

OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE SOUTH EAST ZONAL COORDINATION OF (COSROPIN) ON THE INAUGURAL MAIDEN MEETING OF THE COALITION OF SOCIETIES FOR THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS IN NIGERIA (COSROPIN) IMO STATE CHAPTER ON THE 5th OF AUGUST 2020 HOLDING AT 1st FLOOR FORTUNE PLAZA OPPOSITE JUSTICE OPUTA HIGH COURT COMPLEX OFF PH ROAD NEW OWERRI IMO STATE

t is with great joy that I welcome all of you to COSROPIN maiden inaugural meeting in Imo State, I strongly regrets my unavoidable presence south east zonal coordinator who is supposed to support the state coordinator in organizing and coordinating this event. To marks the beginning of a revolution in Imo State as civil society organizations have decided to mobilize both human and material resources for the advancement of ageing development in the State.

"Between 2017 and 2050, the number of older persons in Africa is expected to grow faster than any region, with a projected 229% increase, In 2017 the total number was 69million people, 7.1% of global total projected to 226 million in 2050 and could account for 10.9% of older people worldwide" (UNDESA, 2017)1. Indicating a vast increase, as supported by (WHO)1 report which stated that "The pace of population ageing is much faster than in the past".

According National Population Commission 2019 projection, Nigeria has about 11. 8 million in Older Persons and 3,91,840 in Imo State respectively". (NPC 2019)1 with majority living in rural communities, faced with multiple challenges which includes chronic diseases which continue to exert more burden to the already over stressed and relatively weak healthcare system, making access to medication and basic healthcare services very difficult if not almost impossible, poor rural and semi-urban infrastructural development which include poorly coordinated transport network, poor environment to support and promote healthy ageing, lack of social protections and social security for Older Person, inadequate legal frameworks and ageing policies to champion the enjoyment of the fundamental human rights and dignity of the ageing population.

It is against this backdrop that COSROPIN was founded as the only recognized national coalition by the Federal government and by extension State governments advocating for the rights and dignity of Older Persons in Nigeria. Imo State is one of the States in Nigeria with a rapid ageing population hence all hands must be on deck to engage and push government and other stakeholders in taking pragmatic actions integrating multisectoral and interdisciplinary policy frameworks on ageing aimed at addressing all challenges.

God has appointed us to stand as ambassadors for these almost helpless population hence we must work as one family in achieving our set goals. A lot has already been done towards engaging government institutions and more still needs to be done. The zonal office in collaboration with the State will roll out programs which will engage our members and build their capacities in order to reposition member organizations for effectiveness and efficiency.

Once more thank you all for coming and God bless Nigeria, God bless Imo State and God bless COSROPIN.

AMB. DR. GEORGE ANDREAS ADIKIBE-NANA. DFHS, FAISM

South East Zonal Coordinator

WELCOME SPEECH, DURING IMO STATE 1ST ANNUAL STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE ON AGEING AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GCVSI ON THE EVENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS COMMOMERATION IN IMO STATE ON 29TH OF OCTOBER 2019 HOLDING AT IMO CONCORD HOTEL OWERRI

adies and gentlemen, you are welcome to this first of its kind conference in Imo State which seeks to address objectively the increasing pressing concerns of our ageing population and the current existing gaps in our government policies. As global population continues to experience unprecedented outcome, so is the Nigerian and Imo State population in general and particularly the ageing population. This is linked to the convergence of global technology with resultant improvement in healthcare services, migration, urbanization, industrialization, the use of antibiotics in treating infectious disease, increased participation of global development partners in combating infant mortality rates and the general increase in socio-economic activities which has improved living standards and resultant enjoyable long and better lives.

The overwhelming gains recorded by states in the southern region of Nigeria which Imo State is one of them, as indicated in the evaluation report of the millennium development goals, demonstrated the likelihood of people in the region and indeed Imo state to enjoy increased life expectancy hence, the urgent need for a paradigm shift from a total focus on mainly women children and younger population to a pragmatic approach in policy formulation, plans actions, programs and services to include Older Persons whose desperate health and social conditions are beginning to adversely affect members of the society.

The Universal Human Rights treaty of 1948 and the Universal Health Coverage declaration of 1979 are binding in Nigeria. Furthermore section 40 sub section 20 (b) of the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria spell out the functions of government among which is to provide social welfare to the citizens and its section 16 further pledges care for people at Old age, provision of regular pension, food, shelter and old peoples care while catering for the general population therefore government at all levels should live to it this obligations.

