

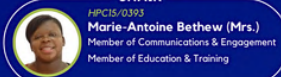
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renaming of HPC Subcommittees

The Legal, Monitoring, and Enforcement Subcommittee has been renamed to the **Monitoring and Enforcement (M&E)** to better reflect its capabilities and functions. The Editorial and Public Relations Subcommittee has been renamed to the **Communications and Engagement (C&E)** Subcommittee to better reflect its evolving role in public outreach and stakeholder relations/initiatives.

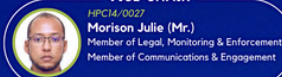
HPC Council Members 2025-2027

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Marie-Antoine Bethew (Mrs.)
HPC15/0393
Member of Communications & Engagement
Member of Education & Training

VICE-CHAIR



Morison Julie (Mr.)
HPC14/0027
Member of Legal, Monitoring & Enforcement
Member of Communications & Engagement



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Head of Monitoring & Enforcement
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Cynthia Low-Fock (Ms.)
HPC14/0127
Head of Education & Training
Member of Monitoring & Enforcement



Christopher Barallon (Mr.)
HPC24/1006
Head of Communications & Engagement
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Esther Francourt (Ms.)
HPC14/0198
Member of Communications & Engagement
Member of Monitoring & Enforcement



Laetitia Adrienne (Ms.)
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HPC14/0053
Vice-Head of Communications & Engagement
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Javana Jean (Mrs.)
HPC18/0412
Member of Education & Training
Member of Monitoring & Enforcement



CHIEF ALLIED HEALTH OFFICER
HPC14/0009
Cynthia Noshir (Dr.)
Member of Education & Training



APPOINTED REGISTRANT
HPC15/0375
Zarine Durup (Mrs.)
Member of Communications & Engagement
Member of Monitoring & Enforcement



APPOINTED NON-REGISTRANT
Timothe Simon (Mr.)
Member of Education & Training

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Are you still registered OR are you practising without a valid registration?

REMEMBER: It is against the law to practise without valid registration.
Call or email us for any enquiries!



RECENT EVENTS

HPC Meets with Minister for Health, Dr. Marvin Fanny

Contributed by: Mr. Christopher Barallon, Head of C&E (HPC24/1006)

On 6th March 2026, the Health Professionals Council had the honour of meeting with the Minister for Health, Dr. Marvin Fanny, along with Principal Secretary, Dr. Sanjeev Pugazhendhi, and Secretary of State, Dr. Jude Padayachy. All Board Members were also present, further strengthening the collaborative nature of the discussions.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the Council to engage in an open and interactive dialogue with the Minister, addressing ongoing projects, key challenges, and exploring new initiatives aimed at enhancing the operational effectiveness of the Council.

A significant part of the discussion focused on the vital contributions of Allied Health Professionals to the Seychelles workforce. We explored ways to increase the visibility of these professions, particularly among the younger generation, and inspire more individuals to pursue careers in these essential fields.

Principal Secretary, Dr. Sanjeev Pugazhendhi, also emphasised key strategic policy directions that the Council can align with to support the Ministry's broader efforts in shaping the future of healthcare in Seychelles.

We are eager to continue this vital collaboration with the Ministry, focusing on innovative strategies and policies that will drive improvements in Seychelles' healthcare system. Through our collective efforts, we are confident that we can enhance the quality of care, while ensuring that it remains accessible and effective for all Seychellois. This, in turn, contributes to a healthier and more resilient future for the nation.

The Council extends its sincere appreciation to Minister Fanny for his leadership and commitment to advancing healthcare in Seychelles.



Stakeholders Shape Allied Health Future in Strategic Plan Session

Contributed by: Mr. Christopher Barallon, Head of C&E (HPC24/1006)

Mrs. Marie-Antoine Bethew, Chairperson (HPC15/0393)

The Health Professionals Council hosted a presentation of its draft Strategic Plan 2026–2031 on the 10th April 2026, bringing together registrants and key stakeholders for an interactive and insightful session.

