

## **Meeting between Chair and Secretary of aidgambiaTCHC and Chernor JALLOW and Lamin NJIE at Kololi Beach Club on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

### **1. Intro and Welcomes**

RS established that all were happy to follow the proposed agenda that had been distributed prior to meeting. He then recapped the period since previous meeting in November 2019:

- the Aidgambia TCHC WhatsApp group had been established during the Tallinding Health Centre project has now been closed down and a new one set up to include the five Trustees and Chernor and Lamin.
- RS explained that the Trustees had hoped to be introducing a revamped and up to date website at this meeting but there had been a few glitches and this work was ongoing;
- RS explained the proposed development of a link with the AVIC Football Academy with the focus on promoting healthy living among the young. Lamin expressed interest as he also was involved in a football academy. Chernor asked whether the Academy had trained first aiders or any health awareness training. There were free courses that could be organised. Chernor also raised the idea of a football match between the two Academies to raise awareness of the dangers of hyper tension and the increase in diabetes among the young.

### **ACTIONS:**

1. RS to put LN in touch with Bas the Head of the Avic Academy.
2. LN to arrange match between the two Academies to promote health issues among the young.
3. CJ to facilitate the free health training available to football club administrators.

### **2. CATS role descriptions:**

Both CJ and LN confirmed receipt via email of proposed Clinical Advisor to the Trustees (CAT) role descriptions and expressed approval and agreed to take on the roles. Chair explained that they would be the eyes and ears of the Charity in The Gambia and CJ said they would be selling the image of TCHC. Chair pointed to a number of examples of possible future activity: setting up link with Uni of Gambia School of MEDICINE; representing TCHC at football annual awards; CJ to be our link if collaboration with Eye Care For All

Both LN and CJ confirmed they had been discussing the CAT role in advance and had some proposals:

1. Clearer information about Bendon Bursaries (BBs) on the website to facilitate their promotional work. As CATs they wanted to be in a position to refer people to self-explanatory information and to reduce any perceived personal element in the selection process. It was suggested a leaflet would be helpful.
2. Sessions with students on their courses to explain and publicise the Charity and the BBs.
3. potential of registering TCHC in The Gambia as an NGO, with ECFA and Japalleh Foundation nominated as sister orgs. AGMs could coincide with visits of UK Trustees. After two years with regular admin and annual reports we could apply for apply for NGO status. The CATs could assist in the process. Chair would raise at next Trustees meetng.

## **ACTIONS**

1. RS to improve BBs info on the website.
2. Chair to raise with Trustees
3. CATs to coordinate Charity application at The Gambia end.  
**NB 2&3 dependent on Trustee agreement.**
4. Chair to raise registration of **aidgambiaTCHC** in The Gambia at next Trustee meeting.

### **3. University Of The Gambia link up**

CJ reported back on progress. He explained that there were 4 Departments in the School of Medicine and he had made contact with Lamin Barrow, a lecturer and PA to the Head of the School of Public Health. He could supply email and phone number and the Uni was happy to discuss any BB awards. CJ expressed caution based on previous experience with the University when a student led project that was hijacked.

## **ACTION**

CJ to provide contact details via WhatsApp

### **4. Aidgambia TCHC actions since November 2019 meet**

Chair ran through each in turn:

*Find and distribute University bursary availability - done*

*Finalise CAT role descriptions and present at Jan 2020 meet - done*

*Ask CJ to set up University link / contact - done*

*Revisit the aidgambia website - started and ongoing*

### **5. Aidgambia - TCHC Priorities 2020**

Chair ran through each in turn and emphasised the important role CATs would play if all priorities were to be achieved.

1. Reformat [www.aidgambia.org.uk](http://www.aidgambia.org.uk)
2. Set up University of The Gambia link
3. Develop BBs via the CATs.
4. Increase our products donations eg spectacles and reconditioned hardware
5. Explore and develop links in The Gambia to establish broader range of activity and network.

### **6. BENDON BURSARY update**

1. Chair expressed a long lying concern of the Trustees that LN had enrolled on the American University course in Jan 2019 and could not really afford the course and he was under financial pressure. CJ explained that there were Ministry of Education scholarships in science. But demand was excessive. LN confirmed that each Trimester costs \$850 so the total for his 3 year course would run to  $\$850 \times 9 = \$7650$ . LN confirmed he had paid \$1000 to date. In effect he is managing to pay 50% of his fees. Chair, after further questioning was able to establish LN had been misinformed at the time of the TCHCentre 5 year Review about the extent to which the BB support would cover costs.

2. LN detailed the cases of two TCHC employees familiar to the Trustees - the two Maryamas, one on Reception and the other in the Pharmacy. Pharmacy Maryama was already registered on an IT course and the other wished to register. His thinking is that they would be ideal candidates for a BB but would advise them to reserve their application for the Nurse Attendant 1 year course they both wished to do.

3. LN gave update on Tallinding Health Centre and confirmed further deterioration even since our last meet in November 2019 (our 5 year involvement ended Dec 2108). LN was still working there but under increasing pressure to drop salary because of his studie. CJ had left due to similar inflexible approach. Client numbers had dropped significantly. Management staff appointed by the Council were often absent. Female personnel were not being paid during maternity leave in direct contravention of Gambian Employment law. LN was actively seeking alternative employment with CJs help.

4. CJ confirmed that he is due to complete his degree in May 2020. It was confirmed CJ had received two small financial contributions (£150 and £200) in years 2&3 and a recon laptop (albeit only for his final year) from the Bendon Bursary.

5. CJ confirmed that the laptop given to him via the BB in November 2019 is working fine and demonstrated how he can access all the lecture notes and Uni site on the larger screen whereas previously, he had had to access via mobile phone. Both the CATs then demonstrated the difference. Both Trustees expressed wonder at how they had ever managed using just a mobile.

### **ACTIONS**

1. Chair promised to raise LN situation as an exceptional case with Trustees at their next meet as it appears he received misinformation re the size of bursary.
2. LN in his role as CAT to advise the two Mariamas.
3. CJ to continue offering his tremendous support in helping LN land alternative employment which will be conducive to his study commitments!
4. Trustees to continue search for hardware to recondition - clearly a winner.

### **7. Presentation**

Trustees presented LN with recon laptop - plenty of photos taken. Thanks to TK Chisango of Revive My Device Ltd

### **ACTION:**

Send photos and thanks to TK

CJ and LN to send some text explaining the difference a lap top makes to a student's modulus operandi so we can make appeal on the website and among friends back in the UK