

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Standing Committee on Service Development & Liaison
Progress Report (February – March 2006)

Service Planning & Development

1. **Stepping up risk management of NGOs in preparation for influenza pandemic**
A meeting with the Department of Health, Centre for Health Protection, Hospital Authority and the Social Welfare Department was organized by the Council in March, 2006 to discuss the captioned issue. The various Government bodies shared the measures being planned in case the Serious Level for the influenza pandemic was activated and the implications on the operation of social welfare services were discussed. The subject would be brought up to the sector for discussion in a forum in mid April.
2. **Certified Training on Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence and Training Group Leaders of Batterer Intervention Programme**
2 Trainers from Emerge, MS, USA were invited (David Adams, founder of Emerge and Ted German, Director of Training, Emerge) to conduct training at HK during March 7-10, 2006. A total of 52 participants attended the 1 day seminar and 49 participants joined the 3-day training. 47 of them were granted a certificate by Emerge on the training of Group Leaders for Batterer Intervention Programme, which was accredited at Boston, Ma, USA. Further advanced training opportunity was nurtured in HK for local participants in collaboration with Harmony House.
3. **Study Visit on Services for Ethnic Minorities in Australia**
The study visit was organized, with 8 delegates, at Sydney in Jan 2006. A seminar on Ethnic Minority Livelihood in Hong Kong - Studying Australia's Experience will be held on March 28, 2006 to share the observations and to initiate discussion on local service development. Dr. Kam-wah CHAN, Associate Professor, Dept. of Applied Social Studies, Hong Kong PolyU, Mr Ferrick CHU, Head, Policy & Research, Equal Opportunities Commission, Mr Stephen FISHER, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs Bureau and The Hon. Emily LAU, Legislative Councilor were invited as speakers.
4. **Service mainstreaming for meeting social service needs of ethnic communities in HK**
5 meetings were organized to facilitate discussion among service operators of ethnic minorities' services, Integrated Family Service, Family and Community Service, Children and Youth Services and Drug prevention and rehabilitation services to discuss how to enhance service accessibility to the ethnic groups in HK. 3,000 copies of the service guide will be published and released to social work practitioners by March 2006, as a reference of service provision for ethnic minorities. The proposed service coordination framework, service guide, training session materials will be uploaded as a resource package on Council website by March 2006.
5. **Seminar on service to estate beneficiaries**
The Revenue (Abolition of Estate Duty) Ordinance 2005 comes into effect on 11 February 2006. We have invited the Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Stephen Fisher, to a seminar held on February 24, 2006, to introduce the new powers provided to the Secretary for Home Affairs under the Revenue (Abolition of Estate Duty) Ordinance 2005 and the services available to the estate beneficiaries. The seminar was attended by 130 front-line workers, mainly elderly service workers who have daily contact with elders and their caregivers.

6. **New Resources to meet the high rising demand of Integrated Home Care Service**

Demand of the Integrated Home Care Service (IHCS) (Ordinary case) has been high rising and the waiting list has gone up to 3,400 cases. In response to our request for new resources to meet these service needs, the Government has recently allocated \$20 million in the Budget Speech to the Home-based services. We are in the process of discussing with the Department on the unit cost, the resources allocation methods, and the agreed output, etc. In our recent meeting with the Elderly Branch, SWD, they have agreed to allocate the resources in mid 2006 should all the above concerns have been agreed with the sector.

7. **Promotion of Elder Learning**

To promote elder learning in the large community and to engage more sectors in the provision of elder learning, we have organized a cross-sectoral forum on March 16, 2006. Guest speakers include Chairman of the Elderly Commission, Assistant Director of the RTHK, representative of University and Commercial sector. They shared their visions and commitment on the promotion of elder learning. On the same day, 19 NGOs and 7 representatives of other sectors including the Open University, CUHK, HKU Space, Housing Department, etc. have signed on the "Elder Learning Charter" to signify their commitment on provision of elder learning.

On March 19, 2006, another event related to elder learning was organized. It was the kick-off ceremony to announce the HK Electric Co. sponsorship of 6 "U3A"s (the University of Third Age). "U3A" is the international trend of providing elder learning. Elderly persons will initiate and manage the "U3A" themselves, as well as being the tutors and sometimes the students as well. The ceremony was officiated by Professor John Leong, President of the Open University.

8. **Training Programmes to Youth Workers and Vocational Skills Training Tutors**

The Council has solicited support from EMB's Youth Sustainable Development and Engagement Fund to provide training programmes to youth workers and vocational skills training tutors so as to enhance their skills in motivating non-engaged youth. The Programme was launched in March 2005. As at March 2006, a total of 33 training courses and 6 seminars were held. Over 1,000 participants from NGOs and VTC have attended the programmes. Most courses were very well received and the average enrollment rate was over 120% while the average satisfaction rate of participants also reached 95%. The Council will further produce teaching kit and resources kit for the sector's reference.

9. **Standardizing YPTP Module B Courses to fit in Qualification Framework**

Meeting was held with LD and NGOs' representatives to discuss about the captioned issue. Members viewed that Module B (soft skills) courses should aim to spark off motivation of young people so as to facilitate them to set out their initial career development plan. Therefore, the programme content and outcomes should be set at an appropriate level. LD on taking our recommendation would revise the outline and consult the sector further.

10. **Report Back Seminar on "Early Intervention" in Family and Pre-school Children Services**

A report back seminar on "Early Intervention" in Family and Pre-school Children Services was held on March 20. About 90 workers from different services attended the event. In order to promote the importance of early years' development, a multi-disciplinary seminar is scheduled to be held later this year.

11. Sharing Seminar on Promotional Strategies of Public Education in Rehabilitation

Jointly organized by our Council and Health Welfare and Food Bureau, the seminar held on February 21, 2006 attracted more than 150 participants from government departments, district councils, media, rehabilitation agencies, disability organizations as well as a few from Macau. The seminar was divided into 3 parts, including a plenary forum, group discussions and an exhibition session on good rehabilitation public education projects to facilitate NGOs to share the experiences and challenges on promoting the inclusion and equality of people with disabilities among the general public. A booklet highlighting the insights given by the guest speakers would also be published for reference of the sector.

12. Seminar on Use of New Technology to Facilitate Communication for Persons with Hearing Impairment

The seminar was successfully organized on March 4, 2006 with around 130 participants. Dr. Hui Yau, a famous ENT doctor, and another audiologist from NGO presented on bone anchored hearing aids (BAHA), cochlear and the latest development in assistive devices to persons with hearing impairment and their parents. Also, BAHA and cochlear users shared their experience on pre- and post-operation adjustment. Apart from the seminar, there were 4 exhibition booths to introduce new technology to facilitate communication for persons with hearing impairment. More than 85 % of the participants found the seminar useful and informative.

Promotion of Good Practice

13. Sharing good practices in collaboration between community-based services

The sharing session was held on Feb 17, 2006, with 80 participants. Four agencies were invited to share their good practices and Dr. CK Law attended as the commentator. 91% of the participants satisfied with the sharing. A resource book will be published by March 2006.

14. Sharing Good Practice in implementation of Integrated Family Service

The sharing session was organized on February 17, 2006 with 110 participants. 94% of the participants were satisfied with the sharing. Three speakers from the Caritas-HK, Hong Kong Family Welfare Society and the SWD were invited to share their practice wisdom in implementation of integrated family service. A resource book is being editing and will be published by March 2006.