



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement  
Western Cape Provincial Parliament  
IPalamente yePhondo IeNtshona Koloni

Ref: WCPP 11/4/9

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Friday, 24 February 2023, (at 09:00), Chamber, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members:**

**Democratic Alliance**

Pretorius, G (Chairperson)  
Fry, C  
Plato, D

**African National Congress**

Windvogel, R

**Economic Freedom Fighters**

Klaas, TM

**Additional Members**

Bans, AP (ANC)  
Baku-Baku- Vos (ANC)

**1. Briefing by the Department of Health and Wellness on the Home Community-Based Care (HCBC) Services in the province**

Minister Mbombo gave a brief background on Home Community-Based Care (HCBC) Services. She reported that the HBC was adopted in South Africa in 2010 as a model from Brazil. The Western Cape made the HCBC part of the package of care, as a transitional step down or step up ensuring that there is a continuation of the multi-sectoral and intersectoral collaboration of civil society whilst waiting for the national Department of Health to come up with a correct model. In all provinces, Community Health Workers are the main drivers of community-based health services, and they are still not integrated into the Department of Health. The Minister indicated that part of phase one of the NHI Pilot Project was Home Community-Based Care Services, which was one of the ten areas that were piloted in a form of ward-based community health care workers to be allocated per ward as the Department moved towards the fully flashed NHI.

The Minister said that the Sectoral Determination of Community Health Workers was currently addressed at the Public Health and Social Development Sectoral Bargaining Council (PHSDSBC) and Resolution 03 of 2022 was reached at PHSDSBC where the stipend was agreed upon and has been implemented. Furthermore, the parties have agreed to negotiate the modalities and such agreement

must be concluded by not later than 31 March 2025. The Minister mentioned that the Department's view is that the agreed upon decision regarding the modalities will ensure uniformity pertaining to the position of Community Health Workers across the provinces as well to ensure the development of standards. The issue of the HCBC was taken back to the Department of Labour for further deliberations and there has not been any clarity on the matter.

Dr S Kariem, Chief Operating Officer, Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness proceeded to brief the Committee on Home Community-Based Care (HCBC) Services in the province. He indicated that the vision of the Department of Health and Wellness is for access to person centred quality care. The Department aspires to become a health system that is people centric, trusted, and equitable, built on a caring and competent, empowered workforce, clean governance, innovative and accessible service delivery, and a health system for all. The goal is to provide the right care, at the right time, in the right place, at the right price, care that puts people first. The Department's service transformation and key priorities according to the Healthcare 2030 include reducing infectious diseases, improving healthy lifestyles through community behaviour change to enhance health choices, preventing injuries and violence, improving maternal and child health with focus on the First 1000 days, strengthening women's health, and improving mental health. It was reported that the Department wants to work with community members, community structures and partners to become and stay a healthy society.

The Committee was informed that the Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) approach informs the Department's redesign of primary health care and community-based services. The pillars of primary health care include promotion, curative, rehabilitation, palliation, and prevention. The Western Cape has 3900 Community Health Workers, and they provide services that include screening and referral where applicable, assessment, care planning, etc. Services are mainly provided by Community Health Workers under the supervision of a professional nurse. The Community Health Workers with home-based care experience will be upskilled to be able to provide services previously offered by lay councillors. The Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness has a partnership and is contracting Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) to render services in geographically determined areas.

The Committee deliberated on the presentation.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Committee recommended that:

- 2.1 The Department should consider sending Community Health Care Workers to farming communities in rural areas to provide services at least twice a week instead of once a month.
- 2.2 The Department to investigate what is happening in other provinces in terms of Community Health Care workers and whether the Western Cape was still on track.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

.....  
**GERRIT PRETORIUS (MPP)**  
**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**  
**WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**