

Kenya Healthcare Federation Marks 11th Annual General Meeting

Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF), Health Sector Board of Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) held its 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 27th June 2019 at Villa Rosa Kempinsky Hotel in Nairobi. The meeting brought together health sector partners including: Ministry of Health (MOH), Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK), Health NGOs Network (HENNET) and Council of Governors (COG) Parliamentary Health Committee. The meeting was sponsored by Marie Stopes Kenya and Amref Health Africa. As the federation marked the end of the 10th AGM, Dr. Amit N. Thakker, chairman of Kenya Healthcare Federation, together with other private health sector leaders, including: Dr. Samuel Mwenda, secretary general of the Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK); Dr. Cosmas Mugambi of MOH; Ms. Alie Eleveld chair of HENNET; Ms. Racheal Muthoga, deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA); Mr. Meshack Ndolo, Council of Governors (COG); Dr. Hon. Mishra, Swarup Ranjan, Parliamentary Health Committee, unveiled 'THE DYNAMIC' a KHF souvenir magazine that marks the successes and milestones achieved over the years.



Health Sector leaders during the launch of "The Dynamic Magazine" at Villa Rosa Kempinsky Hotel, Nairobi

In her remarks, Ms. Rachel Muthoga of KEPSA commended the vibrancy of KHF and referred to KHF as a trendsetter among other sector boards affiliated with KEPSA. She encouraged the KHF members in attendance to be business oriented such that, for every challenge in the health space, they work on solutions with efficient business models.

Upcoming Events:

-  Kenya Health Summit, 14th-15th August, Safari park Hotel
-  Annual EAHF Conference (EAHF8): Safari Park Hotel: 4th-6th September 2019
-  Healthcare Management Conference, September 24th -25th 2019
-  Africa Health Business Symposium 7th – 9th October 2019, Ethiopia

She emphasized that affordability in health promotes access and uptake of services, which makes these crucial areas to look into with advocacy support from KHF and KEPSA, a collaboration she is willing to move forward with.



Ms. Rachel Muthoga, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, KEPSA, speaking during the Kenya Healthcare Federation 11th AGM at Villa Rosa Kempinsky Hotel, Nairobi

In his opening remarks, Dr. Amit N. Thakker of the Kenya Healthcare Federation thanked all the partners and members for the collaborative efforts and fruitful partnerships that has seen the federation's growth, especially in advocacy and regional integration. Over the past decade, the federation has partnered with the Ministry of Health in strong advocacy, especially through Presidential Round Table, Ministerial Stakeholder Forum, Devolution Conference, and Kenya Health Forum. Additionally, in 2018 the federation initiated County Stakeholder Forums (CSFs) in five counties including Isiolo, Makeni, Kisumu, Kirinyaga and Mombasa.

Through CSFs, the counties have been able to successfully establish better financing models that will ensure affordability of healthcare.

The chairman reiterated that the federation has marked a growth in membership by 40% in the past one year. KHF has also created partnerships with regional platforms including the East Africa Business Council, East Africa Community, East Africa Health Platform, East Africa Healthcare Federation and Africa Healthcare Federation. The federation looks forward to growing in advocacy, especially offering its expertise to work towards affordable healthcare for all. On his final remarks, Dr. Thakker challenged the private sector to strategize on how to fill the identified gaps in the health sector while delivering affordable healthcare for all. Some of the suggested solutions includes the roll out of innovative affordable private health insurance options to more uninsured Kenyans; investment into specialized treatment facilities through public private partnerships (PPPs); input towards an overarching regulatory framework that will promote financing in both private and public sectors; expansion of health cover to ensure patients can access high quality health services within 5km, expansion of health training to bridge the gap on e-learning and medical training facilities; promotion of cost-effective telemedical services; collaboration with the public sector in medical research and information sharing.



Chairman ,Kenya Healthcare Federation, Dr. Amit N. Thakker and Vice Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Wala, presenting on the federations achievements for the past one year, during the 11th KHF AGM at Villa Rosa Kempinski Hotel, Nairobi

Third Universal Health Coverage Conference

Kisumu County hosted the 3rd Universal Health Coverage Conference from 15th to 17th May 2019 at Grand Royal Swiss Hotel. The theme of the conference was 'Revitalizing Primary Healthcare for Sustainable Universal Health Coverage.' The conference brought together over 800 delegates from national and county governments, parliamentarians, private sector, civil society, faith-based health providers, youth advocates, health professionals and community representatives.



