

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Standing Committee on Service Development & Liaison
Progress Report (August – September 2009)

1. Welfare Priorities and Agenda Setting 2010-11

The Proposal on Welfare Priorities and Agenda Setting 2010-11 had submitted to Labour and Welfare Bureau and Social Welfare Department on early August, 2009. The meeting with Labour and Welfare Bureau with standing committee members of service development and liaison and representatives from different service specialized committees was held on September 11, 2009.

2. Additional Placement of Emergency Foster Care (EFC) and Emergency/Short-term Care in Small Group Home (ESCSGH)

20 additional Emergency Foster Care places and 9 Additional Emergency / Short-term Care in Small Group Home places have come into operation with effect from August 1, 2009.

3. Consultation Meetings on “School Anti-drug Protocol”

Narcotics Division commissioned HK Federation Youth Group to develop a resource kit for beating drugs in school named “Healthy School for New Generation” including a guiding protocol for handling of school drug cases . Two Consultation Meetings on “School Anti-drug Protocol” were held with representatives from Narcotics Division, Social Welfare Department, HKFYG, School Social Work Service Network, and Primary School Comprehensive Student Guidance Service on July 16, 2009. A paper was sent to Security Bureau, Narcotics Division, Education Bureau, Social Welfare Department and HKFYG on July 30, 2009. On August 12, 2009, another Consultation Meeting with SWD, HKFYG, representatives of the Hong Kong Association for School Discipline and Counseling Teachers, Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council, School Social Work Service Network, Primary School Comprehensive Student Guidance Service and Specialized Committee was held. Issues on confidentiality, Code of Ethics of social work, case identification, intervention procedure, and schooling rights were highlighted and channeled. HKFYG had promised further consultation of different stakeholders would be made once the protocol was amended.

4. Working Group on School Drug Problem

A Working Group on School Drug Problem, under the Network of School Social Work Service (SSWs), was formed and the 1st Meeting was held on August 6. The Tai Po District School Drug Test Pilot Scheme (Scheme) and the School Anti-drug Protocol issues were discussed. Concerns of SSWs in the Scheme were consolidated and sent to

Social Welfare Department.

5. Training Workshop on Special Educational Needs

A Training Workshop on Special Educational Needs 2009 was held on July 21, 2009. Guest speakers from EDB- Educational Psychology Service, HKCYS-SSWs, Caritas-ICYSCs and a Special Educational Needs (SEN) student's parent were invited to introduce the updated SEN services, types and characteristics of SEN, assessment tools; share the cross disciplinary collaboration and co-operation skills with SEN students and parents. 100 social workers from SSWs, ICYSCs and Residential Child Care Services joined. Over 96% participants found this Workshop was resourceful and useful for their practical work. Many participants expressed that more workshops for teachers, social workers and parents were needed. It is also important for the Government to keep evaluating and reviewing if the present resources could be effectively used and meet the service gap. Public education was also essential.

6. Meeting with Chairman of Commission on Youth (COY)

A meeting of Specialized Committee members and Chairman of Commission on Youth, Bunny Chan, was arranged on July 30, 2009. Issues like drug abuse problem of adolescence, youth participation, youth summit and youth development centre were discussed. Chairman of COY promised to have this kind of meeting with our specialized committee twice a year. Next meeting will be in the third week of January 2009.

7. The Study of Oldest-Old in Hong Kong (SOOHK)

The population of the oldest-old and centenarians will grow faster than any other age groups in Hong Kong. However, very few are known about the health status of the oldest old and its changes over time. This lack of knowledge is all more paradoxical that the number of centenarians is exploding about four-folds from 289 in 1981 to 1,510 in 2006 for both genders. By 2006, the centenarian ratio is at approximately 22 per 100,000 populations of which 76 per cent are women. Over the last twenty-five years, the Hong Kong centenarian increased by 7 per cent per year. The average annual growth rate of centenarian women was much faster (7.3 percent) compared to their counterparts (6.5 per cent). Therefore, a study is commenced. In collaboration with the University of Hong Kong and St. Paul Hospital, 100 cognitively and physically intact octogenarians, nonagenarians and centenarians will be investigated. The goals are to shed new light on a better understanding of the determinants of healthy longevity, and to discover social, behavioral, environmental and biological factors that may have an influence on the healthy longevity in Hong Kong. Based on the results of the pilot study, a larger research protocol of 10-year longitudinal study will be developed so that a wider range of data information can be obtained for academic purpose, health and

ageing policy analysis, service development and health promotion.

