tanzania Human Resource Capacity Project, the partners have to date trained more than 4,026 Para Social Workers (PSWs), 642 PSW Supervisors, and 103 Master Trainers across the country.

In addition, AIHA and the partners have supported the development and standardization of a social work curriculum across 12 universities through the Tanzania Emerging Schools of Social Work Initiative (TESWEP), and are working to strengthen the capacity of the Tanzania Social Workers Association (TASWA), a national professional association for social workers.

AIHA's Country Director for Tanzania Sally Chalamila explained that AIHA is committed to supporting the process of establishing the Council because it is the best way to ensure the sustainability of all the initiatives done through the Twinning Center partnership, as well as various other social work capacity building efforts in the country.

During the meeting, Commissioner Makala introduced an exciting new initiative of the ongoing collaboration with AIHA and its partners — the development of a training program for Social Welfare Assistants, a new cadre designed to reduce lower level gaps in social care and support services.

This year-long academically accredited certificate program includes 12 courses that are offered in a classroom setting, along with two months of supervised field work. It establishes a career ladder for PSWs and meets the minimum qualifications for government service with respect to age, length of training, and other key factors. The Social Welfare Assistants course will be launched this year at Social Welfare Department colleges, starting with Kisangara.

Since 2006, Twinning Center partners at the Institute of Social Work and Jane Addams College of Social Work / MATEC have trained more than 4,026 Para Social Workers, 642 Para Social Worker Supervisors, and 103 Master Trainers across the country.

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Tanzania Kicks Off Process to Establish National Social Work Council, Improve Social Services

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The meeting also served as a forum for social work stakeholders to review reports from prior consultative gatherings and more fully develop the concept paper for the establishment of the Social Work Council.

This marks the first major milestone in the process because the concept note will be presented to the Department of Social Welfare, which will in turn use it as the basis for drafting the Cabinet Paper.

Once presented to the Government, the Cabinet Paper will allow for the Social Work Practice bill to be addressed in Parliament. TASWA played an instrumental role in the preparations for the meeting, gathering input from seven zones and assisting with the drafting of the concept paper.

Mr. Enoch Mbise, acting Chairman of TASWA, shared his belief that establishing the Social Work Council would result in the creation of a registration and regulation office for social workers, as well as statutory recognition of the social work function

and public protection by ensuring the very highest standards of practice from qualified and registered social workers. He also noted that a statutory accreditation authority will help ensure the quality of social work training being provided at institutions throughout Tanzania.

Funding and support for this important meeting was provided by PEPFAR, USAID/Tanzania, and AIHA.

Ronald Nakaka, the author of this article, is a Technology and Strategic Information Specialist at AIHA/Tanzania.

TASWA, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare Describe Role of Planned Social Work Council

At a social welfare stakeholders meeting conducted in Dar es Salaam on May 8, representatives of Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in Tanzania and the Tanzania Association of Social Workers (TASWA) provided some insight into their efforts to establish a regulatory authority for the social work profession in the country.

First and foremost, the goal of such an entity is to improve social services delivery and standardize social work education. Competent social work practitioners and a supportive social welfare infrastructure are critically needed due to the complex social problems people face, such as HIV/AIDS, poverty, and an array of other health and social concerns.

In particular, these issues are of grave concern to certain segments of the population,

including orphans and vulnerable children, the elderly, the disabled, and other high-risk groups.

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare believes that the proposed Social Work Council will serve to address the social welfare needs of the many varied population groups and the challenges of inadequate necessary infrastructure of social welfare services, professionally trained workforce, and educational programs.

Such a council will lead efforts to create an Office of Registration and Regulation of Social Workers to ensure the government and other development partners in the country are fully informed of the needs and objectives the Social Work profession. It could also strengthen the social work profession in Tanzania through statutory recognition of the Social Work

function, title, and role and its special place as a helping profession in the country. The statutory mandate will ensure that only trained and experienced individuals perform Social Work activities, thus preventing the use of unqualified staff.

The proposed Social Work Council will also ensure public protection by setting the very highest standards of practice from qualified and registered social workers, as well as leading the establishment and recognition of a statutory accreditation authority of institutions that provide the expected quality of training. Likewise the Council will protect the public by requiring high standards of education, conduct and practice of all social workers.

The Social Work Council will be the regulator of the social work profession, its practitioners, and its educators. It will register social work professionals and require high standards of practice to ensure quality of service and public safety by issuing and enforcing the codes of practice for the profession.

AIHA Conducts Quality Improvement Workshop in Lusaka, Zambia

“Overall, the program was very successful, resulting in a number of high-quality projects and more clarity about what the next steps should be.

These activities will continue through distance communication, participation in a July leadership workshop at UW-Madison, and selected site visits.”

— Lori DiPrete Brown, Associate Director, Global Health Institute, and Faculty Associate, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

AIHA, in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin at Madison’s Global Health Institute, conducted a quality improvement workshop April 23-27 in Lusaka, Zambia.

