

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Executive Committee 2019/20

Minutes of 4th Meeting of the Executive Committee for 2019/20 held on Monday, 25 May 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at Room 201, 2/F., Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present : Mr. Kennedy Liu (Vice-Chairperson)
Hon. Bernard Chan Ms. Yvonne Chak
Mr. Charles Chan Ms. Susan Chan
Ms. Amy Fung Mr. Larry Kwok
Mr. Kwok Lit Tung Mr. Lai Wing Hoi
Ms. Elizabeth Law Ms. Josephine Lee
Ms. Irene Leung Dr. Annissa Lui
Dr. CC Luk Hon. Shiu Ka Chun
Ms. Bonnie So Mr. Wong Chi Hung
Ms. Kathy Wong Ms. Wong Sau Wa
Mr. Stephen Wong Ms. Noel Yeung
Ms. Amarantha Yip

In-Attendance : Mr. Chua Hoi Wai, Chief Executive
Mr. Cliff Choi, Business Director
Dr. John Fung, Business Director
Mr. Raymond Lai, Business Director
Mr. Anthony Wong, Business Director

Apologies : Mr. Benny Cheung Ms. Chow Mee Tim
Mr. Andy Ho Dr. Lam Ching Choi
Ms. Yvonne Yeung

(As the Chairperson Hon. Bernard Chan attended the meeting via internet, he invited the Vice-Chairperson Mr. Kennedy Liu to chair the meeting on his behalf.)

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1. Minutes of the last meeting dated 30 March 2020 were confirmed with no amendment.

MATTERS ARISING

Update on the case of a Member Agency (in confidential session)

2. No further update was noted since the last report made to Members.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND APPROVAL

To note the Chief Executive's Progress Report

3. Members noted the Chief Executive's Progress Report presented by Mr. Chua Hoi Wai, who further provided supplementary information on below issues.

– The Caring Company Partnership Expo

Mr. Chua reported that the Expo was cancelled due to COVID-19 epidemic and to minimize the potential risk of spreading the virus due to large gatherings of people, the arrangement of the Award Presentation Ceremony on 11 June was scaled down to be held at the Council's Auditorium. The Financial Secretary was invited as the officiating guest of the Ceremony and the appreciation session where corporations, foundations and individual donors were complimented for providing emergency support to people who were in need of anti-epidemic materials, food or cash assistance in the past quarter.

- Social Welfare Caring Campaign for Anti-epidemic
Mr. Chua reported that over 6,000,000 pieces of masks and 700,000 bottles of sanitizers were distributed through welfare agencies and self-help groups to vulnerable groups in the society. The Council has been coordinating various emergency assistance fund schemes for distribution of close to HK\$60million offering support to people in financial distress. There were also individual and corporate donors supporting non-subsided NGOs to continue their service operations in critical times. And since mid-March 2020, SEBC had assisted the government to handle applications from social enterprises (SEs) for various programmes under the anti-epidemic fund and over 170 SEs were benefited.

To note the Position of Funds

4. Reported by Ms. Elizabeth Law, Hon. Treasurer, Members noted the Position of Funds.

To note the Annual Election Procedure and Schedule for 2020 AGM

5. Mr. Chua reported that the Council's 2020 AGM was scheduled to be held on 6 November at the Council's Auditorium. Members were invited to endorse the formation of Election Committee, the appointment of Mr. Kennedy Liu and Mr. Larry Kwok serving on the Election Committee and the follow-up election arrangements for the new governance of 2020-2022. Members noted and endorsed.

Mr. Chua further reported that while preparing for the AGM, the management would closely follow up with the development of COVID-19 and appropriate social distancing measures would be closely adhered to. Mr. Chua noted that advised by the legal advisor, according to the Constitution of the Council, Members were required to be physically present at the AGM, taking part in the election and to cast votes in person at specified time and venue. The management would closely monitor any new developments of the situation and to keep Members abreast with latest updates.

To note and approve Application of Agency Membership

6. Members noted and approved application of agency membership of below agencies:
 - Cedar Fund 施達基金會
 - End Child Sexual Abuse Foundation 護苗基金
 - Engineer Without Borders (Hong Kong)Limited 無國界工程師(香港)有限公司
 - Gender Empowerment 性別空間
 - Tin Shui Wai Community Development Network 天水圍社區發展網絡
 - Youth Global Network Limited 突破匯動青年有限公司

The Chairperson noted that Ms. Elizabeth Law had declared interest and withdrew from discussion of the membership application of Cedar Fund.

