

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Standing Committee on Service Development & Liaison
Progress Report (October – November 2006)

Service Planning & Development

1. **Annual Consultation on Welfare Priorities**

HWFB had hosted the 2nd part of the Annual Consultation with the welfare sector on priorities in 2007-08 and beyond on November 13. Council's representatives joined the meeting and shared our views.

2. **Forum on 'Focusing on Family'**

'Cherishing the Family' is one of the 3 major foci of the HKSAR Chief Executive's policy address this year and the Government, would consider the proposal of setting up an integrated, holistic and high-level Family Commission which would bring under one roof the various commissions and committees currently responsible for handling issues regarding different age groups and genders. In view of these, the Council had organized the captioned Forum on November 23 to provide a platform for interactive discussion between the speakers and the participants. Ms. Sophia Kao, Chairperson of the Women's Commission, Dr. C.H. Leong, Chairperson of the Elderly Commission, Dr. Philomen Choi, Chairperson of the Commission on Youth and Dr. C.K. Law, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, University of Hong Kong were invited to be guest speakers of the Forum to stimulate discussion.

3. **Counseling Caseload in Centre based Community Support Elderly Services**

To reflect the heavy counseling caseload of DECC, the Council had prepared and submitted a caseload analysis report (2005-2006) to both the SWD and the University of Hong Kong (i.e. the Consultant for the Evaluation of the Effectiveness and User Satisfaction of the Re-engineered Centre-based Community Support Services). The report is expected to be released by the end of 2006.

4. **Pilot Beat Drug Project**

Discussion was made with Hong Kong Medical Association on a Pilot Beat Drug Project, adopting motivational interviewing approach and body check-up. The Council had consolidated an intervention model for concerned parties' discussion.

5. **2nd Open Assessment for Sign Language Interpreters**

The captioned Open Assessment was conducted smoothly for the second year during the weekend of September 23-24, with 32 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 early next year.

6. **New Service Development Initiative of Day Foster Care Service and Day Care Service in Small Group Home**

The Department has raised out their initial ideas of developing Day Foster Care Service (DFC) as well day care service in Small Group Home in the meeting of Residential Child Care Service Development Committee in September. Focus group meetings were called immediately for collecting operators' views. Concerns and initial service proposal were sent to the Department for their consideration by the end of September. The operating agencies in general think that residential child care services are not the good place to provide ordinary after-school care and recommend 1 capacity at most for each small group home to avoid affecting home-like atmosphere. Regarding the initiative of DFC, operators worry about the supply of foster homes and object the idea of sharing the home pool between Ordinary Foster Care Service (OFC) and DFC. Also, the sector suggests running the service with separate funding instead of causal vacancy of OFC.

7. **Youth Employment and Career Development**

Opinions on research of training and employment programme for non-engaged youth (NEY) had been given to EMB and the research proceeded to the final stage of compiling qualitative and quantitative data. The major dimensions for analysis and a continuum of intervention for various youth with different needs were identified in the discussion with other counterparts of our sector. Besides, the ideas of NEY index and database had been discussed with EMB and concrete proposal to execute those ideas had been suggested.

8. **Overseas study visit on Youth Mental Health**

Study visit to Los Angeles from October 23-27 on youth mental health was successfully completed. Two significant trends on policy and service development are identified, i.e. 'unified those separated mental health policies in bureau level' and 'single point of responsibility'. Besides, the role of social worker in the mental health system is comparatively more significant and having same professional status as others. A report-back session would be organized in January 2007.

Topical Discussion & Mutual Learning

9. **2007 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare**

The Awards were launched in the Council's AGM on November 6 and invitation with promotion brochures had been sent to our members and relevant parties. To better introduce the Awards, a briefing session would be organized on January 19. Representatives of past winning projects and members of the Organizing Committee would also be invited to share their experience with participants.

10. **Agency visit to Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation (T&R) Service**

An agency visit day to 5 drug treatment organizations was organized on November 21 to enhance the knowledge and collaboration between youth service and drug treatment & rehabilitation service. The response was so well that the quota was full in a short period of time. Another agency visit would be organized again within half a year.

