

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

Service Planning & Development

1. Seminar on Youth Service Development
A seminar is scheduled for October 27, 2005 to review the youth service development. Representatives from SWD, academic and NGOs would share their views on the future role and development of youth service in respect to youth employment, at risk youth and service interface.
2. 'The 4th Conference of Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau on Drug Prevention' cum 'the 8th National Drug Dependence Academic Conference'
The Conference will be held from 19 to 21 October 2005. There are over 200 participants from different disciplines at the event from the Mainland, Macau and Hong Kong. Representative from Ministry of Health of the Central People's Government; Mrs. Rosanna Ure, the Commissioner for Narcotics of the HKSARG; Mr Yip Ping Kwun, Head of Social Welfare Institute of Macao SARG; Dr. Choi Yuen-wan, the Chairperson of ACAN and Ms. Christine Fang will officiate at the event.
3. New Service development of Community Development
A proposal on a new service of 'Community Networking Team in Economically Deprived Locality' was submitted for HAB consideration on October 10, 2005, after a series of consultation with the sector and discussion at the HAB's NGO CD Forum. The HAB would commit 2.8 millions for launching another CD project for ethnic minorities in Yuen Long and a new CD project in 2006-07.
4. Review of Urban Renewal Strategy
A paper consolidating concerned Council's agency members' views on the coming review of Urban Renewal Strategy, was completed and submitted to Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau (HPLB) on October 3, 2005. The Council organized meetings with frontline workers and service operators to collect their concerns and views. A meeting was also organized with the participation of the Deputy Secretary of HPLB and the service operating agencies on September 6, 2005 to exchange views on the operation of Urban Renewal Social Service Team (URSST) and the review strategies of the Urban Renewal Strategy.
5. Open Assessment for Sign Language Interpreters
The whole judging process was completed in September and the results of the captioned Open Assessment were also confirmed. Out of 38 candidates, there are 2 candidates earning a 'distinction' (80 marks in all parts of the assessment) and 4 candidates earning a 'good' (70 marks in all parts of the assessment). Those candidates with a result of distinction have been recommended to the Court for further training and those with good performance will be able to register as a sign language court interpreter.

6. Health Promotions for the elderly
With the donation from the China Light Power (CLP), we have successfully applied for the Partnership Fund. We will invite NGOs to help in implementing health promotional activities focusing on healthy eating and physical exercises in various districts. Besides, a questionnaire on health-related lifestyle of the elderly has been developed for the elderly centres' use. Until now, over 7,000 questionnaires from 81 elderly service units, covering all major districts have been received. We are now in the process of entering and analyzing the data.
7. University of Third Age (U3A)
Under our promotion, 3 NGOs have piloted 3 U3As with their network of elderly persons in Kwun Tong. We have then solicited the support of the HK Electric Holdings to further develop U3A in Hong Kong. With their funding support, we are going to invite 6 elderly organizations to form 6 U3A with their elderly persons. The U3A will be operated by the elderly persons who are at the same time, also administrators, tutors and students.
8. Seminar on the Implications and Challenges of an International Disability Convention
The United Nations (UN) is working in full strength for the drafting of an International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. The drafting process is expected for completion by 2007. This Initiative is an important step forward to ensure that the rights and interest of people with disabilities are properly recognized in International Human Rights Treaties. A seminar on the captioned subject was organized in early October 2005 with a view to keep the local rehabilitation sector abreast of this upcoming international instrument. Speaking at the seminar included two overseas guests - Ms. Kay Nagata, Social Affairs Officer of UN ESCAP in charge of disability concerns and Mr Eric Zhang, Director (International Affairs) of China Disabled Persons' Federation and a member of China's delegation to the UN Ad Hoc Committee on disability convention drafting.
9. Annual General Meeting of Joint Council for the Physically and Mentally Disabled HK
The Joint Council for the Physically and Mentally Disabled Hong Kong will have its 37th annual general meeting on October 26, 2005. This year, topic of the AGM panel presentation is 'Achieving a fully barrier-free public transport system in Hong Kong' and Mr Alan Wong, Commissioner for Transport has consented to serve as guest speaker.

Promotion of Good Practice

10. Good Practice Sharing on Centre-based services for the Elderly
The seminar was successfully held on September 23, 2005 with 153 participants. Two themes were selected for this year, including health promotional activities and therapeutic groups. Altogether, 25 entries were received and after vetting, 8 service units have been invited to share their good practices. To provide more stimulation to the front-line workers, experts in health promotions and counseling have been invited to share their knowledge and experiences. There were active exchanges among the participants who share their achievements and difficulties in implementing the concerned programs and difficulties.

Public Education

11. Senior Citizens' Day 2005

A ceremony will be held on November 5, 2005 in East Point City, Tseung Kwan O, to celebrate the Senior Citizens' Day this year. Dr Leong Chi Hung, Chairman of the Elderly Commission, has kindly consented to be the Officiating Guest. In the ceremony, around 40 companies will be appreciated as the Elderly-friendly companies for their elderly friendly actions. Some of these companies also made extra efforts like designing new products for the elderly persons, inviting their staff to say "Happy Senior Citizens' Day" to the Elderly, giving special offer to the elderly, etc. during November to pay tribute to the elderly.