

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Service Development (Family & Community)

Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service (2021-22) held on January 19, 2022 (Wednesday) via ZOOM platform.

Present

Mrs Angela CHIU (Chairperson)	Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council
Ms Iris LIU (Vice-chairperson)	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
Ms Agnes LEUNG (Vice-chairperson)	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong
Ms Scarlet POON	Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service
Ms Carmen LIAU	Breakthrough Limited
Ms Florence KONG	Hong Kong Christian Service
Ms Judy CHAN	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Ms HSU Siu-man	Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Ms Cecily MA	The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Ms Monica CHEUNG	Caritas – Hong Kong
Ms Joyce TSE	Christian Family Service Centre
Ms Priscilla LEUNG	The Salvation Army
Mr Raymond WONG	St James' Settlement
Ms Carrie CHUNG	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Ms Cindy YIU	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
Ms Florence CHENG	Aberdeen Kai-Fong Welfare Association Social Service
Ms Carol NG	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, Lutheran Church – HK Synod
Ms Faye CHAN	The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council
Ms Angie CHAN	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Qubie TANG	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Mr Toby YIP	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Noel CHOW (recorder)	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Apologies

Mr YIP Kin-chung	Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited
Mr Raymond LAI	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

In-attendance

Ms Eva LAM	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
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1. Welcoming for New Members

Members extended warm welcome to Ms Hsu Siu-man (replacement of Dr Margaret Wong) and Ms Faye Chan (co-opted member from Network on Ethnic Minorities Services).

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The draft minutes (revised version) of the meeting held on November 16, 2021 was circulated by email on January 12, 2021 and was confirmed with the following amendment:

8.1 *(Post-meeting note: Ms Florence Kong joined as member of the working group for Mandatory Report System.)*

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Working Group on Mandatory Report System

Paper 1a, Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on Mandatory Report System; and paper 1b, Survey on the definition of “imminent risk of serious harm” in the proposed Mandatory Reporting System were sent to members for reference by email.

Ms Iris Liu, Convenor of the working group, reported that their first meeting was held on December 17, 2021. Based on paper 1, the main concerns discussed was highlighted to members. Ms Angie Chan supplemented those concerns were channeled in the meeting of the Standing Committee on Service Development held on January 18. The Working Group would further follow up the Mandatory Report System Consultation Paper.

Ms Angie Chan briefed members the work plan of the Council regarding this matter:

From Central Level:

- i) Updating the progress of legislation with Legislation Council, LWB and SWD for reflecting sectors’ concern and suggestion according to HKCSS previous position paper
- ii) Exploring the legislation roadmap to find out the appropriate timing to reflect the sectors’ concerns and suggestions, e.g. the definition of “imminent risk of serious harm”, reporting route and penalty.
- iii) Facilitation cross sectors (Education, Medical and Welfare) sharing
- iv) Providing proper training and public education whenever in need

From SC-FC Level:

- i) Providing reference or study groups of overseas experience for related services worker to understand more about the operation of MRS
- ii) Collecting data regarding the operation concerns and view of reporting route on service specific level.

Ms Angie Chan explained that paper 1b was sourced from Australia. Members shared their views in the meeting. A draft would be provided to Council’s PRA team for endorsement by the working group before distribution to related service frontline for trial.

Moreover, members agreed that more references of other countries' "Act" (Law) and "operation" could be explored for making further recommendations regarding the consultation paper. The resources implication should also be focused.

3.2 Working Group on Carer Service and Policy

Ms Agnes Leung, convenor of the working group, shared that the BOKSS project 照顧者易達平台 was referenced for discussion. Support carer services through providing rest locations at ICYSCs and internet service provision were suggested.

Mr Toby Yip added The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) and PolyU Jockey Club Design Institute for Social Innovation (JCDISI) co-organise the "Community Support for Carers" Programme. All Agency Members are cordially invited to participate in the programme. In realising innovative ideas, we aspire to improve carer's situation and build a more carer-friendly community. Members were encouraged to sign up for the related workshop on January 24, 2022. Another event 照顧者研究初部結果分享會 organised by HKCSS would be held on February 9, 2022.

4. Key Initiatives for 2022 - 2023

Paper 2: Key Initiatives (Family and Community Service) for HKCSS Business Plan for 2022 - 2023 were sent to members. With the powerpoint presentation, the main purposes and deliverables of the suggested initiatives were showed.

4.1 HKCSS EM Youth Traineeship Programme

Ms Angie Chan briefed members the background of the traineeship programme. Ms Qubie Tang helped to further elaborate in detail how the Ethnic Minorities District Ambassador project was referenced to develop this while Ms Faye Chan emphasized the mainstreaming purpose of the programme.

4.2 "Community Support for Carers" Programme

Ms Angie Chan explained this initiative on both the main purposes and deliverables in the meeting. Members shared their experiences in their agencies and support this initiative.

5. Discussion Items

5.1 Pandemic related issues

Mrs Angela Chiu invited members to share the affection to the service provisions, both in the aspects of users and workers caused by the 5th wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

The main affections were summarized as follows:

i) Mandatory COVID-19 test

Many service locations and large areas were blocked from the reach of service provisions

ii) Cross border accessibility

Limiting the service provision, for both users and workers

iii) Vaccination requirement

Many service workers are required to have COVID-19 vaccinations but it has not been easy to book one.

iv) Funding Service Agreement

- Number of events and participation were greatly reduced;
- Outreaching work has been largely affected due to the Regulation 599G (prohibition on group gathering);
- Extra resources were needed for switching in-person events to online;
- Needs of purchasing extra materials for prevention and control of disease, both medical and cleansing usage

6. Progress Report

Paper 3: Progress Report from November 2021 to January 2022 of Family and Community Service was sent to members for information. The following items were included:

- Social Innovation Symposium
- Follow-up on Tenancy Control of Subdivided Units
- NGO Innovation Hub (NIH)
- Workshop for Mandatory Reporting Requirement on Legal Perspective
- SC-FC Working Group on the Proposed Mandatory Reporting System
- Capacity Building Programme for Supervisors in the EMDA Scheme
- EM's Dream of being Social Workers Shared through CE's Recruit Column

7. Any Other Business

7.1 In view of the recent incident at a children's residential home, members suggested to review the service standard and make recommendations to SWD after discussion.

7.2 Ms Angie Chan informed members there were funders consulting HKCSS service gap in these coming years. It was agreed to support homestay for parent/child or wellness for social workers projects.

7.3 Members were concerned about the manpower shortage in the field, especially for NGOs. Ms Angie Chan reported that this issue has been put to the foci of this year's Council work.

7.4 Members were encouraged to support the online flag selling of Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong on January 27, 2022.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on March 16 (Wednesday) or 17 (Thursday), 2022 at 2:30 pm in Duke of Windsor Social Service Building or by ZOOM platform.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Adopted by

Chairperson
on the _____ day of _____ 2022