

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Standing Committee on Service Development & Liaison
Progress Report (February – March 2007)

Service Planning & Development

1. **CEASE Crisis Center**

In March 2007, a new service model of Sexual Violence Victim service will be launched. During office hours, the service is provided by the designated social workers of SWD; outside office hours, service is provided by the designated social workers of CEASE Crisis Centre operated by Tung Wah Group of Hospitals. The CEASE Crisis Centre will provide 24-hour hotline service; outreach service for sexual violence victims and elder abuse victims; and also short-term residential service for families in crisis. The Council raised concerns over the collaboration amongst the new Crisis Center and the existing service units. Members' views were channeled to SWD and shared among concerned NGOs. It was suggested to organize consultation meeting before the service launching.

2. **Race Discrimination Bill**

A Seminar on Race Discrimination Bill was held on February 12, 2007 for ethnic groups and social service practitioners. Among the 55 participants, 93.5 % satisfied with the Seminar. The Council was working on further views on the Bill for submission to the concerned Committee at LegCo.

3. **Medical Need Survey on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services**

In collaboration with the Narcotics Division, the Council conducted a medical need survey to study the NGOs' need for medical support service in substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation services in February 2007. The results were under compilation and would be shared with Narcotics Division for assessing the scope of needs, the necessary resources and recommendations.

4. **Survey on senior citizens' and the community view on LTC Financing cum Report back session of IFA**

A seminar was organized on Feb 1, 2007. The survey was carried out from June to Nov 2006 with 608 responses. The report identified that 86% of the respondents do not have financial preparation for the long term care need. 55% of the aged 55 or above respondent group suggested that they would financially depend on their children when in need of LTC. Council recommended that the Government should study the LTC financing together with the health care financing.

5. **Discussion forum for the research of Non-engaged Youth (NEY)**

Discussion forum for the initial finding and recommendation of the Research on training and employment programme for NEY conducted by Prof. Howard Cheng and commissioned by EMB was held on March 15, 2007. Workers from our sector and related sectors provided their direct observations and recommendations for the existing youth employment programs. An initial service model was proposed after the forum for further discussion. Other opinions consolidated will be discussed in the coming Task Force on Future Initiatives and Policies on Training and Employment Programmes for the NEY.

Topical Discussion & Mutual Learning

6. **Seminars on International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

In order to update the local rehabilitation sector and elevate their awareness toward this important global initiative, a Seminar on “The Adoption of International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Implications to Hong Kong” was held on February 6, 2007. About 60 participants from local and foreign rehabilitation agencies attended and shared their points of view. To further facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities and their relatives, another Seminar on “International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Self-help Group Participation” will be held on March 17. Council will continue to map out the strategies for the promotion of this treaty throughout the coming year.

7. **Good Practice Sharing on Risk Management**

A seminar on Risk Management was held on March 1, 2007 with 121 participants. 82% of the participants satisfied with the Seminar. A Resource Book was being compiled and would be published by March 2007.

8. **Mental Health Forum & Training**

A cross-sectoral sharing forum on practical skills in handling youth mental health will be held in the morning session of Mar 21, 2006. 250 participants coming from schools and youth service settings have enrolled. Experienced social workers, a psychiatrist and a scholar are invited for skills and knowledge sharing. A resource booklet will be dispatched at the event and to all related service units.

2 workshops on assessment and non-violent crisis intervention will be organized on Mar 26 and 27.

Advocacy & response to Current Issues

9. **Survey on Barrier Free Access for People with Disabilities in Utilizing Public Transport Facilities**

To identify the travelling patterns and the major barriers for people with disabilities in utilizing public transport facilities, the Council conducted the survey and 1,201 questionnaires were received. According to the survey recommendations, the government was urged to offer fare concession to people with disabilities, and enhance the accessibility of transport facilities. A press conference will be held in late March to publicize the findings.

10. **Family Commission**

Following the various consultation meetings, the Council has consolidated the sector’s view and made a submission to the HWFB and the Committee on Study on Family Commission. The Council hopes that the Commission will take the lead to bring up ‘family’ as a community agenda, promote family friendly society as well as support longitudinal research and trend studies. We also recommend the Family Commission to champion for the conducting of family impact assessment.

Presentations at Legco Welfare Panel

11. Submission to Legco Panel meeting

Submission to Legco Welfare Panel on the Evaluation of the re-engineered community support services for elders was made on Feb 12. The sectors' concerns on over loading of counseling case and the practicability of using volunteers as elderly sitter were highlighted.

12. Consultancy Study for Review of Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 1997

The Council was invited to make a presentation again at the meeting of Legco's Panel on Welfare Services which was held on March 12, to deliberate the issues arising from the revised new design manual by the Government. Though certain accommodations have been made on the illumination, provision of unisex disabled toilet and automatic door, Council objected the removal of "slip resistant" and "illuminate contrast" from the obligations requirements, and urged for the mandatory provision of tactile guide paths with sound system direct to all escalators of large shopping complexes. The Building Department was asked to reconsider the concerns expressed by the users end.

Special Event

13. The 7th Hong Kong Abilympics

The 7th Hong Kong Abilympics is going to be held on March 24, 2007 at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. More than 500 persons with disabilities will be participating in the 45 contests of various vocational skills and living & leisure skills. Some of these contest winners would be selected to represent Hong Kong to join the International Abilympics competitions in Japan, November 2007.

14. Elderly Learning- U3A Project (2nd Phase)

In the second phase, there are 7 elderly service units successfully apply for funding from Hong Kong Electric Centenary Trust (HEC) to operate U3A. The U3A approach to learning is – learning for pleasure. With the self help approaches, it successfully demonstrates the benefits and enjoyment in learning throughout life. After one year, it is beyond the project expectation that totally 193 courses (1084 classes) were organized with 2727 participants. The completion ceremony was held on March 18, 2007 at HEC headquarter.

15. 2007 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare

The 2007 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare had received good response from the sector, with 90 submissions from 32 agencies. The first round of adjudication would be carried out in summer after the collection of reports by May 31.

16. 'Not One Student Less' Award Scheme

In order to promote good practices of schools and the welfare sector in helping students to achieve sustainable development in the education system, the Council, in collaboration with the EMB, has launched the captioned award scheme in October 2006. Over 60 projects and back-to-school stories were received. 8 projects and 10 stories will be given the outstanding award. The award ceremony cum seminar will be held on March 28 at Kowloon Tong Education Service Centre of EMB.

17. **2007 Hong Kong Youth Technology and Creative Design Competition - The Quality of Life for the Senior Citizens**

With the support of the academics, professional and NGOs, the 2007 Hong Kong Youth Technology and Creative Design Competition was commenced in March 2007. The Council is one of members in the organizing committee. A sharing session on Intergeneration Solidarity cum briefing session was held on March 3 at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.