To note and approve Termination / Withdrawal of Agency Membership

7. Members noted and approved the withdrawal application of below agency member:
 - Pau Kwong Wun Charitable Foundation 鮑廣桓兒童慈善基金
 - Regeneration Charity Fund Limited 再生慈善基金有限公司
 - Renewal in the Spirit Community 聖神內更新團體

To note and approve Delegation to the Chairperson and the Chief Executive with Signing Authorization for MOA and Lease Agreement entered into by Council with Wheelock Properties

8. Members noted and approved delegation to the Chairperson and the Chief Executive with signing authorization for MOA and lease agreement entered into by the Council with Wheelock Properties. The Chairperson noted that Ms. Elizabeth Law had declared interest and withdrew from discussion of this item.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

LSG Review – Findings of Data Collection on Mid-point Salary Benchmark

9. Mr. Cliff Choi, Business Director, presented the findings of a study made with the purpose to project the adequacy of LSG subvention using MPS midpoint as benchmark, while taking reference of Human Resources and MPF records of subvented NGOs participated in the study. Having highlighted the purpose, methodology, representativeness and further analysis, findings, relevant discussion and recommendations of the study, Mr. Choi reported that based on the findings, different percentage of shortfalls would be experienced by NGOs with data taking from either “mean” or “median” for the projection. Thus, the Council had recommended for a review of the current level of LSG based on mid-point benchmark, if NGOs were to recognize years of experience of staff while observing the starting and maximum salary points stated in MPS. Members noted and with no further enquiries from Members, Mr. Choi would follow up the discussion with SWD.

2020 Annual Submission to Chief Executive of HKSAR

10. Mr. Anthony Wong, Business Director, presented the draft 2020 Annual Submission which had been discussed in different service networks and governing committees. Mr. Wong highlighted in the report that the society had been facing unprecedented challenges and hardships brought by the social incidents and the COVID-19 pandemic, and in response, the Council together with the welfare sector, has been actively mobilizing massive resources from community funders and partners as well as the government to help meet urgent needs of the sector and the service users.

Hence, the submission this year focused on getting prepared to face challenges posed by uncertain political and socio-economic conditions, the government, the sector and the entire society should put in more efforts and resources on a number of major social problems to meeting the current crisis. The theme of consolidation and rebuilding social foundation were advocated and the policy and service suggestions were thus proposed along two major dimensions, the first would be responding to major social problems in the short and medium term, namely, a. unemployment and shortage of household income; b. burden of housing expenditure; and c. community mental health problem. And the second dimension targeted to establishing systems and capacity to ensure that communities were capable of responding to social problems, namely, a. Establish primary health care system and capacity; b. Establish carer support system; c. Enhance home care service; d. Establish online learning system and capacity; e. Remedy family functioning; and f. Protect the capacity of civil society.

Members discussed and noted the report. With no further enquiries raised, the report was received and endorsed. Mr. Wong would consolidate views collected and prepare for the final paper for submission to the government.

2019 Welfare Agenda and Priorities Setting (WAPs) List

11. Mr. Raymond Lai, Business Director, reported that the Welfare Agenda and Priorities Setting 2020 online exercise was arranged and completed successfully on 15 May 2020. Mr. Lai highlighted that the annual exercise was changed to online format due to COVID-19 pandemic and over 780 participants were recorded participating in the keynote and breakout sessions. The views collected from participants were consolidated with earlier feedback received from committees of governance and network meetings, and a draft submission was compiled with a final WAPs listing of 16 agenda items in relation to different scopes of services. Members of ExCo were invited to give comments and the final endorsed full report would be submitted to SWD, which the Council would follow up according to the scheduled work plan.

Members noted and expressed views on the need for more government resources to help tackle the urgent need for delaying renovation of NGOs' premises because of prolonged application procedures of Lotteries Fund, and the lacking of aligned government policy and

support service for homeless people. Mr. Chua thanked Members for the comments and would closely follow up with SWD and to facilitate more engagement opportunities for DSW to learn about the sector's concerns. With no further enquiries, Members endorsed the report for submission to SWD.

Progress of Consultation on Review of Governance of Policy Research and Advocacy (PRA)

12. To follow up on the last discussion on the review of governance structure under PRA at ExCo meeting, Mr. Anthony Wong presented a progress report and highlighted the objectives, strategies, newly proposed staff and governance structures, and consolidated opinions from two concerned Specialized Committees, namely, the Committee on Social Development and on Social Security and Employment, as well as the the major consensus of views. After consulting the Standing Committee on PRA in June, all opinions would be consolidated into a final report for submission to ExCo.

After discussion, Members noted and supported the rationale of proposed new structures, strategic areas of research, and the formation of expert groups, their further comments were summarised as follows:

1. Members were concerned about the representation of members of expert groups under the new structure, and if compensation measures could be suggested as alternative options to ensure a balanced participation of agency members.
2. Members further suggested that after consultations with concerned Standing and Specialized Committee were done, a roadmap with timetable providing more detailed upcoming plan of actions would be more advisable.
3. Members asked the management to explore if this year's election procedures could be postponed to start after the next ExCo meeting scheduled for July 27. If not feasible, then a special ExCo meeting could be held before end of June. *(Post-meeting note: the election procedure could be postponed to start in late July and a revised reschedule had been circulated to ExCo members on July 2, which was endorsed by ExCo by circulation.)*

Mr. Chua thanked Members for the advice and would work with responsible staff team for a more in depth review of the proposed plan. Members would be kept updated accordingly.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13. Mr Chua noted that a proposal on membership appointment for Steering Committee Members on Modular Social Housing for June 2020 – May 2022 would be submitted to Members for approval via email circulation in due course. Updated details to be further advised.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14. The next meeting was scheduled for 27 July 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at Room 201 of Duke of Windsor Social Service Building. *(Post-meeting note: due to the pandemic, the next meeting will be held via internet.)*

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Adopted by : _____
(Chairperson)

Date : _____