The primitive family settlement pattern of a typical African community where all age groups used to live together is fast fading out as younger people are involved in rural-urban migration in search for better lives while leaving behind the older population with little or no support systems to cater for their failing anatomical physiological, and cognitive functions because of ageing processes.

Geriatric Care and Vulnerable Support Initiative (GCVSI) is championing the development of research based health information to influence advocacy and policy development, provides health care services which includes health promotion and disease prevention plus socio-economic support programs to the door steps of the

ageing and vulnerable population in communities among low income families aimed at redirecting government policies towards unavoidable and abandoned existing realities, improve health seeking behaviors and social justice through our various health and social inclusion programs and projects in partnership and collaboration in with local religious and community leaders aimed at achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as driven by the United Nations.

I wishes to personally thank the Governor of Imo State RT. Hon. Emeka Nkem Ihedioha CON. KSC for setting the pace for other states to follow as the first governor who approved the ever first state conference on ageing in Nigeria. My gratitude equally goes to the Hon. Commissioner of Gender and Vulnerable Groups Affairs Barr. Lady Nkiru Ibekwe and indeed all the directors and staff of the Ministry for their commitment to a successful event. The 10 years strategic partnership to be signed today is indeed a renewed hope for better days to come, as it will enhance policy development and multilevel stakeholders engagement towards achieving multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary policy frameworks on ageing in Imo State.

Fr. Jerry Orbes once said "think about this: As we grow older, our main goals in life must not be happiness but godliness, not reputation but character, not wealth but virtue, not fame but faith, not the approval of men but the approval of or creator".

Once more, you are all welcome to the first annual conference on ageing organized by any state, pioneered by His Excellency Rt. Hon. Emeka Nkem Ihedioha. It is indeed a gathering of Imo people discussing and shaping the course of their lives thank you all for coming and God bless.

George Andreas Adikibe-Nana

Executive Director

GERIATRIC CARE AND VULNERABLE SUPPORT INITIATIVE (GCVSI)

MINUTES OF ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD ON THE 10TH OF AUGUST 2018 AT THE BOARD ROOM OF GCVSI

In attendance:

- 1) Adikibe Andreas George-Chairman/CEO
- 2) Unegbu Izuchukwu-Board Secretary
- 3) Orusakwe Ngozi- Director
- 4) Pharm. Orusakwe-Director

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome address by the Chairman/CEO
- 2) General Administrative Reports of GCVSI
- 3) Approval to set up an advisory council for Geriatric Care and Vulnerable Support Initiative (GCVSI)
- 4) Maternal and Child Enhancement and Intervention program
- 5) Collaboration with Government and National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)
- 6) Financial Commitments by board members / Grants and Sponsorships
 - 6.1. In need of a (field services) van
 - 6.2. Approval for personnel engagement

The meeting started at 12:50pm on the 10th of August, 2018 with quorum of four board members in attendance. All members present unanimously adopted the agenda shared by the chairman/CEO.

The chairman and CEO of GCVSI welcomed board of trustee members to the meeting followed by reports of activities, successes and challenges of the organization since inception 21 months ago. Copies of the reports were shared to board members to possibly highlight areas for further details/questions and or deliberations.

Agenda 3: Advisory Council set up Approval

The board unanimously approved that the management of GCVSI led by the Chairman/CEO set up an advisory council for GCVSI taking into consideration the following requirements:

- i) The advisory council be made up of 3 members: 2 females and a male
- ii) Advisory council members must be of high profile, cognate experience (Administrative/Health) and unquestionable integrity.
- iii) Emphasis should be made that the appointment is on PRO BONO basis and as such only approved honorarium/allowances will be catered for by GCVSI as the need arises.
- iv) Each advisory council member to duly sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement as well as other terms of engagement document as drawn up by the legal adviser/attorney of GCVSI.

Agenda 4: Maternal and Child Enhancement and Intervention Program

- I) Design of Emergency Delivery Kits (EDK) Bag:
 - a) Carriage handle
 - b) New and functional U.S.A Address
- ii) Other Brand(s) advertisement on EDK bag
 - a) Should be agreed and an advertisement contract signed with GCVSI.

Special emphasis on Duration of contract and Material/Financial support to GCVSI

Agenda 5: GCVSI Collaboration with Government and NHIS

The following critical areas were noted, deliberated, and supported by the board:

- a) GCVSI now has an approved, official collaboration and support of the Primary HealthCare Development agency, Imo State, Nigeria.
- b) GCVSI has successfully established partnership with National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) of the Federal Government of Nigeria and awaits award of licence as a Technical Facilitator of the agency.

