

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Standing Committee on Service Development & Liaison
Progress Report (March – April 2008)

Service Planning & Development

1. Meeting with SWD on the Pre-Primary Education Child Care Worker Training Subsidy Issue

A meeting with SWD Mrs. Anna Mak on the Pre-Primary Education Child Care Worker Training Subsidy Issue was held on 27th February 2008. Mrs. Anna Mak shared that SWD had submitted the Training Subsidy Proposal to the Finance Committee for all Child Care Workers in 0-3 year-old Pre-Primary Education, include EETC, SCC, ECC, IP and OCC. The result will be announced in April 2008.

After the meeting, Mrs. Anna Mak explained the extra \$45 million Funding for Day Foster Care and Flexible Child Care Service was aiming at develop innovative Day Foster Care and Flexible Child Care Service. Innovative proposals are welcomed for individual or co-joined agency.

2. Survey on Potential Risky Family Problems in Pre-Primary Education

A survey on Potential Risky Family Problems in Pre-Primary Education is carried out from December 2007. 99 Kindergartens completed the survey and a total of 10,247 students were involved.

The result reflected that in the past 6 months, 1,875 kindergartens students' family members (18%) that sought for professional advice or counseling, were with at least one Potential Risky Family Problem. 675 Kindergartens students' family members (6.6%) had encountered Parenting Difficulties, while 567 Kindergartens students (5.5%) had suspected Specific Learning Difficulties.

3. Concerns on the Early Intervention of Youth Drug Abuse

Concerning about the youth drug abuse, council's network on youth outreaching service and the team leaders of Youth Night Drifters had a special meeting discussing the issue and to express the sectors concerns in April 2008. Issues highlighted included the service mode on early identification and intervention of youth drug abuse and the operation difficulties. Their concerns were consolidated and would be sent to SWD for consideration.

4. Collaboration of Medical and Welfare Sectors in Helping Substance Abusers

Further to the seminar jointly organized by the Council and HKMA in early 2008, an information booklet on promoting the collaboration of the two sectors was published and distributed to concerned parties for reference. Besides, meeting was held in Tai Po district to facilitate pilot collaboration scheme to be developed in that area.

5. Consultation Paper on Developing a Supplementary Guide to the Chinese Language Curriculum for Non Chinese Speaking Students

The captioned consultation was launched by EB in February 2008. Meeting was held with members and position paper was developed and submitted to EB for reference.

6. Special Child Care Workers (SCCW) Of Services For Pre-School Disabled Children
Council was invited to submit and present views at the LegCo's "Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs" on April 3, 2008. With the impact of Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme, the Government was suggested to further increase the training subsidies for SCCW and to allow NGOs to have more flexibility in deploying the resource. The high turn over rate (32%) of SCCW was also highlighted in the meeting.
7. Meeting With SWD On Rehabilitation Services
Meeting of SWD and NGOs operating services for people with mental handicap and for pre-school disabled children was arranged on April 9, 2008. The new initiatives of rehabilitation services in 2008-09 were introduced and the issues of concern including provision of nurses in HMMH, employment of PA and CA, review of ECP and WEP, etc. were discussed in the meeting.
8. Invitation To Tender For The Provision Of Service For The Elderly In Relation To EHCCS
The Government invited tenders for the provision of EHCCS for elders living in six clusters, HK, YTM&KC, WTS&SK, KT, NTE and NTW. A total of six contracts will be awarded. The Tender is requested to provide an office, facilities, and equipments at its own expense for provision of EHCCS. The service unit cost would remain at the current level. The service commencement date will be on Dec 2008.

Topical Discussion & Mutual Learning

9. 2007-2008 Good Practice Sharing on Specific Learning Difficulties Services
A Good Practice Sharing was held on 17th March 2008. 12 Social Workers and 1 Occupational Therapist from 9 School and ICYSC Network Members' Agencies and 2 teachers from Buddhist Tai Kwong Middle School Special Education Team were invited to share their views and working experience on Specific Learning Difficulties Services with 212 participants.

Over 90% participants found this sharing is useful and helpful for their practical work. Many participants expressed that cross-sectoral collaboration and government support are successful elements for better Specific Learning Difficulties Services development.
10. Training Workshop on handling Youth Mental Health issues
The 2-session training workshop on handling youth mental health issues 「兒童及青少年精神健康—實務工作坊」 co-organized by Council and the New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association was held on 6 March and 14 March 2008. The topic on Understanding common mental health problems faced by Adolescents and Youth and the Prevention and Management of crisis situation (mental health related risks and challenging behaviors) were launched respectively.

Over 90% of the participants found that the workshop was useful and substantial to them. Some participants expressed the workshop was essential to them when facing the increasing service needs on Youth mental health. With the increasing training needs on this aspect for youth workers, the

- workshop re-run on 10 and 17 April 2008.
11. Exhibition booth for mentoring and Children Development Fund (CDF)
In response to the launching for Children Development Fund, Council set up a exhibition booth within the Recognition Ceremony of Caring Company on Feb 27 in promoting mentoring programs and asking for financial or manpower support of the Fund. More than 76 corporations were committed on that day.
 12. Enhance Family Functions: Conference on Social and Legal Perspectives on Cross Border Families in Divorce
A Conference on Enhancing Family Functions: Conference on Social and Legal Perspectives on Cross Border Families in Divorce was held on March 5, 2008 in collaboration with the Department of Law and Business of Hong Kong Shue Yan University, the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Department of Social Work and Social Administration of the University of Hong Kong. CPD points were accredited by the Law Society of HK. The event received very positive feedback, which had 230 participants at 99% satisfaction rate. The discussion had raised key issues of concern over cross border divorce.
 13. Workshop on identifying and handling child abuse
In order to strengthen sensitivity, knowledge and skills in identification and handling of child neglect and abuse among child care and youth worker, a workshop was organized on Mar 15, Ms. Susan So (Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children) and Ms. Chan Ho Yi (FCPSU, SWD) were invited to share their working experience with the 66 participants. Over 90% participants indicated that they were satisfied with the sharing. Training materials could now be downloaded at <http://www.hkcss.org.hk/fs/er>.

Special Event

14. U3A
The Completion Ceremony for U3A 2007-08 was officiated by Executive Councilor, Mr. Henry Fan Hung-ling on 16 March 2008. In the ceremony, the launching of the Asia's first U3A website (www.u3a.org.hk) was also made. It was on-line on April 15. The website would allow U3A students to share information and resources and further foster U3A's development in Hong Kong. To encourage life-long learning and community service, HK Electric had sponsor six more elderly service agencies to enter the U3A network this year, making a total of 19 self-learning U3A centres throughout the territory. Over the past year, the network has organised nearly 200 classes, with more than 2,900 participants.

Presentation at Legco Panel

15. Long Term Care Services for the Elderly
To follow up the concern over long waiting list for the Residential care services for the elderly, a press release was issued on April 3. A written submission on the long term care services for the elderly was presented to the LegCo subcommittee on the elderly Service of the Welfare Panel on April 11, 2008. In the paper, suggestions to shorten service waiting list, quality improvement on private homes, long term care service financing and manpower planning were highlighted.