

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Standing Committee on Service Development & Liaison
Progress Report (mid-January – February 2008)

Service Planning & Development

1. Survey on New Post of Program Worker

A survey on the SSW operating agencies' expectations on new post of Program Worker was conducted and 54 NGO members completed the survey and gave their opinions. As one of the strategies for promoting youth employment, they suggested there should have enough flexibility for NGO, for instance, flexibility in recruiting requirement, providing the work content and venue, monitoring and supervision, organizing training courses, and salary arrangement so that suitable targets could be benefited from such three years' scheme. Those opinions were compiled and sent to SWD for their reference.

2. The Publishing of "Strategies of ICYSC" (綜略)

In order to promote the achievement of Integrated Children and Youth Service, "Strategies of ICYSC" was first published in January 2008. The main theme for the first issue was "Proactive response to current social changes: Addictive behaviors of adolescent". It showed the strategies of ICYSC in facing the changing needs and problems on various addictive behaviours among adolescents. The newsletter will be sent to concerned government bureaux and departments, community leaders, political parties, legislators, members of District Council, corporations, libraries, and NGOs.

3. Concerns on the Services for Preschool Disabled Children

Council's network on services for preschool disabled children wrote to Social Welfare Department in February 2008 to express the sector's concerns. Issues highlighted included the renewal of computers and related equipments for training, shortage of para-medical personnel, training needs of special child care workers etc. SWD was urged to envisage the difficulties and work out coping strategies together with operating agencies.

4. Concern on Nurse Shortage Issue

Nurse shortage was a long term problem in the welfare sector. The Council had conducted a survey in year 2005 and another data collection exercise was conducted in mid-2007. The nurse shortage, especially for enrolled nurse, was alarming. The Council had consolidated relevant information and submitted the report and recommendations to SLW and SFH in mid-January.

Special Event

5. 2007 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare

The sharing session of winning projects 「卓然有成 • 跨越界限」2007 度「卓越實踐在社福」獎勵計劃分享會 would be held on February 26, 2008. 3 parallel workshops would be conducted right after the sharing of the 2 winning projects. Representatives of all winning projects would share their critical success factors and mobilize interactive sharing on how to put new idea into effective services.

Topical Discussion & Mutual Learning

6. Cross-sectoral Conference on Quality Environment For Child Development

A cross-sectoral conference co-organized with The Hong Kong College of Paediatricians Foundation and Council of Non-profit Making Organizations for Pre-primary Education as well as supported by The Hong Kong Psychological Society was held on 17th January 2008. Government representatives from Social Welfare Department and Education Bureau, Professional representatives from education, social service, medication, city planning, mass media and business were invited to share their views and working experience with around 160 participants.

Over 80% participants found this conference is useful and helpful for multi-disciplinary co-operation. Some participants expressed that such cross-sectoral platform was vital for further collaboration on planning of holistic policy and creating quality environment for child development.

Presentation at Legco Panel

7. Position paper on Child Development Fund

Since many of our members' agencies were concerned about the direction and actual operation of Child Development Fund, a focus group discussion was conducted and views from the sector were consolidated. A position paper was presented at the Welfare Panel of the Legislative Council on Jan 14, 2008 and some of the points, especially the expansion of age range for the participants and flexible saving rate, were adopted by Bureau in its submission to the Welfare Panel on February 14.

8. Establishment of Family Council

The Council submitted and presented views and suggestions for the Family Council at Panel of Welfare Services at Legislative Council on February 14, 2008. Family friendly workplace, parent and child education, cross border families, domestic violence and family impact assessment were proposed as priority tasks for the Family Council. The Council also supported existence of specialized Commissions over women, elderly, youth and children.

9. Residential Care Services for the Elderly

A submission on residential care services for the elderly was made to the Subcommittee on Elderly Services of the Welfare Panel of the Legislative Council on February 19, 2008.