Representatives from Twinning Center partnerships in Botswana, South Africa, and Zambia attended this event, which was facilitated by Global Health Institute experts Lori DiPrete Brown, Jason Paltzer, and Sweta Shrestha.

According to Laura Laskofski, the Twinning Center Program Officer who leads AIHA’s Quality Improvement Initiative, “Our efforts are intended to complement and strengthen the work that our twinning partners are already doing by supporting projects that improve quality and efficacy at their respective institutions.”

The workshop program was designed to present concepts related to quality and quality improvement. Key learning objectives were to:

- understand the meaning and dimensions of quality and learn how to apply this knowledge;
- gain knowledge and skills related to setting standards for quality, measuring and monitoring quality, and quality improvement efforts;
- develop a quality improvement project to be implemented following the workshop;
- gain skills in presenting quality improvement efforts in a concise and effective manner;
- understand how quality improvement can play a role in comprehensive system strengthening efforts;
- develop an organizational strategy for continued joint learning, collaboration, and networking through the Quality Improvement Initiative for AIHA partners; and
- be better prepared to respond to external and internal evaluations that regularly occur.

During the 4-day quality improvement implementation workshop, participants from each partnership developed projects specific to the needs of their own institutions and explored provisory strategic plans for follow up upon return to their organization.

The format of the training — and AIHA’s overall Quality Improvement Initiative — was created to provide partners with the requisite understanding of quality improvement concepts, arm them with useful tools and strategies, and provide ongoing support through teleconferencing, social media, and other communications technologies.

“The groups developed their specific projects, as well as broader strategies for introducing quality improvement into their organizations,” DiPrete Brown explains, noting that participants also had time to meet with faculty advisors to plan follow-up exchanges and support.

AIHA Collaborates with Samsung South Africa to Expand mHealth Resources for Clinical Associates



AIHA Learning Resources Coordinator Sailas Nyareza (right) and the Samsung South Africa team at the mHealth Summit in Cape Town on May 3.

Clinical Associates are a new mid-level cadre of healthcare professionals that are helping South Africa overcome its severe shortage of trained healthcare workers.

Through its dynamic Learning Resources Project, AIHA has been working with Samsung South Africa to obtain tablet devices that are helping overcome the severe lack of access to current evidence-based clinical resources that greatly hinders training and practice opportunities for Clinical Associates, in

particular those assigned to rural healthcare facilities.

The tablets are loaded with critical reference materials, guidelines, and other resources that can be used both on and off-line to research patient care questions, help diagnose their conditions, and treat their ailments more effectively using the latest evidence-based guidelines.

AIHA and Samsung showcased how this public-private collaboration is improving access to information and

resources for Clinical Associates at an mHealth Summit held in Cape Town in May.

“By collaborating with Samsung, we hope to improve, enhance, and expand the usage of hand-held devices in the training of Clinical Associates and reach out to those who have graduated, encouraging them to use the devices and medical applications to improve the quality of care,” explains AIHA Learning Resources Coordinator Sailas Nyareza.

Conferences and Opportunities



6th International Workshop on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis and Prevention Research in Resource-limited Settings (INTEREST)
May 8-11, 2012
Mombasa, Kenya

Turmoil and Tenacity: The Progress of Public Health in Botswana
June 3-12, 2012
Gaborone, Botswana

5th Conference on Peer Education, Sexuality, and HIV & AIDS
June 13-15, 2012
Nairobi, Kenya

Best Practices in Social Work and HIV/AIDS
June 14-15, 2012
Montreal, Canada

39th Annual Conference of the Global Health Council
July 18-21, 2012
Washington, DC, USA

14th International Workshop on Adverse Drug Reactions and Co-morbidities in HIV **
July 19-21, 2012
Washington, DC, USA

4th International Workshop on HIV Pediatrics **
July 20-21, 2012
Washington, DC, USA

XIX International AIDS Conference
July 22-27, 2012
Washington, DC, USA

International Conference on Gender Based Violence
August 1-5, 2012
Nairobi, Kenya

Tuberculosis 2012: Biology, Pathogenesis, Intervention Strategies
September 11-15, 2012
Paris, France

*** These events are officially affiliated with AIDS 2012, the XIX International AIDS Conference.*

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Visit us on the Web at

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The HIV/AIDS Twinning Center mobilizes and coordinates the resources of healthcare and allied professionals in the United States and abroad to effectively build capacity to reduce HIV infection rates and provide care to those infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS in support of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Funded by PEPFAR through a cooperative agreement with the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, the Twinning Center is a project of the American International Health Alliance, a US-based nonprofit dedicated to helping limited-resource communities make positive, sustainable changes that improve accessibility to a broad range of high-quality healthcare services and preventive programs.

The contents of this newsletter are the responsibility of AIHA and the Twinning Center and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States government or other funding agencies.

