

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Standing Committee on Service Development & Liaison

Progress Report (May 2005)

1. District Welfare Planning

The SWD had issued the draft Paper on District Welfare Planning Protocol and Social Indicators on District Welfare Needs for consultation with local stakeholders at district level in end-April. The Council's Working Group on District Welfare Planning had met to discuss the paper as well as consultation strategies. In the meantime, district colleagues were also alerted to initiate more deliberation. Members' views would be formulated and channeled to SWD. A sharing meeting will be held on June 3 to facilitate cross-district discussion on the subject.

2. New CD Initiatives under HAB

The HAB, in the NGO Forum on CD held in April 2005, agreed to allocate funding from terminated NLCDPs or allow NGOs' application to transform their existing CD units without announced termination dates, to set up community work team to serve poor segments of geographical communities. The HAB also announced in the Ethnic Minorities Forum in May 2005 that the 2 years LSG funding (\$2.8M) for the CD services in the YauTsimMong District will soon be open for bidding by both NGOs and ethnic community groups. Already available office bases in the district provided by the tenderers will be treated as an added value in the vetting consideration.

3. Cooperation with the Narcotics Division

The Narcotics Division invited the Council to organize NGO sector consultation on the new Three Year Plan in Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (2006-2008) and participate in formulating training proposal for drug abuse workers

4. Staff Development Programmes

4.1 Seminar on promoting students' rights

To enhance the awareness of social workers, school personnel and the public on how to sustain students in the education system, a seminar was held on May 7. Concerned professionals shared about how they could better motivate students to learn and encourage them to enjoy school life. A resource book was published for the sectors' reference.

4.2 Seminar on Comprehensive Student Guidance Service

EMB's Comprehensive Student Guidance Service had been launched for 2 years. A seminar to share about their practices on working with school personnel, handling student cases and delivering concerned curriculum was held on May 14. A resource book would also be published later.

4.3 Response to the IDF 2005 - Sharing Session on Service Support to the Low Income Working Poor Families

To respond to the International Day of Families 2005, a sharing session on service support to the low income working poor families was scheduled on 30 May 2005. Dr C K Law, Dr. Fung Ho Lap and 2 NGOs would share their views and service experiences.

5. Survey on Public Attitude toward Mental Health
A press briefing was held in mid March to announce results of the captioned survey. According to the findings, the general public was much concerned over mental health but had only limited knowledge about mental illness and its treatment. The study also showed that there had been no significant improvements in the public attitudes toward mental patients over the last decade. The Council urges the Government to work on in-depth public education programmes so as to help eliminate the misunderstandings and myths. The survey report would be published within the coming month.
6. Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Service Centre (IVRSC)
The working group set up under SWD with representatives of service operators, parents and the Council had completed the review on IVRSC and proposed ways for improvement in terms of service delivery and development. A consultation session for concerned NGOs was held in late March. SWD agreed that the output standard on open employment would be set after two years, with reference to the actual statistics collected. Another working group was formed to further formulate a common assessment tool for measuring the capability of IVRSC service users.
7. Symposium on Long-Term Care (LTC) Financing
A LTC Financing Symposium would be held on June 10, 2005. The purpose of the symposium is to bring in more information about long term care financing mode in other countries and to explore options on funding and paying method for LTC in Hong Kong. An expert team from Taiwan National Chengchi University was invited to share their experiences and knowledge of the various LTC financing systems in the world. Also, Dr CHAN Wai-sum of HKU Department of Statistics & Actuarial Science to share his views on demand of LTC in Hong Kong. It is a valuable chance for the sector to think and plan for the resource allocation.
8. Jockey Club Youth Enhancement Scheme
Focus groups were arranged on May 9 to collect NGOs' views on the content of the Tier 1 Programme. The research team would further modify the programme and prepare for the training.

Besides, some NGOs with religious background voiced out that they would not apply the funding from Jockey Club (JC) directly even their serving schools would like to join the programme. Views were channeled to JC and the concerned agencies would further liaise with JC to explore the possibility of other funding modes.
9. Supporting Children and Youth in Poverty
EMB has announced the application procedures of the \$7.5M for providing school-based after school learning and support services for the needy students. Briefing session for NGOs was held on May 10. The application will be closed in end of May.
10. Provision of Training Programme for Young People in NT West
NGOs reflected that there were limited training programmes, e.g. New Taster Programme (NTP), available for non-engaged youth in the NT West including Tin Sui Wai and Tuen Mun. Focus group was held with VTC and concerned NGOs on April 21 to collect the sector's views on the matter. VTC tentatively planned to launch more NTPs in Tuen Mun IVE and may extend the provision to Tuen Mun Skill Centre. NGOs also raised that the Government should set up funding to support the transport and meal expenses of youth in poverty to attend the training.