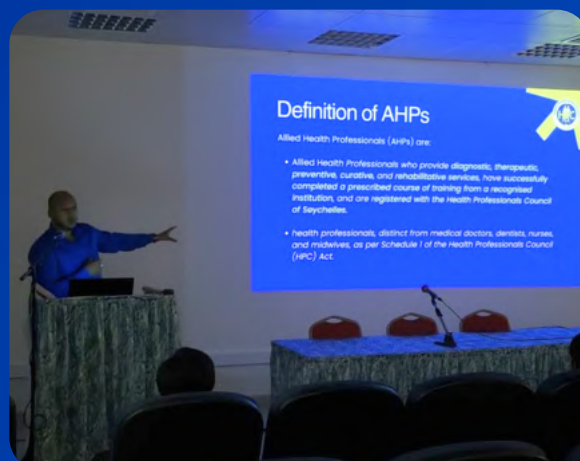
Participants actively contributed through valuable inputs, thoughtful questions, and meaningful reflections, helping to shape the future direction of Allied Health Professionals and their practice.

Registrants were also encouraged to register on the WCEA CPD platform as a way to streamline processes, enhance communication, and support more efficient management of professional requirements.

The session further introduced a new strategic priority, reinforcing the Council's forward-looking approach in responding to evolving sector needs. This was highlighted through the importance of digitalisation, with emphasis placed on modernising the Council's systems to improve efficiency, accessibility, and service delivery.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to incorporating stakeholder feedback as it works towards the finalisation and launching of the Strategic Plan, ensuring that it reflects the needs, aspirations, and standards of their professions.

The next session will be held online as a webinar, with the aim to encourage even greater participation and engagement from registrants and key stakeholders.



RECENT EVENTS

HPC Participates in National Qualifications Framework Validation Workshop

Contributed by: Mr. Christopher Barallon, Head of C&E (HPC24/1006)

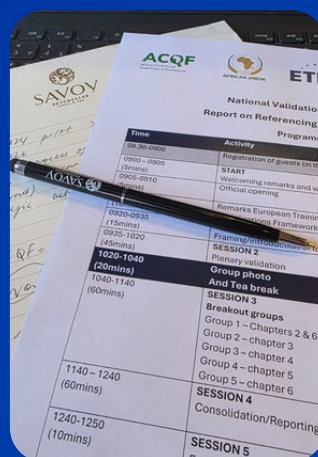
Representatives of the Health Professionals Council attended the national validation workshop on the referencing of the Seychelles National Qualifications Framework (SNQF) to the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) on the 24th April 2026.

Hosted by the Seychelles Qualifications Authority (SQA), the workshop brought together key stakeholders from government ministries, public and private education and training providers, professional bodies and councils, and civil society to review and validate the national referencing report.

The initiative represents an important step towards strengthening the recognition of Seychelles' qualifications across Africa, supporting the mobility of learners and professionals, and enhancing confidence in the country's education and training system.

As a regulatory body, the Health Professionals Council recognises the importance of qualification frameworks in promoting transparency, comparability, and quality assurance in professional education and training. Participation in the workshop provided an opportunity to contribute to discussions on qualification recognition and its implications for workforce development and professional mobility.

Feedback gathered during the workshop will be incorporated into the final report by SQA before its submission for national and continental endorsement.





Advancements to Emergency Medical Care in Seychelles

Contributed by: Ms. Esther Francourt, Emergency Medical Technician (HPC14/0198)

New AED Donation Strengthens Emergency Response Capacity

The Ministry of Health Seychelles recently received a valuable donation of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), a vital piece of life-saving equipment used in cases of cardiac arrest. The AED will significantly benefit Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) by enhancing their ability to respond quickly and effectively to patients experiencing cardiac arrest. Early defibrillation is critical in improving survival rates, and having access to a reliable AED can make a life-saving difference in emergency situations.

This particular AED is designed to be smaller and lighter, making it highly portable and practical for use in the field. Its compact size will allow EMTs to easily carry it when attending to patients who are located far from the ambulance, such as in remote areas or difficult terrain. Additionally, it will be especially useful during emergency responses on the outer islands, where accessibility and transport can be challenging.

The donation by the Malta sovereign reflects a commitment to strengthening pre-hospital emergency care in Seychelles and supporting frontline responders with the tools they need to save lives.



Learning Beyond the Classroom: EMT Students on the Frontline

EMTs, alongside emergency medical care students, have been actively participating in and providing medical standby for school sporting events. Through these experiences, students learn to bridge the gap between textbook knowledge and real-world application under the mentorship of EMTs and the clinical guidance of NIHSS lecturers.

EMTs are trained to handle the high-pressure environments of live events from managing acute sports injuries to conducting rapid triage. This hands-on integration ensures that they are not merely earning a qualification but are developing the composure, clinical precision, and professional readiness required to serve as the backbone of our community's emergency frontline.



Advancements to Emergency Medical Care in Seychelles (cont.)

