

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service  
Standing Committee on Service Development & Liaison  
Progress Report (July 2005)

*Service Planning & Development*

1. HWFB's Consultation on Welfare Priorities Setting

The Health, Welfare & Food Bureau organized a consultation session on welfare priorities for 2006-07. The Council had organized discussion sessions prior to the meeting to consolidate the views of the sector and nominated representatives to the meeting. Most of the sector's views and concerns had been brought up in the meeting and there was fruitful discussion. With reference to the issues brought up, the Council is now working with NGOs to formulate priorities issues. A submission will be forwarded to the HWFB by end of July.

2. Child Care Service (Amendment) Bill 2005

The government, in its first draft of the amendment bill, proposed to change the manning ratio from 1 child care worker to 14 children to 1 to 15 children aged 0-3. Operators had great reservation and expressed strong view at the LegCo's hearing. Through further discussion amongst SWD, childcare service sector and the KG sector, the Department finally agreed to withdraw this amendment proposal. LegCo members were also concerned about the impact of the new subsidy scheme on low-income families. Projection of the impact was made and sent to concerned LegCo members for follow up.

3. HKU's Study on Child Abuse and Spouse Battering

The Council organized a Seminar to promote a coordinated community and justice system in tackling domestic violence, as a proactive multi-disciplinary response to the findings of HKU Study, on 4 July 2005. 147 participants from the welfare, medical, legal and education sectors, media, and government departments attended the event and shared their views. The response was very positive. The Council had also closely worked with the NGOs, medical and legal professionals and the LegCo Subcommittee to promote result-oriented discussions on tackling domestic violence.

4. Enhanced resources for NGO IFSCs

The SWD agreed to enhance resources for individual NGO IFSCs to increase the number of opening sessions in extended hours, as well as to cope with the increased expenses in programmes and other charges, especially for those formed by pooling resources from service units with limited other charges.

5. New Service Contracts of EHCCS

The result of new service contracts of EHCCS has been released. A preparation meeting had been held on 14 July 2005 by SWD. 12 operators (2/3) could continue to provide the service in their existing service areas and 6 districts will have new operators. All of them could extend their contract for another 3 years upon satisfactory performance.

## *Special Project*

### 6. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Hong Kong Conference for Mentally Handicapped Persons

This Conference was successfully held on July 9-10, with an encouraging attendance of more than 500 persons with mental handicap and parents including 40 from Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Macau. Dr. York Chow, SHWF, officiated the event's opening and representatives with mental handicap expressed loudly at the plenary session their needs and aspirations in employment, education, dating and marriage, family and leisure pursuit. It was followed by 18 discussion workshops and 8 arts and craft sessions to facilitate the sharing among participants toward challenges in their daily living encounters.

### 7. Open Assessment for Sign Language Interpreters

The captioned Open Assessment was conducted smoothly during the weekend of June 25-26, with 38 candidates present for the examination. The judging panelists are working hard on the markings and it is anticipated that the results could be announced within 3 months. Those candidates earning a 'distinction' (80 marks in all parts of the assessment) will be recommended to the Court for further training in October.

### 8. 2004/2005 Hong Kong Youth Technology Design Competition

The prize presentation ceremony cum winning projects presentation of the competition was successfully held in the Science Museum on 16 July 2005 (Saturday). The competition aimed at encouraging secondary school students & youth to care about the elderly by designing and manufacturing assistive products to help them to maintain their self-care effectively and lead an independent live in the community. 150 elders had joined the ceremony cum exhibition, in which they could vote for 'The Most Popular Product Among the Elderly Award'.

It is the second year that the competition is held with the joint efforts of the five tertiary education institutes, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and the Council. A total of 99 entries were received in the first round adjudication, which is 3 times more than the last year. 27 projects have been selected to enter into the last stage in which the design ideas were developed into real prototypes. The level of design and workmanship of the products this year were far more advanced than those of the last year. It is hoped that the winning designs will be screened and manufactured and be able to serve the elderly and benefit the community.

## *Promotion of Good Practice*

### 9. 2005 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare

The Awards, with the aim of commending and documenting best practices, received enthusiastic response from member agencies. 91 submissions were received. The 1<sup>st</sup> round adjudication was completed and 20 were selected to enter into the final round, which is expected to be completed in September this year. The prize presentation ceremony will be held together with Council AGM on 10 November, 2005.

### *Partnership with Private & Public Sectors*

10. Health promotion activities to deprived elders in the community

The China Light Power (CLP) donated a sum to the Council for health promotion among the elders last year. The programme will continue this year with the remaining resources, while CLP has also launched another fundraising campaign for this purpose. As in last year, CLP will sponsor influenza vaccination for the elders and in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase, 5,000 pieces of vaccines were allocated to elderly centres in June. Phase 2 is expected to be launched in July.

Other than vaccination, CLP volunteer team would provide health and safety talks for centres.

11. Building Management and Maintenance Scheme (BMMS)

The Council has engaged member agencies and worked out a collaboration scheme with the Housing Society to facilitate the older persons to make better use of the scheme through case management service. A press briefing and a workshop for participating member agencies were held on 5 July 2005.

12. KCRC Destination Care

With the support and liaison of the Council, KCRC has launched the captioned project on June 18. NGOs in the NT West districts can obtain free train tickets and organize programme for deprived children to travel to Tsim Sha Tsui to visit museums. The response was positive and we would discuss with KCRC in future to see if there is any other provision to support those needy children and youth.

### *Exchange among NGOs*

13. Sharing Meeting on Youth Outreaching Service

In order to strengthen the sharing of experience amongst YOT workers, a meeting was held on June 22. About 100 participants attended the event. A number of future work foci were identified including the organization of training workshops and setting up knowledge management platform.