

## The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

### Standing Committee on Service Development & Liaison

#### Progress Report (July - Aug 2008)

#### *Service Planning & Development*

1. Annual Meeting with Secretary of Labour and Welfare

The Council has invited Mr. Matthew Cheung, the Secretary for Labour and Welfare to have an annual dialogue with the sector on August 15, 2008, Friday afternoon. Over Hundred and ten participants from more than 60 member agencies have enrolled in the meeting. In the meeting, Mr. Cheung has made a brief account of his work in the past year. The sector's views on Lump Sum Grant Review, Welfare Planning and Welfare Agenda for 2009-10 have been exchanged with him. The post-earthquake rebuild work in Sichuan has been raised in the meeting too.

2. CIFA Forum on 'Dialogue Between Clinical Practitioners and Policy Makers'

CIFA has invited the Council and together with HKU Family Institute to jointly organized a Forum on the captioned topic. The Forum is sponsored by Social Welfare Department and will be launched in the afternoon of September 10, 2008 at the auditorium of the Council. Dr. S. Minuchin from USA will have a video presentation on "Barriers, Building & Maintaining Dialogue". Mr. Stephen Fisher, Director of Social Welfare and Dr. Lee Wai-yung, Director of HKUFI will share with local human service professionals on the topic of 'Dialogue between Policy Makers and Clinical Practitioners' and the Research study on Children's Response to Parental Conflict. Our CE, Ms. Christine FANG and Mrs. Justina LEUNG will be the discussant in the Forum.

3. Study on Family Planning of Cross Border Living Family

In collaborating with our Policy Advocacy and Research team, about 2000 questionnaires were sent to the kindergartens, primary and secondary schools in Northern District as earlier statistics showed that around 90% of the cross border students were studying there. We would collect the questionnaires and analyze them in July. A press release conference will be held by end August to share the findings. The study result would be submitted to Family Council as well.

4. IFSCs Service Planning

The Council has been collecting SIS of NGO IFSCs in the past three years, 2005-2008. Annual consultation session with the frontline workers was held. Members agreed to release the aggregated data and analysis through the press on August 21, 2008. Recommendations on advocating for Family Development Service and addition provision of IFSCs would be made.

5. Race Discrimination Ordinance

The Ordinance was gazetted on July 18. EM sector supported the removal of clause 58 on language exemption. The Council is planning to organize sharing session to highlight the implication of the Ordinance to NGOs in September. Besides, a round table discussion for concerned operators to share their experience in operating interpretation service is scheduled for August 27. Professor of HKPU's Translation Department and operator of interpretation service in Belgium are invited as resources persons of the session.

6. Development of CD service

Written submission was sent to Welfare Panel of the LegCo to express sector's concern on the development of CD service. Further, a letter was sent to Secretary for HA to urge HAB to reconvene the CD Forum which has been suspended for over two years.

7. Impact to People with Disabilities by Minimum Wage

In view of the fact that the minimum wage legislation is going to proceed in Hong Kong in the nearest future, rehabilitation sector shows grave concern on its impacts to people with disabilities. The initial view of the Council is that people with disabilities could obtain a certain rate of minimum wage which could match with their productivity. The Council organized a study visit to Australia and New Zealand from July 27 to August 7 to study their assessment mechanism for people with disabilities with the implementation of minimum wage. Report back session of the study visit would be held in September and it is expected that suggestions on the operation of assessment mechanism could be formulated.

8. Meeting of MI Service Operators and SWD

A sharing meeting was held by SWD in July with concerned MI service operators on the establishment of integrated mental health centre in Tin Shui Wai in 2008-09. Views on the scope of service of the centre were shared in the meeting. Besides, collaborations of mental health service with medical social work services were also discussed in the meeting.

9. Hong Kong Plan of Action on Ageing (HKPAA)

One thousand five hundred copies of the HKPAA discussion paper had been printed and up to date eighty-five percent of them have been distributed. To match with the timetable of LEGCO election and related promotional activities, the deadline of the paper's consultation has been extended to September 30.

A series of briefing meetings, seminars and events have been organized since June, 2008. We have reached out over 3230 people. The promotional campaign will continue to Q4 that includes a HKPAA Forum for Elder and LEGCO candidates meeting on 16 August, 2008.

10. Roundtable sharing on Ageing in Place

The Council, with the support of International Federation on Ageing (IFA), China National Committee on Ageing (CNCOA) and Friend of International Federation on Ageing (FOIFA), had organized a Roundtable sharing on Ageing in Place in late June, 2008. Members/officials/key staff from Elderly Commission, LWB, SWD, HA, Housing Authority, HK Housing society, HKGA, HKU Sau Po Centre on Ageing and NGOs working on the elderly field had been invited to attend the roundtable. They had frank dialogues and exchange on the topic.

The Council is at present positively participating in the Programme Committee for an international conference on Ageing in place to be held in Japan 2009 to further promote the concept.

11. 'Long term Care Service Planning' Consultation and Exchange meeting

With the support of Ms. Anita Wong Yiu Ming and Dr. Lam Ching Choi, members of Elderly Commission, a consultation and exchange meeting on 'Long term care service planning' had been held. We had compiled the views collected in the meeting and channeled them to LWB via Elderly Commission. The Bureau has agreed to follow up some issues we raised immediately and they will also make a closer look on certain issues in their long-term care service consultation study proposed to be conducted later in the year.

## *Topical Discussion & Mutual Learning*

### 12. Consultation Series on Substance Abuse

5 consultation forums were held in mid July to consolidate sector's views on different substance abuse related issues. Over 500 participants from social service sector, education sector, medical sector, police, parents and users groups joined the forums. The recommendation would be compiled and sent to Narcotic Division and Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse for reference.

### 13. Press Conference on the Survey of Potential Risky Family Problems in Pre-Primary Education

A Press Conference on the survey of Potential Risky Family Problems in Pre-Primary Education was launched on 29 June 2008. The survey result reflected that in the past 6 months, there were 1875 Kindergartens students (18%) had potential high-risk family problem. Recommendation for Pre-primary School Stationing Social Worker was highlighted. More than 10 Medias reported about this. Feedback from the Medias and CNOPE members, parents were positive. The Press Release was uploaded on C&Y website.

### 14. Child Development Fund Briefing Session Co-organized with CB1

A Child Development Fund Briefing Session was successfully held with CB1 on 3 July 08. The Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr Paul Tang Kwok-wai, the Hon Bernard Chan, Chairperson of HKCSS, Dr Charles Chan, Associate Professor of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Dr Alvin Leung, Professor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Dr Philemon Choi, Honorary General Secretary of Breakthrough were invited to introduce the CDF to the 200 participants (50% from NGOs, and 50% from Corporates).

Representatives from Citi, Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants and NWS Holdings Limited were invited to share the co-operation experience between Corporations and NGOs. Over 90% participants found this briefing session could increase their understanding about the CDF, and 80% participants have shown interest to support the CDF.

### 15. Good Practice Sharing Forum on handling Youth with Sex related issue

The Good Practice Sharing forum on handling youth with sex related issues was held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Dr. Lin, Professor of City University of Hong Kong shared her study on Courtship and Sex of Youth and the implication of her study. Also, 7 projects launched by NGOs on this issue were shared. The feedback was satisfactory and 99% of the participants showed the sharing forum was useful to them.

### 16. Study on the Prevalent Service Model for Hidden Elders

The Council had conducted two focus groups on the captioned topic. SWD had consented to hold a review meeting in Q4 to further look into the difficulties of hidden elders and develop possible service.