Agenda 6: Financial Commitments / Operations Van Voluntarily Loaned to GCVSI

Article 6.1: Board heartily welcomed and appreciated the commitments of two board directors- Pharm. and Ngozi Orusakwe for voluntarily given GCVSI a Van on loan indefinitely, solely for the purpose of GCVSI operations and equally managed by GCVSI.

Article 6.2: Board unanimously agreed to provide funds needed to refurbish (including branding) the Van based on voluntary pledges (donations) by board members after the CEO must have carried out costs analysis and reported to members for immediate action.

Other articles:

- **6.3:** Grants funded programs will be solely planned and implemented using funds provided by the grant-giver. GCVSI board members will not co-fund such programs unless otherwise stated that counter-part funding is required by GCVSI in order to attract such grant.
- 6.4: GCVSI board members will periodically donate to fund internal programs as may be initiated/proposed by the CEO subject to deliberations and approval by the board.
- 6.5: Article 6.4 internal programs also includes procurement of assets by GCVSI.
- 6.6: Board to deliberate and decide on post-implementation funds of all grant-funded programs.

- 6.7: Board to approve engagement of GCVSI personnel including volunteers (for all approved projects).
- 6.7: Board approved CEO's request to engage alegal adviser/attorney (with cognate experience) for GCVSI with immediate effect and an annual service fee of N80, 000 only. The annual fee is exclusive of reimbursements (E.g. Transportation, accommodation, etc. duly receipted and tendered to GCVSI management).
- 6.8: Board unanimously agreed that GCVSI needs at least five operations vehicles and a corporate car for the CEO. The purchase of such vehicles will be decided upon by the board as progress is made in the affairs of GCVSI.

ACTIONS AND TIMELINES

- 1) ED to come up with a list of assets and items (health equipments / Materials for training and capacity building) needed for the smooth operations of GCVSI on or before 10th of September, 2018 and make available to board members.
- 2) ED to immediately open a WhatsApp group for GCVSI board members. The medium was agreed to be one of GCVSI board
- 3) Communication channels.
- 4) CEO to find out and possibly arrange for all board members to have
- 5) GCVSI corporate email addresses.
- 6) CEO to provide cost analysis for the refurbishment of the van, report to board and equally solicit for mobilization of the needed funds. All in 2 weeks.

AOB: Meeting ended by 3:20pm.

Minutes taken and signed by:

Signed

Izuchukwu Unegbu Godswill

Executive Board Secretary

WELCOME ADDRESS NOTE AND ORGANISATIONS REPORT PRESENTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF TRUSTEE BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GERIATRIC CARE AND VULNERABLE SUPPORT INITIATIVE AT THE ANNUAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HOLDING ON THE 10TH OF AUGUST, 2018 AT 12 NOON AT GCVSI OFFICE AT PLOT C/R 9 MC DONALD MALL ONITSHA/OWERRI ROAD.

Introduction:

My dear members of the Executive Board, I welcome all of you to our first in person Executive board meeting held in our office complex involving four [4] out of five [5] Executive board members. I salute more especially our August visitors from the United State of America who have found time to meet with us this year. As we all know our organization is still a young one however the achievements and successes recorded is immeasurable compare to the number of months of our existence (1 year and 9 months).

These would not have been possible without the contributions of all of us sited here either directly or indirectly, hence I salute our courage and respective efforts towards the realization of our organization's objectives. We are specially made people with fine hearts; this is so because we have surpassed our respective, personal and family challenges just to make a difference in the lives of our target populations who are actually at the receiving end of all odds in the society.

I wish to affirm our decision and actual steps made towards being a part of other people's success stories hence I drag our attention to some biblical codes. Somewhere in the holy book it is written that "The righteousness of a man is like a filthy rag before God", hence man's holiness and righteousness in a sinful world like ours cannot save him, rather his simplicity and compassion for others stands for him at all times. Somewhere in the book of Sirach, it is written that "kindness atones for sins" then we are at the mercy of God whose love for us is assured. In the book of 2kings when king Hezekiah was told of his death he didn't go into fasting and prayers neither did he count his righteousness in service to God rather he asked God to remember his kindness and immediately God added 15 years to his life and that averted death for him.

Kindness speaks volume of our future even when we pass away to the world beyond, our kindness shall speak for our children and generation yet unborn Hence, I encourage us to keep up the temple because there is a saying "Whenever you find solution to problems, money and wealth shall follow you". Before I end the first section of my address to us today I will like to emphasis that as

professionals in our various fields of human endeavors, non-profit management cannot be successful without imbibing professionalism, hence rendering professional services in the healthcare industry anchored on research base findings in solving healthcare disparities in rural communities among low income families make us stand out amongst our contemporaries.

