

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service  
Standing Committee on Service Development & Liaison  
Progress Report (June - July 2007)

*Service Planning & Development*

1. **Welfare Priorities Setting**

After consulting and collating the views of the NGOs, the proposal on welfare priorities for 2008-09 had been submitted to the Secretary for Labour and Welfare in July.

2. **Reform of Domestic Violence Ordinance (DVO)**

The Council advocated for a reform of DVO for years. The HWFB endorsed majority of the Council's recommendations, including the extension of the scope of protection to family members, including parents, siblings and relatives. The court would also be granted the authority to attach power of arrest to injunction order and anti-violence programme to non-molestation order. The amendment bill, was gazetted on June 15, and was introduced into the Legislative Council (LegCo) on June 27.

3. **Seminar on Family Friendly Employment Practices**

The Council co-organized a Seminar on Family Friendly Employment Practices on June 1, 2007 with the Labour Department, Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management, Women's Commission, Hong Kong Personnel Management Association. There were around 300 participants from the business sector. The Council promoted the partnership between NGOs (Employee Assistance Programme) and the business sector for building a family friendly workplace.

4. **Children Commission**

The Council jointly advocated for a Children's Commission with 23 organizations and the Alliance organized an Interactive Forum with New Zealand Child Commissioner on May 29. The motion debate upon on setting up a Children's Commission in HK was passed and endorsed by the Legislative Council on June 6, 2007.

5. **Day Foster Care Service and Day Care in Small Group Home**

SWD has sent out the draft FSA of Day Foster Care Service and asked potential operating agencies to comment with indication of their interest. HKCSS has consulted member agencies and submitted a proposal on output levels, provision of home, age range of service target as well as the launching time.

6. **Special Meeting for the Contract Elderly Services**

Regarding the renewal of service contract in 2008, a special meeting for both EHCCs and Contract Home was held on June 20 2007. Upon agencies' request, a regular joint platform under the Specialized Committee would be set up to tackle the common difficulties in contract renewal, such as the PE adjustment in line with the civil servant pay, contract sum calculation in line with CPI, monitoring mechanism under CMU, service mode review and evaluation. Agencies recommended to spell out their concerns when replying to the SWD on their intention in renewing the service contract.

7. **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2007**

“Let’s Break the Silence” was held on June 15 in response to the “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2007”. On that forum, a multidisciplinary sharing involving academic, lawyer, medical profession and social workers was organized. Over 180 participants attended the forum and good responses were received. After the kick off, a series of program will be organized to combat elderly abuse. In September, a partnership recognition ceremony cum worker’s training will be launched. “Bank in Safe” and “Abuse Prevention Training Program” will target to train bank staff and frontline workers on how to detect, prevent and report financial exploitation. A cross sector discussion on “Building Partnerships against Elder Abuse” will be designed to address the complex problems of elder abuse and provide interventions.

8. **Pilot Project on Body Check and Motivational Interviewing to prevent drug abuse**

In response to the recommendations of the sector, the Narcotics Division agreed to launch a pilot project on body check and motivational interviewing in early 2008. Details of the project would be further worked out. At present, around \$1.8M would be allocated at a 2-year project to serve 400 young people.

*Topical Discussion & Mutual Learning*

9. **Visitation Programmes on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services**

In order to enhance frontline workers’ understanding of the operation of drug treatment and rehabilitation services, 3 visitation programmes to concerned units were arranged from June to July. Besides, a report-back seminar on Study Visit to UK on Prevention and Treatment Services on Youth Substance Abuse was also held on July 10. Around 250 participants had attended these training programmes.

*Special Event*

10. **‘Not One Student Less’ Award Scheme**

In order to further promote good practice sharing of schools and the welfare sector in helping students to achieve sustainable development in the education system, a booklet will be published in July. Press interviews with outstanding projects and stories had been arranged and released so as to promote the belief of ‘Not One Student Less’ through the media.

