

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Service Development (Family & Community)

Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service (2020-21) held on March 10, 2021 (Wednesday) via ZOOM platform.

Present

Ms Eliza LAM (Chairperson)	Caritas – Hong Kong
Mrs Angela CHIU (Vice-chairperson)	Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council
Mr Tom MA (Vice-chairperson)	The Salvation Army
Ms Scarlet POON	Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service
Ms Carmen LIAU	Breakthrough Limited
Ms Agnes LEUNG	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong
Ms Florence KONG	Hong Kong Christian Service
Mr YIP Kin-chung	Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited
Ms Cindy YIU	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
Ms LAM Yee-mui	The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Ms Judy CHAN	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Ms Iris LIU	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
Mr Raymond WONG	St James' Settlement
Ms Wendy WONG	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Ms Florence CHENG	Aberdeen Kai-Fong Welfare Association Social Service
Mr Moses MUI	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Mr W S CHAN	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Qubie TANG	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Blanche KI	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Apologies

Dr Margaret WONG	Hong Kong Shue Yan University
Ms CHENG Miu-nar	Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers
Ms Noel CHOW (recorder)	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 2021 was circulated by email on January 26, 2021 and was confirmed with adding Ms Florence Cheng, Aberdeen Kai-Fong Welfare Association Social Service in the present list.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Working Group on Supporting Divorced Families

Ms Wendy Wong reported the last Working Group meeting was held on February 22, 2021.

It was shared that 2 training programs on parental responsibility will be conducted in March and September for school principals and teachers, with the participation of SCSCs under SWD's coordination. Members shared their views on the

professional development of SCSCs, and it was agreed that collaboration among SCSCs can be explored.

To further promote parental responsibility among stakeholders in district level, it was agreed that the role of DDCP(PR) should be strengthened. Members suggested to reflect the views to SWD through various channels including Working Group on Promotion of Parental Responsibility and regular meeting among SCSCs and SWD etc.

On the other hand, to keep up the discussion on the legal reform, a ZOOM meeting with the Law Society of Hong Kong was held on February 5, 2021. Members noted that the Law Society tends to conduct a survey to collect views of the welfare sector on the matter. It was agreed that forum/seminar can be organized to facilitate cross-disciplinary exchange (with government representative being invited) once the HKU's study report to be released. Before that, the discussion will be carried on in the Working Group on Supporting Divorced Families. Interested members were invited to join the next Working Group meeting on April 27, 2021.

2.2 Working Group on Carer Service and Policy

Mr Tom Ma reported that the Task Force on Carer Service and Policy under the Standing Committee held a meeting with Ms Alice Chong and the HKPU research team on March 2, 2021 focusing on service for 「啲啲氣」.

The deadline for responding the research of the Council would be March 31, 2021. Such report would be prepared to share with HKPU and LWB for their reference by mid-April before they release theirs.

2.3 Consultation Paper on Sentencing and Related Matters in the Review of Sexual Offences

Paper 1: Draft of 就香港法律改革委員會性罪行檢討小組委員會《性罪行檢討中的判刑及相關事項》諮詢文件 意見書 were sent to members for reference.

Mr Moses Mui briefed members on the background of the Consultation Paper and the previous discussion in Council. The recommendation paper were drafted by the Council after collecting views through a ZOOM consultation session on February 3, 2021. Item 3.2.1 and 3.3.1 were highlighted by Mr W S Chan in the meeting.

After collection of comments from all related Specialized Committees, the paper would be compiled and endorsed by Standing Committee on Service Development before submission to the Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong by end of March 2021.

(Post-meeting: finalized paper was submitted to LRC on March 29, 2021.)

2.4 LSG Review – Service Review

Paper 2: 「服務檢討優次準則」常設/專責委員會討論文件 has been sent to members for reference. Mr Moses Mui shared the background of the Task Force of Service Review in the meeting. This draft discussion paper was prepared by the Task Force for all Specialized Committees and Standing Committee on Service Development for discussion.

On top of the 5 priority criteria suggested by the Task Force, members commented that serious shortfall of manpower should be considered. After discussion, members found that it is really difficult to sort out the “priority” among different services. It was suggested to further engage different service networks for further discussion.

Views collected would then be brought up to the next Task Force meeting for further follow up in late April, 2021.

2.5 Post-pandemic Community Recovery

Further to item 4.2 of the minutes of last meeting, members supplemented their views in response to the service needs arisen from COVID-19. Members raised the concern about the stress faced by parents while their kids have been “socially isolated” for a long time. For those parents of primary school, they have been exhausted in “supervising” their kids for zoom-class and many other academic progress. For those parents of pre-school/kindergarten, they are anxious about the delayed development of their kids.

In response to the rising demand of parent support, it was shared that NGOs have received many requests from schools to provide programs for parent (while the teachers are all busy in handling the academic issues of student, or school social workers need to handle other issue related to students). Members shared some hot topics for such parent program, say stress management, online scam, parenting etc.

Hence, two directions for making recommendation were suggested. Firstly, to strengthen parent support through collaboration between NGOs and schools. Secondly, to urge EDB or school personnel to adjust the curriculum (especially for P1 students), so that teachers will have more space to help students pick up the progress.

3. Welfare Agenda & Priorities Setting (WAPS) 2021

Members noted that WAPS 2021 would be held on May 14, 2021 via ZOOM platform.

Mr Moses Mui explained paper 3: 福利議題及優次 2021 (家庭及社區服務) in details. After discussion, the 3 priority items and 6 other concerned agenda proposed regarding

family and community service were agreed in the meeting. The 3 priority items are listed as below:

- 1) 加強對照顧者社區層面的支援;
- 2) 發展網上家庭支援服務; and
- 3) 加強對濫藥孕婦及父母的支援

Detailed papers with full elaboration of the 3 foci would be prepared with input by relevant networks, and then for circulation to Specialized Committee members for comment.

(Post-meeting note: the draft papers of WAPS 2021 were sent to members for comment on April 1, 2021.)

4. Business Plan for 2021-2022

After introducing the background of paper 4, Business Plan 2021 – 2022, Service Development (Family and Community), Mr Moses Mui highlighted the new project “NGO Innovation Hub”, which aims to promote and consolidate the community development practices riding on the HSBC Community Partnership Programme, with Hong Kong Baptist University being the strategic partner.

5. Progress Update

Paper 5, Progress Report from February to March 2021 of Family and Community Service was sent to members for reference. The following items were included:

- Cross-service Sharing on EM Divorce
- NGO Innovation Hub
- Review on Processing Compassionate Rehousing Cases

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 CIFA Regional Symposium would be held on June 10 and 11 online. Free registration would be offered. Members and their colleagues were encouraged to participate.
- 6.2 The Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service would organize a carer forum in end of May and a volunteer conference in mid-June 2021. Further information would be circulated to members.
- 6.3 Mr Moses Mui informed members that Mr W S Chan has resigned from the Council. Hence, it was the last SC-FC meeting he attended. Members in the meeting extended sincere gratitude to him for the services over the past years.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on May 12, 2021 (Wednesday) at 2:30 pm in Room 1410, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building or by ZOOM platform.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Adopted by

Chairperson

on the _____ day of _____ 2021