Deligates gathered during the third UHC conference at Grand Royal Swiss Hotel, Kisumu

On his opening remarks, Kisumu Deputy Governor, H.E. Dr. Mathew Owili informed the delegates that Kisumu County, being one of the pilot counties, did an analysis gap before the pilot implementation and the conference should answer most of the patient questions towards a successful UHC. Dr. Owili emphasized that Kisumu County needs enough human resources for health, facilities and equipment to successfully implement UHC.

"In order to achieve UHC, there is need to focus on enhancing access to prioritized health services for the poor, improvement of financial protection and health services quality increase." Paolo Carlo Belli, Programme Lead, World Bank.



Paolo Carlo Belli, Programme Lead, World Bank speaking during the 3rd UHC Conference at Grand Royal Swiss Hotel, Kisumu

Kenya has made progress towards UHC by improving health outcomes and increasing service coverage. Health insurance coverage is improving and the share of out-of-pocket expenditures has reduced over the last decade.

The challenges to UHC include geographical inequities in coverage, socio-economic inequities in coverage and low public spending on health. Additionally, new institutional, governance and financial frameworks instituted with decentralization need time to be cemented. The World Bank recommended a significant and sustained budgetary commitment in order to control costs and improve quality, which will require a change in incentives and accountability mechanisms with multiple policies. Building supply capacity is critical to assuring delivery of effective services.

This conference brought together the four pilot counties to draw a road map on the implementation plan for UHC, not only for the pilot counties, but also for the rest 47 counties. It was agreed that there should be a clear policy to guide national and county government roles in the implementation of service delivery, that the service of community health workers should be institutionalized and that their training should be based on a defined curriculum to empower them to adequately be part of primary health care with proper remuneration.

Appropriate technology should also be identified and integrated as part of the benefits package in UHC delivery. We need to enact appropriate legislation to facilitate the flow of funds towards health facilities for efficient service delivery. The referral system should be strengthened to link households to community health units and health facilities for appropriate utilization of services. Kisumu County will look into developing a UHC financing model that will take into account a mixed pooling of existing insurance schemes, active purchasing of services through tax finance approach and opportunities for innovative community financing schemes.



Dr. Amit N. Thakker, Chair, Kenya Healthcare Federation, speaking at the 3rd Universal Health Coverage Conference at Grand Royal Swiss Hotel, Kisumu

The conference was also graced by UHC pilot counties delegates including: Prof. Kibutha Kibwana, Governor, Makueni County; Ms. Caroline Karugu, Deputy Governor, Nyeri County; CEC, Makueni County; Governor, Isiolo County, Dr. Mohammed Kuti.

Private Sector Policy on the adaptation of standard medical classifications

Health Information Exchange (HIE) is vital in improving healthcare quality, making care more efficient, streamlining administrative tasks, engaging patients and supporting community health. The ICT Data Exchange sub-committee of the Kenya Healthcare Federation has been in strategic discussions to see how health information exchange can be firmed up and made efficient.

Health information exchange can improve the coordination of patient care and decrease inefficiencies and medical errors, allowing health service providers to offer better quality of care at an affordable cost. Both the volume and the quality of point-of-care information and historical patient data are continuously increasing. To enable meaningful use of the data, as well as to safeguard the patient privacy and confidentiality, adequate governance standards and structures are required.



ICT participants attending the high level breakfast meeting on Health Information Exchange at IBIS Styles Hotel, Nairobi

The Data Exchange committee developed a policy position paper, which was discussed in a high level breakfast meeting at IBIS Styles Hotel, Westland on 18th June 2019. The high level participants included: Association of Kenya Insurance, Techno Associates, Carepay, MINET, Smart Applications, Nairobi Hospital, Metropolitan Hospital, HUAWEI, Savannah Informatics, Seven Seas Technology, Phillips Health East Africa and My Dawa.