Contributed by: Ms. Esther Francourt, Emergency Medical Technician (HPC14/0198)

Celebrating Academic Achievement Among Senior EMTs

On Friday, 26th February 2026, two of our Senior Emergency Medical Technicians (SEMT) graduated after completing a three-year Diploma in General Management at the Guy Morel Institute. This achievement marks a significant milestone within the EMT profession.

Miss Begguita Arissol, EMT Coordinator, started her journey in 2003 after completing a two-year course training at NIHSS. In 2018, she received her Diploma in Emergency Medical Care, and in 2024, she completed a postgraduate course in Health and Social Care. She was promoted to Senior EMT in 2013 and served as Acting EMT Coordinator from 2017 to 2019, after which she was confirmed in post and continues to serve in that capacity today.

Mrs. Cynthia Renaud, Manager of the Ambulance Command Center, started her journey in 2005 as an EMT after completing her training at NIHSS. In 2018, she received her Diploma in Emergency Medical Care, and was later promoted to Senior EMT in 2013. She was subsequently promoted to her current position in 2017, which she continues to serve in to this date.

Their achievement reflects a commitment to continuous professional development and highlights the value of leadership and management skills in strengthening emergency medical services.



Inclusive Healthcare and Professional Responsibility

Contributed by: Anonymous Registrant

Gender identity and sexual orientation are key characteristics in the human experience. These themes are reflected in publicly recognised initiatives, such as 'Advocacy against Gender-based Violence'. Such advocacies exist for good reasons; to raise awareness of these issues and promote an environment that would foster healthier interactions around the subject. However, some topics receive more recognition than others, with those relating to diverse gender identities and sexual orientations in particular receiving less attention.



A key challenge is that such topics are often not taught in its most earnest aspects, and in some contexts, certain religious and cultural viewpoints may contribute to stigma or negative attitudes resulting in the marginalisation of minority populations. There are significant opportunities for continued efforts by healthcare institutions and providers to raise awareness and sensitise healthcare staff regarding the LGBTQ+ community, especially when it comes to treating patients. Staff who are more conscious in their approach to treating patients can help to break stigma surrounding it, and can even apply this to communities other than the LGBTQ+ community.

Inclusive Healthcare and Professional Responsibility (cont.)

Contributed by: Anonymous Registrant



It is widely recognised that gender, sex, and sexual orientation are deeply rooted aspects of an individual. They are naturally occurring, diversely expressed, and are an amoral aspect that deserves the same recognition, decency, and respect as all others. Cultural censorship or sensitivities should not override the need to ensure fair and respectful treatment of all individuals, and clear standards should be upheld to ensure discrimination is addressed and dehumanising rhetoric is heavily scrutinised within local healthcare settings.

Healthcare is for everyone, and respect for your fellow human being comes first before we can even start to treat our patients.

Health Promotion Activity at the Praslin Home for the Elderly

Contributed by: Ms. Jovana Jean, Dental Hygienist (HPC18/0612)

On 24 March 2026, allied health professionals from the fields of physiotherapy, nutrition, and dentistry conducted a health promotion activity at the Home for the Elderly on Praslin.

The activity included one-on-one discussions with residents, tooth-brushing demonstrations, dietary guidance, and light physical activities. The sessions provided residents with practical information and advice on maintaining good oral health, healthy eating habits, and overall wellbeing.

The multidisciplinary nature of the activity allowed residents to engage with professionals from different allied health fields and receive information relevant to their individual needs. Such initiatives contribute to health promotion efforts and support the wellbeing of older adults within the community.

The activity highlighted the value of collaboration among allied health professionals in promoting healthy lifestyles and enhancing awareness of health-related issues among the elderly.



Antisocial Behaviour in Drug-Dependent Clients: The Hidden Toll on Health Professionals and Society

Contributed by: Mr. Benjamin Vel, Secretary of State for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation (external)



Drug-dependence treatment settings are designed to be places of healing, structure, and hope. Yet for many frontline health professionals, the clinical environment can also become a space of unpredictability, emotional strain, and at times, personal risk. Antisocial behaviours—ranging from verbal aggression and manipulation to boundary-testing, non-compliance, and occasional physical intimidation—are not uncommon among clients navigating addiction. These behaviours rarely stem from malice; they are often symptoms of trauma, withdrawal, impaired impulse control, or deep-seated mistrust. Still, their impact on the workforce and treatment outcomes is profound.

