

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Standing Committee on Service Development & Liaison

Progress Report (March 2005)

1. 2005 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare
There are 94 nominations from 28 agencies for the '2005 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare'. Out of the 94 nominations, 61 are competing under the thematic category of 'Enhancement of Social Cohesion' and the other 33 are in the non-thematic category. First round of adjudication would be carried out soon to select around 20 submissions for the final adjudication around September.
2. Extension Hour Service (EHS) and Occasional Child Care Service (OCC)
After reviewing the enrollment statistics of EHS and OCC services, SWD and the sector have worked out a reengineering plan such that units which cannot meet the utilization rate would receive less subvention effective from April 2005. SWD agreed to make use of some of the saved resources to support families in poverty to access to EHS or OCC services. The Council has submitted a proposal for SWD's consideration.
3. Career Development Training for Youth Workers
With the funding support of EMB, the Council would organize a series of career development training programme for youth workers. Promotional materials had been sent out and the response of the sector was very positive. As at early March, most of the first batch training courses have been fully enrolled.
4. Seminar on Promoting Participation of Children and Youth
NGOs had long been playing an important role in promoting youth participation. To facilitate the sector in sharing these experiences, a seminar would be held on March 24.
5. Seminars on Urban Regeneration at UK and Community Development Blueprint in Hong Kong
The Council has scheduled the Seminar on Urban Regeneration at UK and the Seminar on Community Development Blueprint in Hong Kong on March 15. Guest speakers include the Council's delegates of the Study Visits to the urban regeneration projects in UK, Mr. Law Kuen-chung, and Dr. Nelson Chow, Mr. Stephen Fisher of the HAB, Mr. Cheung Hing-wah of the SWD, Hon. Fernando Cheung of the LegCo, Ms. Ada Wong of the Wanchai DC, Council's representative, CD workers and users. More than 200 participants have registered for the Seminar.
6. Sharing Session on the Review of Design Manual – Barrier Free Access 1997
The Consultancy commissioned by the Building Department presented their final recommendations toward the captioned review at a sharing session in early March and exchanged views with the attending representatives from the rehabilitation and elderly sectors. Issues of concern including the access for wheelchair, design of accessible toilet and illumination etc. were hotly debated. It is expected that the Administration will start a public consultation on this revised Design Manual in the upcoming one or two months.

7. Re-tendering of Enhanced Home and Community Care Service (EHCCS)

Before SWD announced the tender, we have channeled the sector's views to SWD and the Department has later included some of our suggestions in the tender, e.g. built-in renewal mechanism. After the formal announcement of the tender, agencies expressed dissatisfactions towards the tender terms, especially on the valued-added service volume required. Two Agency Heads meetings were held and a survey to collect the agencies' opinions was conducted. Survey result showed no majority view could be arrived (1/3 intended not to submit bid, 1/3 will submit and 1/3 has not yet decided). Based on the survey results and the deliberations in the second Agency Heads meeting, agencies were appealed to adopt a rational approach in considering the proposals, especially the service volume for a healthier development of the service in general.