11. **Seminar on Working Together To End Abuse**
Report-back session on 11th International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma cum Post-Conference Study Visit on Combating Violence was held on November 17, 2006 with around 70 participants from various disciplines. Four guest speakers were invited to join the open forum to discuss the way forward in Hong Kong in order to end abuse, which included: Dr. Chow Chun-Bong (The Hong Kong Committee on Children's Rights), Dr. Edward Chan (Department of Social Work and Social Administration, The University of Hong Kong), Dr. Philip SL Beh (Department of Pathology, The University of Hong Kong) and Dr. Yu Chi-shing (Kwai Chung Hospital).
12. **Seminar on 'Innovative Ideas on Community Support Services for Persons with Mental Handicap'**
The captioned good practice seminar was held on September 29 to enhance participants' understanding on the existing community support programmes for MH persons, as well as to arouse the concern over the future development of these new services. 300 participants including service operators, frontline rehabilitation workers, students, service users and their families attended the seminar. The presentations of guest speakers and the discussions among participants will be documented and published later.
13. **Sharing Session for Youth Outreaching Workers**
A sharing session on triad had been held for youth outreaching workers from YOT, YND and ICYSC on 23 October and 147 participants attended the event. Police officer and experienced YOT worker were invited to speak on the police's strategy in handling young triad members and de-grouping skills respectively. Team leaders and experienced workers of YOTs were also invited to be the facilitators for group discussion.

Advocacy & response to Current Issues

14. **Survey on Senior Citizens' Consuming Pattern- Exploration of Silver Market**
A press conference was held on October 17. The survey was carried out by 10 NGOs providing elderly service and 2,015 responses were successfully interviewed. The report identified the potential areas and key factors in promoting Silver market. Senior Citizens were invited to share their own experiences. The Pledge of Elderly Consumers' rights were suggested. A training workshop particularly on the marketing strategies was held for both NGOs and the business sector.
15. **Senior Citizens' Day (SCD) 2006**
The promotion of SCD 2006 is completed. Over 280 units indicated their support to the Senior Citizens' Day. It is a significant increase comparing with last year. On November 14, the recognition ceremony was successfully held with the presence of guest of honor, including Ms. LEE Suk-ye, Sandra, JP (Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Health and Welfare) and Dr the Hon Edward LEONG Chef-hung, GBS, JP (Chairman of Elderly Commission). The participants were around 200. Newspapers supplement was issued on November 19. The organizing committee will have an evaluation meeting in December. The theme of Silver Market will be carry on for the coming year.

16. District Forum for the Senior Citizens on Population Policy

In October, two district forums were jointly held by the Council and the Elderly Alliance for HK cluster and KLN&NT cluster. 118 elderly participants were recorded. The discussion were focused on senior citizens' views on ways to enhance quality of life, future family and social needs, aging and retirement protection, attraction and retention of talent after retirement. Council Secretariat of Sustainable Development Unit joined the two events to collect the views of the participants.

17. Population Policy - Holistic Care for Child Development

In response to the Invitation and Response Document of the Sustainable Development Committee and concern of the welfare sector, a seminar was held on October 10. Guest speakers from the Department of Health, pre-school service agency and the Sustainable Committee were invited to share on holistic care and development of children. Over 130 participants joined the seminar and shared their concerns.

18. Child Fatality Review

SWD is going to launch a child fatality review by the end of this year. The council's views and concerns are shared with SWD colleagues for further consideration, which included:

- ◆ All child death caused by child abuse should be included, not only the cases known to social welfare units
- ◆ A clear case definition is needed
- ◆ Collaboration among different disciplines is vital in the child fatality review system, e.g. Medical sector, Education sector and Police etc.

Presentations at Legco Panel

19. Domestic Violence

Views on Police improvement measures on handling domestic violence and the Review on Domestic Violence Ordinance (Cap. 189) (September 20, 2006) were submitted to the Legco Panel on Welfare Services.

20. Consultancy Study for Review of Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 1997

After a 6-month public consultation, the Government reported to the LegCo's Panel on Welfare Services on November 13 and its paper revealed that many of the critical comments offered by the disability community would not be properly addressed in the proposed new design manual. Council was invited to make a presentation at the meeting again, urging that the illumination of all public areas of a building should be raised to a level adequate for visually impaired persons, mandatory provision of tactile guide paths be extended beyond large shopping complexes, and all disabled toilets be required to have a clear space for wheelchair turning. The Building Department was asked to reconsider and accommodate the concerns expressed by the users end.

21. Subsidising Early Childhood Education

Concerning the new subsidy scheme announced by the CE of HKSAR in the 2006/07 Policy Address, 2 meetings were called by the education panel of LegCo to invite concern parties to raise their views and concern. The Council had attended the meetings and made oral presentations on NGOs concern.

User Participation

22. Youth Summit 2006

The Youth Summit 2006, organized by the Commission on Youth and co-organized by the Council, had been successfully held on November 11. Over 500 youth and youth workers participated in the summit and young people's concern on culture, education, economic and employment policy were shared with relevant government officials and guest. Besides, 9 district youth summits were held in October. Views were collected and forwarded to concerned bureau for response.