Population health service using **implementation sciences** has been identified in public health as the surer way of solving healthcare disparities and social inequality in modern society hence collaboration and partnership with other organizations and government ministries and agencies in achieving our set objectives.

a. Administrative And Managerial Report Of The Organization

Our organization was formally registered with the corporate Affairs Commission Abuja Nigeria on the 26th October 2016 even though we had begun some local skeletal services in various rural communities and the Federal Medical Center Owerri Imo State. Our first scale up project was an anthropometric survey on the Nutritional Status of preprimary and primary school pupils in Imo State in collaboration with Imo State University Department of Nutrition and Dietetics. The Anthropometric survey was conducted in three local government areas namely Oru East, Ngo-Opkala and Isiala Mbano respectively, each of the local governments drown from each of the three senatorial zones of the state with 1200 questionnaires duly prepared and served to respondents with the help of their teachers. However this research work has not been published yet.

After our temporary office was robbed, we decided to step up to our present office with all equipment's and office appliances duly set for smooth and optimal performance of our administrative and managerial staffs. On the 23rd of November 2017 we conducted geriatric home visits in Awo-Omamma in Oru East LGA of Imo State. This program touched about 60 very aged men and women who have suffered various forms of family abandonment and neglects with no form of hope or care. They were drawn from different villages and medications, food items, reassurance, psychological support, health education to friend and neighbors etc.,

On the 5th of May 2017 we conducted a social support program tagged Psycho-Nutritional Therapeutic Intervention Program for HIV Positive Pregnant women and children in anti-retroviral drugs collection centre in General Hospital Awo-Omamma in Imo State, this was a highly professional psycho-social/nutritional support program aimed at reducing and finding long term solutions to psycho-nutritional status of children and pregnant women who are HIV positive in rural communities as most of them have become victims of social violence and rely on

begging for livelihood, with souring nutritional conditions leading to untold sufferings, psycho-somatic disorders and eventual death. The program saw over 250 children and 56 HIV pregnant women benefiting.

On the 9th of March 2017 our GCVSI had a successful collaboration with the IYA FOUNDATION INC a 501/C Organization in the United State of America (USA) to promote kidney awareness campaign and sensitization plus organ donation in Imo State as part of our health promotion activities. We received counterpart funding and the activities involved radio sensitization, public match with display of placards with various inscription, physical demonstration to secondary school children of the operational functions dialysis machine, presentation of kidney patients to audience, Symposium and slide presentation by a Nephrologists in Federal Medical Centre Owerri Imo State. Donation of materials to the dialysis unit, health education in five secondary schools in Imo State, namely Owerri Girls, Ikenegbu Girls, Government College, Alvana Secondary Schools and Holy Ghost College, respectively.

On the 8th of August 2017, our organizations collaborated with mission to the elderly project to extend geriatric care services in Uburu at Ohoazara LGA of Ebonyi State in Eastern Nigeria. Over 450 ageing persons benefited from various healthcare services in collaboration with the local religious and traditional leaders among which Presbyterian Joint Hospital Uburu played an important role by donated some medications, test kits and manpower.

On the 8th of March 2018, our organization sealed another collaboration with the IYA Foundation this time on kidney disease and women's health as directed by W.H.O/ International Kidney Foundation for 2018 World Kidney Day celebration. Women of child bearing age were mobilized in ante partum and postpartum units in rural health facilities where health education on kidney diseases, women health and pregnancy was linked and thought to them with free screening and testing for increase blood glucose, blood pressure, overweight, malaria etc. This happened in Oru East Local Government Areas over 450 women benefited from the program attracting Imo State government attention. We equally engaged in vulnerable intervention programs in rural communities helping and supporting children whose parents can no longer support and care for them to achieve necessities in life.

Strategic Collaborations

Our organizations has a clear rural community targets hence we have collaborated with the following organizations in order to function probably and achieve our mission which is taking researched based health information, healthcare services plus social support programs to the doorsteps of the ageing and vulnerable in rural community amongst low income families thereby achieving **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** and the **Sustainable Development Goals (3),** Accessible and Affordable Health for All by 2030.

- 1. Ministry of Health Imo State
- 2. Imo State Primary Healthcare Development Agency
- 3. Association of Orphans and Vulnerable in Nigeria Imo State branch.
- 4. The Dave Omokaro Foundation Abuja
- 5. Hero's Cameroon
- 6. Ageing and Health Cameroon
- 7. The IYA Foundation U.S.A.
- 8. Federal Medical Centre Owerri Imo State, we equally have some negotiation ongoing

Media Partners includes:

- a. Nigeria Television Authority- NTA Channel 12 Owerri
- b. Imo Broadcasting Cooperation [IBC]
- c. Hot FM 99.5FM
- d. Arise Africa Magazine.