The KHF-led process will leverage good practice that has made self-governance within the private sector possible. The HIE initiative is expected to use and build on artifacts, methodologies, processes, policy and legislative frameworks that exist to coordinate stakeholders. In addition, the committee reviewed their proposed medical classification standards. This is in accordance to Kenya Standards and Guidelines for e-Health Systems Interoperability, developed in 2015, in consultation with national stakeholders from the private sector, public sector, as well as the World Health Organization Global Team for Classifications and Terminologies.

Some of the key areas that the classification will look at into include: classification of diagnoses, procedures, laboratory tests, medications, commodities, laboratory procedures and clinical evaluations; communication and management of medical imaging, clinical messaging standards, unique identifiers for health providers and patients and a standard format for patient identification technology.

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1st Quality Healthcare Kenya Awards

Kenya Healthcare Federation partnered with Quality Healthcare Kenyan Awards (QHKA) on the first ever quality healthcare awards in Kenya. The awards recognized various champions in the health sector, for their outstanding performance and contributions in the delivery of quality healthcare. QHKA is an initiative of Zawadi Brand Solutions Limited (ZBS), QHKA in partnership with Amref Health Africa, envisions improving standards of health services delivery through the health systems strengthening approach. The awards also served as a catalyst in driving enthusiasm in the healthcare organizations especially fostering innovations, use of technology and sharing best practice. This motivated both the private and public sector towards a collaborative efforts to achieve the delivery of quality healthcare.



Hon. Sicily Kariuki, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health, Speaking during the 1st Quality Healthcare Kenyan Awards at a gala dinner at Radisson Blu Hotel, Nairobi

As the ministry of health is firming up strategies towards achieving universal health coverage, the awards were set at a strategic time when the ministry of health is planning on improving the UHC programs countrywide. "These awards have come at a crucial time when we are planning on scaling up universal health coverage programmes countrywide" Hon. Sicily Kariuki, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health, speaking during the gala night. The chief guests who graced the event included: Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health, Hon Sicily Kariuki, Country Director, Amref Health Africa, Dr. .Meshack Ndirangu, Makueni Governor, Prof. Kibutha Kibwana and Dr. Amit Thakker, chairman, Kenya Healthcare Federation.



PS Kenya received award on Media Excellence in promoting Health & Well being

There has been records of gaps in delivery of quality healthcare, supply chain and diagnostic accuracy of service providers "We started this journey to change the narrative to bring out the impact of the positive contributions on the Kenyan health sector for scalability and sustainability.



Prof. Kibutha Kibwana, Governor, Makueni County and Dr. Andrew Mulwa, CEC, Makueni County, received the award on behalf of the county, for the best County in delivery of quality healthcare

This is the first step towards the right direction in improving the standards of health service delivery, "Ms. Grace Ndegwa Chief Executive Officer, Quality Healthcare Kenyan Awards



MP Shah Hospital received the award on best people's choice private Hospital

Kenya Healthcare Federation congratulates all its members and the counties that won the awards these includes: PS Kenya, Jacaranda Health, Makueni County, Amref Health Africa, MP Shah Hospital and Prof. Khama Rogo who won the lifetime awards.



Entertainment during the quality healthcare kenyan awards

Celebrating Heroes in the Health Sector

Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF) joined Kenya Medical Association (KMA) in congratulating Dr. Jaqueline Kitulu, for being elected as the 1st Deputy Governor of Kenya Red Cross Society (KRS). Dr. Kitulu has been serving as the 2nd Deputy Governor for the society for 2 years. She was elected During Kenya Red Cross Society's election which took place at the 59th Annual General Meeting (AGM), that was held at the Boma Inn Hotel on, June 28, 2019.



Dr. Jaqueline Kitulu, 1st Deputy Governor, KRS, being handed over the new office



Secretary General, Kenya Red Cross Society (KRS), Mr. Abbas Gullet, together with the incoming KRS leadership team

Dr. Kitulu, is also the president of Kenya Medical Association, Director, Kenya Healthcare Federation, Board Member, National Hospital Insurance Fund and Governing Council Member, Mater Misericordiae Hospital.

Dr. Kitulu is Diligent, a servant leader, committed, passionate and a visionary. She is a family physician in private practice for the last 16 years.

Kenya Healthcare Federations wishes her well in the new assignment

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