



Press release from the Administrative Enforcement Agency (AEA), Ministry of Justice

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Contact: Enforcement Officer Chang Meng-Cheng

Tel.: (02)26332528 No.: 114-27

MOJ, MOHW, AEA, and Taiwan Alcohol Abstinence and Addiction Prevention Center

Jointly Sign MOU to Establish a Referral Platform for Alcohol Treatment of Drunk-Driving Obligor Aiming to Reduce Repeat Offenses and Safeguard Public Health and Safety

Today (October 31), the Administrative Enforcement Agency (AEA), Ministry of Justice, held the event titled “Prevent Drunk Driving, Protect the Public—Building a Better Future through Alcohol Addiction Prevention: Signing Ceremony and Training Session for the MOU on Referral Cooperation for Alcohol Treatment of Drunk-Driving Obligor.” Representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW), the Highway Bureau, MOTC, and the Taiwan Alcohol Abstinence and Addiction Prevention Center (TAAAPC) attended the event. The MOU was jointly signed by the MOJ, MOHW, AEA, and TAAAPC to establish an alcohol treatment referral platform through cooperation between the AEA and the TAAAPC, which was commissioned by the MOHW and founded by Mackay Memorial

Hospital. This initiative highlights the strong commitment of the MOJ and MOHW to the “Zero Tolerance for Drunk Driving” and “Alcohol Addiction Treatment” policies.

In his remarks, Administrative Deputy Minister Huang Mou-Hsin stated that addiction treatment is a key policy of the MOJ. Drawing from the MOJ’s experience in drug addiction rehabilitation, empirical evidence has shown that addiction treatment can effectively reduce the recidivism rate among drug offenders. Therefore, the MOJ has been actively promoting strengthened rehabilitation programs for drug users through prosecutors’ offices nationwide. Deputy Minister Huang further emphasized that alcohol addiction treatment is also a key policy of the MOJ in addressing the issue of drunk driving. Compared with drug addiction, where rehabilitation resources are relatively abundant, there is still room for improvement in the availability of alcohol addiction treatment resources. He expressed gratitude to the MOHW and the TAAAPC for providing treatment resources, as well as to the AEA for facilitating this collaboration through the signing of the MOU. He also encouraged colleagues from all enforcement branches to properly inform drunk-driving obligors about the available alcohol addiction treatment resources during enforcement procedures, helping them understand alcohol addiction correctly, increasing their willingness to receive treatment, and providing opportunities for referral—thereby demonstrating the public interest role of the administrative enforcement authorities.

In his remarks, Administrative Deputy Minister Chuang Jen-Hsiang of the MOHW stated that drunk driving concerns not only public safety but also the physical and mental health of offenders,

making it an important cross-ministerial issue. Research has shown that more than half of first-time drunk-driving offenders have alcohol use problems, with over 30% suffering from alcohol addiction. Among repeat offenders, more than 60% struggle with alcohol addiction. However, continuous participation in alcohol addiction treatment can significantly reduce the rate of repeat drunk-driving offenses, demonstrating that medical intervention for offenders with alcohol addiction can effectively help mitigate the problem of drunk driving. Deputy Minister Chuang further noted that according to the results of the MOHW's past Alcohol Addiction Treatment Enhancement Program, individuals with alcohol addiction or problematic drinking behavior can experience significant improvement when they receive treatment at an early stage. In 2023, the MOHW commissioned Mackay Memorial Hospital to establish the TAAAPC and has since continued to increase its funding support. To encourage individuals with drinking problems or alcohol addiction to seek medical help, the MOHW launched a subsidy program covering up to NT\$40,000 per person per year for alcohol addiction treatment. As of now, a total of 123 designated treatment institutions have been established nationwide, with the goal of ensuring that everyone in need can access appropriate assistance. Deputy Minister Chuang expressed appreciation to the AEA for taking the initiative to establish this collaboration. By proactively providing information on alcohol addiction treatment and facilitating contact and assessment through the TAAAPC, the AEA helps increase public access to treatment opportunities, enabling individuals to receive appropriate medical assistance earlier. This joint effort contributes to improving public health and preventing the threats to public safety caused by problematic drinking.