11. **International Association on Community Development Hong Kong Conference 2007**

With the joint effort of the Council, The University of Hong Kong and City University of Hong Kong, together with 12 associate organizers, the International Association on Community Development (IACD) Hong Kong Conference 2007 was held successfully from 24-27 June 2007. The theme of the conference is “Partnership for People-centred Development – Challenges and Responses in a Globalising World”, there were about 250 participants from different countries joined the conference. The Council made three presentations and coordinated a workshop on the Conference.

12. **2007 National Conference on Prevention of Drug Abuse**

The Council, Macau Social Welfare Bureau and the China Association of Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment co-organized this National Conference, which was formerly known as 5<sup>th</sup> Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau Conference on Prevention of Drug Abuse. Organizing Committee was held in late May and the theme of the Conference was concluded as “Enhance Prevention · Utilize Researches · Strengthen Rehabilitation · Reduce Harmfulness”. The event would be held from September 18-21 and it was expected to cater for about 200 delegates from the 3 areas.

- 13. Training Courses on Communication with People with Disabilities in Workplace**  
Upon the request of Hong Kong Disneyland, Council arranged a series of training courses on “Working and Communicating with People with Disabilities” in May and June, with the aim to equip their staff with proper skills and attitude in relating with disabled colleagues. An English session was tailored made for Disneyland’s senior management as well and Council also helped compile a pamphlet to provide practical guidelines in communicating with disabled colleagues. Over 120 staff attended the training and positive responses were received. Moreover, Hong Kong Disneyland has launched an apprenticeship programme for 18 people with disabilities in their food and beverage, custodial, merchandise and park operations.
- 14. Recognition Scheme for Barrier-Free Buildings**  
Upon invitation of RAC Subcommittee on Public Education, Council in conjunction with Labour and Welfare Bureau and the 18 District Councils are co-organizing a first territory-wide “Caring Environment Recognition Scheme”. Expecting 200 nominations of shopping arcades, hotels, restaurants, residential buildings and commercial buildings, the Scheme will be launched in August and followed by site inspections and adjudication in the coming months. The Award Presentation Ceremony is scheduled to be held with our 2007 International Day of Disabled Persons (IDDP) Celebration on December 9.

### *Presentation at Legco Panel*

- 15. Rehabilitation Programme Plan Review**  
After 2 years of the review work, the new Rehabilitation Programme Plan (RPP) was finalized and forwarded to Rehabilitation Advisory Committee for endorsement in May. Labour and Welfare Bureau made a report on the RPP Review at the meeting of Legco’s Panel on Welfare Services in July and 6 NGO representatives of the review working group, including Council staff, were invited to sit with the Bureau and speak for the Review. It was commented that the Government had maintained high visibility of the drafting process but some critical issues such as providing tax exemption to private companies for employing people with disabilities and setting time frame for resolving the long waiting queue of residential placements, etc. were not duly addressed. The Legislative Councillors asked the Bureau to report later again in response to those concerns expressed by users end.
- 16. Voluntary Registration Scheme and Licensing of Residential Care Homes for People with Disabilities**  
Council made a presentation at the meeting of Legco’s Panel on Welfare Services in June over the issues of voluntary registration scheme of private hostels and licensing of residential care homes for people with disabilities. In view that the response to voluntary registration scheme was not satisfactory, the Government was urged to expedite the legislating process. Some monitoring measures, such as unscheduled spot checks, should be strengthened in order to ensure the service quality of private hostels. SWD was also suggested to formulate a long term development plan for the provision of new subvented homes so as to properly meet the residential needs of people with disabilities.
- 17. Discussion on Youth Substance Abuse**  
Council and 6 NGO representatives attended the Legco Welfare Panel meeting to discuss about youth substance abuse. It was concerned that our society has underestimated the scale of the problem. We requested the government to revisit the anti-drug policy and proposed the organization of a Drug Submit to arouse more public concern and multi-disciplinary collaboration to combat the problem. The Council has formed a task group to further deliberate strategies on following up the issue.