Finances

We follow due process in all our financial transactions, ensuring prudency in our deals as evidence in the 1th and 2nd financial statements of affairs prepared and produced by a registered chartered accounting firm. However, for more details see our statements of affairs for the time under review. We have also been up to date with all regulatory agencies which include Economic and Financial Crime Commission and they have provided us with compliance certificate for 2017 and many more. All financial transactions including receipts and bank statements are recorded and preserved for accountability and prudence.

Our organization has printed about 6 different T-shirts and a set of cap. Our organization has a well programmed excel sheets for financial expenses of the organization as presented to members. We use to have volunteers who come to work on daily basis but had to stop because we are yet to get a regular grant. We have been struggling to gather resources towards executing our projects meanwhile we have gotten few donations from friends and well-wishers. A well-made asset management policy has been derived which explain the state and existence of all organizations property. [Asset Management Database].

Our Achievements

- 1. Formal registration with Cooperate Affairs Commission Abuja
- 2. Formal Registration with Ministry of Health Gender Affairs and Social Development Owerri Imo State

- 3. Hired and furnished well befitting equipped office for Administration and Management staff.
- 4. Registration with Economic and Financial Crime Commission EFCC, regulatory body charged with the responsibilities to monitor Money Laundry activities and we are awarded with 2017 compliance certificate.
- 5. Opening of cooperate bank account in 4 currencies name US Dollars, British Pounds, European Union Euro and Nigeria Naira with Fidelity Bank Plc, Guaranty Trust Bank and Spring Bank, respectively.
- 6. Signing of partnership agreements with the following Ministry of Health Imo State, Imo Primary Healthcare Development Agency, Hero's Cameroon, Association of Orphan and Vulnerable in Nigeria Imo State Branch, Aging and Health Cameroon, The IYA Foundation USA, Dave Omokaro Foundation etc.
- 7. Instituting a file with the Federal Medical Centre Owerri Imo State
- 8. Conducted a joint anthropometric survey into the nutritional status of preprimary and primary school pupils in Imo State in collaboration with Imo State University Department of Nutrition and Dietetics
- 9. Research project in view with NHIS and IMPHDA's in the country
- 10. In view Maternal and Child Enhancement and Intervention Module of Healthcare Services capable of reaching over large numbers of rural pregnant women from low income families in Nigeria.
- 11. In view technical facilitator license from the National Health Insurance Scheme Abuja which will grant our GCVSI Health Maintenance Status [HMO] using community Social Health Insurance Program for Rural dwellers from low income families.

Challenges

- 1. Our organizations is in need of facilitating-vehicles to run maternal and child health services in remote rural communities [mobile maternal and child clinics] we have already developed a work plan and community mobilization has equally on going after careful studies of affected communities with consideration given to the distance of health facilities, poverty, illiteracy levels, cultural, traditional obscurities, willingness from community and religious leaders to help the program and government involvement.
- 2. Health equipment and materials to carry out community geriatric and maternal and child outreach services in various rural communities. We intend to introduce technologies that will make us stand out in service provisions.
- 3. As board members, it is very important to make financial and material contributions not forgetting our various professional knowhow which our organizations needs very badly.

- 4. The need for information flow at Executive Board levels is highly needed as we getting into more collaboration and partnerships with government institutions and Ministries; hence the need for an **online what's app group chat** where information can passed across especially those needing speedy considerations can be acted upon.
- 5. The need to constitute members of advisory council made up of technocrats with portfolios in the healthcare, academia, managerial and administrative sectors, as they will contribute enormously to achieving GCVSI organizational objectives and equally increase our chances of getting grants.

Conclusively Geriatric Care and Vulnerable Support Initiative is duly positioned for better productivity and result oriented, capable of meeting our set objectives if all stakeholders play their parts as required. It should be at the back of our minds that God will always be with us in all we do because our course is of the Lord hence our quest for Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goal (3) "Accessible and Affordable health by 2030" according to the (United Nations) will be achieved.

Thank you.

George Andreas Adikibe-nana

Executive Director



Headquarters:

USA: 14501 Empanada Dr, apt 1801 Houston Texas USA 77083

Tel:+14382290732

Africa Regional Office

Nigeria: Plot C/R 9 Mc Donald Mall, Arugo Layout Owerri/Onitsha Road, Imo State.

+2348068244216



info@gcvsi.org



www.gcvsi.org



+14382290732



f @GCVSI



@GCVSI



@GCVSI



in @GCVSI



@GCVSI