The event held today (October 31) by the AEA included not only the signing ceremony of the MOU but also an educational training session for personnel from all enforcement branches. Fang Chun-Kai, Director of the TAAAPC, was invited as the keynote speaker to present on topics related to alcohol addiction treatment and rehabilitation, enhancing participants' understanding and strengthening their referral capabilities. In addition to the in-person attendance of staff members from the Shilin Branch, the other twelve branches joined the session via video conference. Director Fang's lecture was humorous and engaging, featuring lively interaction with enforcement personnel both onsite and via video conference, which received enthusiastic responses from participants across all branches.

Through the signing of this MOU, the AEA has established an alcohol treatment referral platform in collaboration with the TAAAPC, which was commissioned by the MOHW and founded by Mackay Memorial Hospital. Executor from each branch will make use of every opportunity during enforcement procedures that involve contact with drunk-driving obligors to provide information on alcohol addiction prevention. With the obligor's consent, they may be referred to the TAAAPC for professional medical assessment and follow-up treatment. It is hoped that this referral mechanism will help prevent drunk driving and reduce repeat offenses. Members of the public who have questions related to alcohol addiction treatment may call the TAAAPC's toll-free hotline at 0800-25-5959, visit its official website at <https://www.mmh.org.tw/departmain3.php?id=244>, or follow its Facebook page "Journey to Sobriety: Restarting Life" for answers and the latest information.



Deputy Minister Huang Mou-Hsin of the Ministry of Justice (second from right), Deputy Minister Chuang Jen-Hsiang of the Ministry of Health and Welfare (second from left), Director-General Miao Jhuo-Ran of the Administrative Enforcement Agency (first from right), and Director Fang Chun-Kai of the Taiwan Alcohol Abstinence and Addiction Prevention Center (first from left) jointly signed the memorandum of understanding.



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for referral—thereby demonstrating the public interest role of the administrative enforcement authorities.



In his remarks, Administrative Deputy Minister Chuang Jen-Hsiang of the MOHW expressed his hope that, through enforcement personnel at each branch proactively providing information on alcohol addiction treatment and facilitating contact and assessment through the TAAAPC, the public would have greater access to treatment opportunities. This would enable individuals to receive appropriate medical assistance at an early stage, thereby improving public health and preventing the threats to public safety caused by problematic drinking.



Deputy Minister Huang Mou-Hsin of the Ministry of Justice (second from right), Deputy Minister Chuang Jen-Hsiang of the Ministry of Health and Welfare (second from left), Director-General Miao Jhuo-Ran of the Administrative Enforcement Agency (first from right), and Director Fang Chun-Kai of the Taiwan Alcohol Abstinence and Addiction Prevention Center (first from left) jointly signed the memorandum of understanding.



Interagency Collaboration Demonstrates Strong Commitment to the Policy of “Prevent Drunk Driving, Protect the Public—Building a Better Future through Alcohol Addiction Prevention” (From left to right: Chung Chih-Cheng, Chief Secretary of the Administrative Enforcement Agency; Hung Chia-Chi, Senior Specialist of the Department of Mental Health, Ministry of Health and Welfare; Huang Ming-Sheng, Deputy Section Chief of the Highway Bureau, MOTC; Fang Chun-Kai, Director of the Taiwan Alcohol Abstinence and Addiction Prevention Center; Chuang Jen-Hsiang, Administrative Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Health and Welfare; Huang Mou-Hsin, Administrative Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Justice; Liu Ying-Hsiu, Director-General of the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Justice; Miao Jhuo-Ran, Director-General of the Administrative Enforcement Agency; Yeh Tzu-Chiang, Deputy Director-General of the Administrative Enforcement Agency; and Wu Kuang-Li, Director of the Shilin Branch, Administrative Enforcement Agency.)