ANIMAL HEALTH TASK TEAM MEETING  
27 October 2014  
10:00  
Venue: DAFF, Delpen Building

MINUTES

1. Present
   Mr. Sikhumbuzo Gcabashe   HWSETA
   Mr. Sibusiso Miya   HWSETA
   Mr. Tommy Thomson   SAAHA
   Prof. Vinny Naidoo   SAVC
   Dr. Charlotte Nkuna   SAVC

2. Apologies
   Dr. Mpho Maja   DAFF
   It was indicated that Dr. Rebone Moerane had not received an invitation to the meeting. An apology was extended to him.

3. Appointment of the Chairperson
   It was recommended that the Chairperson should be someone from the Animal Health side who is aware of the needs and the challenges of the sector. HWSETA would provide the support required to the Chairperson.
   Dr. Charlotte Nkuna was proposed as the Chairperson and she accepted provided there will be adequate support from the team.

4. Appointment of the Secretariat
   Dr. Rebone Moerane was nominated in absentia. His acceptance will be confirmed once he has been notified of the nomination.

5. Adoption of the agenda
   The agenda was adopted with no changes.

6. Finalisation of the joint workshop
   The joint workshop was adopted as presented. The changes were made with inputs from the members in attendance. The board of HWSETA will receive the contributions from the task team. The project plan from the task team will serve on the Feb board meeting.

7. Purpose of the task team
   The members of the task team were referred to the report of the Stakeholder Partnership Workshop which was held on the 17th of September 2014 at the SAVC office. The purpose of the task team was defined at the workshop as being:
   • To identify the quick wins as well as the long term projects.
   • That task team was also to deliberate on the possibility of holding a stakeholder conference which would serve to understand the needs of the sector better. The stakeholder conference would seek to answer questions such as: the number of animal health practitioners out there, and what the
actual needs of the sector are. A discussion was held about hospitals such as Netcare’s participation in the sector. It was confirmed that vet hospitals are owned by veterinarians. That the involvement of the human hospitals could be to donate some of their old equipment and suppliers to be used in animal health. No problem with the involvement of human hospitals.

- The task team meetings will be guided by the needs identified in the project plans.
- Telephone meetings can be used for discussions of reports but not primary discussions.

8. **Identification of the quick wins projects for the current year 2014/2015 (in order of priority)**

8.1. **Identify employers and have MoUs**
- MOUs will be entered into between HWSETA and the following partners: SAVC, UP, UNISA, TUT, DAFF, provinces, SAAHA, NAHF, private research organisations (Clinvet, etc).
- These relationships would be managed through the appointment of a supporting secretary for the various groups and associations. These people would be paid a stipend and they will help with managing the relationships between HWSETA and the partners.

**Responsible person: HWSETA**

8.2. **Created awareness on Animal Health related professions (Veterinary Science in particular)**
- The faculty of vet science has been investigating an initiative to get the private practices to adopt a school. School kids would then get opportunities to visit a practice and spend time working with veterinarians. This could be private or state vet offices.
- The dean of faculty has indicated that he would be able make use of the resource and can look at using this as a way of creating awareness for the profession.
- Faculty would like practices to adopt a school to create awareness. The HWSETA can cover the cost of getting the students. Looking at grade 9 where the students choose their subjects for matric.
- Can engage SETA marketing department for promotion. Can be aligned to the video currently being done by the vet faculty and the DAFF.
- **Critical steps**
  - Faculty will provide a list of practices
  - How many students can be mentored
  - Allocate budget to it

**Responsible person: Vinny Naidoo**

8.3. **The training on use of stock remedies and front-desk**
- Put programmes in place to train co-ops and front-desk staff on use of medication
- The training material that is available at SAAHA can be adapted to suit this purpose
- Since the training material exists, there will need to be creating ways of linking the people to the course.
- The trained co-op staff would be empowered to train the public and the communities at large.
- This method can be trialed at the Eastern Cape where there are large populations of animals, but the services providers and the suppliers are less organized.
- Learnerships can also be used where a profession is identified, registered with HWSETA and then supported.
• Check with the wholesalers which SETA they are supported by to see if they need to be included in the learnerships.

**Responsible person: Tommy Thompson**

### 8.4. Use of the mobile clinics to provide community service

- The provinces have procured mobile clinics to bring veterinary services closer to the communities who need them.
- The available funds can be used to employ vets and para-vets, looking at the management of the dip-tanks and conducting PAHC training at the site.
- Funding from SETA- to support students to do internships or other training
- Provide financial support to get the students to the sites and provide meals and accommodation. This can be managed through a fund administered by the vet faculty in collaboration with UNISA and TUT.

**Responsible person (s): Rebone Moerane, Mpho Maja and Vinny Naidoo**

### 8.5. Research support funding

- Investigate the possibility of providing postgraduate bursaries eg for toxicology profession. Look at top-up the salary and can be linked to the department. There is postgraduate programme running for Masters and PhD.
- There are 3 facilities currently offering animal health and 2 more to come.
- Prof Naidoo will supply names of students.
- HWSETA will provide for it in the proposals that will be presented to the board.
- In 2013, HWSETA sent out a call with themes was sent to all the universities and also contacted the bursary offices for the university.
- There was discussion on the support for SA students versus international students doing research that is applicable to South Africa. It was established that there is a document that states that SA will support SADC countries. This can be used as the motivating document. The mandate of HWSETA is to support researchers and also generate knowledge.
- Council should assist with the contact from TUT and UNISA to work with HWSETA on the support of researchers.
- The money is intended for use in research but can also be used for registration. Each proposal will be evaluated and the proposals budgets will be used to allocate funding per project. Will also support employed researchers.
- Also looking at employees within private and state who are involved in research eg. epidemiology training for state vets.
- Will also explore support for chairs in research.
- The research grants can be processed quickly through drafting the MOU and getting a meeting with the relevant persons next week and then progress by connecting to the research office in the faculty and other training institutions.

**Responsible person: Vinny Naidoo**

### 9. Baseline Study- Sector skills plan guidelines

- AgriSETA should be involved in this project.
• After much discussion, it was decided that a meeting will be organized with the relevant stakeholders to plan a nationwide survey.

• The partners include but are not limited to:
  o StatsSA,
  o DAFF,
  o RDLR,
  o DSD (Community Dev),
  o AgriSETA,
  o HWSETA,
  o DTi
  o SAVC

• It was envisaged that StatsSA will take the leadership role in terms of planning and conducting the survey since they used to do the livestock sensors in the past and would therefore be able to provide leadership.

• All members will report back to the task team by the 7th Nov on the progress made in contacting the various partners and establishing the relevant people who will be involved in the project.

  **Responsible person: Charlotte Nkuna and all**

10. **Stakeholder Conference**

• This project has been parked until the survey has been completed.

• Work Skills Plans- it was decided that innovative ways would be sought to communicate the WSPs to the sector, particularly how members can benefit from the available resources. HWSETA will provide a write-up on WSP with dates for the provincial presentations. These will be published in the relevant media and also pushed through the associations and groups.

  **All project plans will be simultaneously. HWSETA will send project planning template to be used by all.**

11. **Meeting closure**