The Mental Health Burden on Health Professionals

Healthcare workers in addiction services consistently report elevated levels of stress, burnout, and compassion fatigue. Repeated exposure to hostility or disruptive behaviour can erode emotional resilience, making it harder to maintain therapeutic neutrality. Over time, this can lead to:

1. Hypervigilance and anxiety, especially in high-intensity units.
2. Reduced job satisfaction and increased turnover.
3. Emotional exhaustion, affecting empathy and decision-making.
4. Strained team dynamics, as staff cope differently with challenging clients.

When clinicians feel unsafe or unsupported, the therapeutic alliance—one of the strongest predictors of recovery—weakens.

Clinical Practice Under Pressure

Antisocial behaviour doesn't just affect morale; it disrupts the rhythm of clinical practice. Sessions may be cut short, safety protocols tightened, and multidisciplinary teams diverted to crisis management instead of long-term planning. This can result in inconsistent treatment delivery, reduced time for therapeutic engagement, increased administrative burden due to incident reporting and more restrictive environments, which may further alienate clients.

The ripple effect is clear: when clinical practice becomes reactive rather than proactive, the quality of care declines.

Impact on Treatment Outcomes

Treatment success hinges on trust, stability, and continuity. Antisocial behaviour can undermine all three. Clients who frequently clash with staff or peers are more likely to drop out prematurely, resist structured interventions, experience poorer health outcomes and cycle repeatedly through detox, rehabilitation, and relapse.

This revolving door is costly—not only for the individual but for the health system and society at large.

What Society Thinks: Confidence, Criticism, and Contradictions

Public opinion on drug treatment programmes is often divided. Many community members recognise addiction as a health issue and support evidence-based rehabilitation. Others, however, view treatment centres as ineffective or too lenient, especially when antisocial behaviour becomes visible in neighbourhoods or media narratives.

Common societal concerns include:

1. "Do these programmes really work?"
2. "Why do some clients keep relapsing?"
3. "Are communities safer because of treatment—or despite it?"

The element of fear and intimidation

Antisocial behaviours of drug dependent patients create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, siphoning off the positive energy of health care professionals, and highlighting the sense of futility, that the noble work is not so noble and there is no discernable impact.

These feelings, unless they are addressed without delay in debriefing meetings and one-on-one sessions, linger and fester, poisoning the work atmosphere. Perhaps, in more insidious ways than expected.



Antisocial Behaviour in Drug-Dependent Clients: The Hidden Toll on Health Professionals and Society (cont.)

Contributed by: Mr. Benjamin Vel, Secretary of State for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation (external)

Yet research consistently shows that well-resourced, trauma-informed, and community-integrated programmes reduce crime, improve employment outcomes, and strengthen families. The challenge lies in bridging the gap between public perception and clinical reality.

A Shared Responsibility

Addressing antisocial behaviour in clinical settings requires more than staff resilience. It calls for robust training in de-escalation and trauma-informed care, adequate staffing and supervision, clear organisational policies that protect both clients and workers, community education to reduce stigma and build trust and investment in aftercare, housing, and social support systems.

Towards a More Compassionate Future

Drug dependence is not a moral failing; it is a complex health condition intertwined with social, psychological, and economic factors. Antisocial behaviour is often a symptom of deeper wounds. By strengthening clinical systems, supporting the mental health of professionals, and fostering public confidence in treatment programmes, we create a pathway where dignity, safety, and recovery can coexist.

A healthier society begins with understanding—and with the courage to invest in people who need it most.



If You Wear Glasses Your Child Might Need Them Too

Contributed by: Mrs. Kumari Ratnayake, Optometrist (HPC16/0484)

PARENTS WITH GLASSES? YOUR CHILD MAY NEED AN EYE TEST TOO!



Vision problems can be hereditary.

If you have eye issues, your child is at higher risk.

Common Hereditary Eye Problems:

- Blurred Vision (Myopia / Hyperopia) 
- Lazy Eye (Amblyopia) 
- Squint (Strabismus) 
- Color Vision Problems 

Watch for These Signs:

- Sitting too close to TV 
- Holding books very close
- Frequent Eye Rubbing 
- Poor School Performance

Don't wait for your child to complain!

Early eye testing protects their future.

Get Your Child's Eyes Checked Today!

We Want to Hear From You!

HPC invites any interested registrants to contribute to future issues of our newsletters.

Whether it's an article, a success story, a professional insight, or an initiative you'd like to highlight, we welcome your voice.

If you have any submissions, questions, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at **4303745/2606128** OR **hpcregistrant@health.gov.sc**