8. Professional sharing on Elderly Service development

On September 2, our sector legislator, Hon. Mr. Cheung Kwok-Che, social worker members of the Elderly Commission, and Specialized Committee met together on the strategic development of elderly services in HK. Apart from the work highlights, discussion items such as long term care development, resources matching on welfare priority and ageing in place practice etc were established. It is agreeable that a bi-yearly regular meeting platform should be established.

9. The formulation of Task Force on Dementia Care.

As the population of elderly people with dementia is growing, a task force to address multi-disciplinary concern was endorsed by the Elderly Specialized Committee. The overall objective of the Task Force is to promote formation of a public policy for dementia care in Hong Kong. The Task force involves members from various expertises including social, medical, caregivers, operators, paramedical and lawmakers. Positive and agreeable plan of solution and action on policy level will be looked into by the Task Force.

10. Round-table Meeting on Curbing Substance Abuse

In order to facilitate the communication and cooperation between drug related services, the Council arranged a round-table meeting on August 8, 2009. 87 members coming from different service settings (e.g. CCPSA, SSW, YOT, YND, ICYSC, and other T&R units) participated in the round-table meeting and shared their views on drug service development. The meeting identified major concerns and laid directions for the development of drug treatment and rehabilitation service which included community-based treatment model, parent support, professional training for social worker, and shortfall of existing services.

11. Consultation and Press Conference on School-based Drug Testing Scheme

The Council held a consultation on August 10, 2009 to collect views from the sector, parent and youth on the scheme. Speakers of the consultation included representatives from Narcotics Division, Education Bureau, doctor, lawyer, parent, youth and social workers. There were 165 participants and the major concerns raised were confidentiality and privacy, labeling effects, accuracy of urine test, and the shortfall of downstream support service. The Council reflected the views and made recommendation in the Press Conference on August 16, 2009. Meeting with the Under Secretary of Education Bureau was arranged subsequently on August 21, 2009.

12. IFSC Review

Consolidated recommendations of operators had been submitted to HKU consultant team in September 2009. Consequently, members of network on IFSCs will meet up with HKU consultants on September 18, to deliberate the major concerns and recommendations. Five areas of recommendations were raised, including handling of housing assistance case, handling of new spousal abuse case, backup service for specialized target groups, service output planning (i.e. adjustment in FSA), and manpower & service planning.

13. Domestic Violence Ordinance Amendment Submission

In response to the Domestic Violence Ordinance Amendment (2009), the Council had a submission to LegCo in July, 2009. In principle, the amendment was supported since the protection had been extended for various kinds of victims of domestic violence. Besides, other recommendations including Court Witness Support, Anti-Violence Program and the procedure of Injunction Order had been made for the more comprehensive protection for the victims.

14. Urban Renewal Strategy (URS) Review

The Task Group on URS Review had deliberated and consulted the sector's views on the rationale, service scope, funding mode and supervision structure of the Urban Renewal Social Service Team (URSST). The Task Group will present their concern in the URS Review Public Seminar on September 26, 2009.

15. CD Resource Book

37 abstract submissions had been collected and the full texts will be received before November 2009. The review committee will review the abstracts and full texts in this quarter. The CD Resource Book will be published in early 2010.

16. Visitation to Support Service Centres for Ethnic Minorities

The Council organized a visitation programme to the newly set up Support Service Centres for Ethnic Minorities to promote and introduce the interpretation, integration, enhancement and trainings service for ethnic minority to the sector. 28 members participated in the visitation on September 11.

17. The Third Hong Kong Conference of Persons with Mental Handicap

To promote the concept of self-advocacy among persons with mental handicap and provide opportunities to express their needs and aspirations, the captioned Conference was successfully held on August 15-16, 2009 at the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

Over 500 participants from Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Singapore participated in the Conference. The Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr. Matthew Cheung, was invited as the officiating guest at the opening ceremony. Two plenary sessions and 18 workshops were arranged during the 2-day Conference on different topics including rights, health, ageing, welfare, leisure, etc.

18. School Promotion Project for UN "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities"

- Drama in Education Workshop

Sponsored by Labour and Welfare Bureau, the Council is organizing the captioned project in promoting the UN "Convention on Rights of Persons with disabilities" to primary and secondary schools from October 2009 to February 2010 by conducting 45 interactive drama workshops with an estimated participation of 2,500 students and teaching staff. The project was well received by the education sector with over 110 applications for the workshops. A drama team with some disabilities members including a director, backstage staff and 14 actors, has been formed. The team is now rehearsing for the workshop.