

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Service Development (Family & Community)

Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service (2021-22) held on September 14, 2022 (Wednesday) at Room 201, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai.

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 Carmen LIAU	Breakthrough Limited
Ms Judy CHAN	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Ms Florence KONG	Hong Kong Christian Service
Ms HSU Siu-man	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Ms Cecily MA	The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Ms Monica CHEUNG	Caritas – Hong Kong
Ms Cindy YIU	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
Ms Priscilla LEUNG	The Salvation Army
Ms Carrie CHUNG	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Ms LEUNG Tsui-wan	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited
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
Mr Raymond LAI	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Angie CHAN	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Mr Jim HOE	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Mr Toby YIP	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Qubie TANG	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Fion TAI (recorder)	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Apologies

Ms Scarlet POON	Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service
Mr YIP Kin-chung	Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited
Ms Joyce TSE	Christian Family Service Centre

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The draft minutes (revised version) of the meeting held on July 13, 2022 were circulated by email on September 9, 2022 and was confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Carer Service and Policy

Mr. Toby Yip reported recommendations as proposed in the two-session sector engagement event that held respectively on 26 August and 29 August 2022. Regarding the 11 proposed recommendations for supporting carers on the report, Mr. Toby Yip summarized the follow up action on policy advocacy which adhere to the five service domains and the five carer-oriented principles. Mr. Jim Hoe added that HKCSS will study the possibility and effectiveness of establish a one-stop-information platform on carer support by the support of carer service operators, providing functions of 1) service matching, 2) virtual community support, and 3) data analyze. Meanwhile, regarding the report of the Consultancy Study on Needs and Support Required of Carers of Elderly Persons and of Persons with Disabilities in Hong Kong, HKCSS will submit an opinion paper to advocate practical measures to address 1) the carer policies, 2) carers at high risk, and 3) financial assistance for carers.

3. For Discussion

3.1 Mandatory Reporting System

Ms. Angie Chan has reported the updated progress on the consultation on legislation of mandatory reporting system. LWB has released a consultation paper, which covers about (a) whom to protect; (b) who is mandated to make reports; (c) what types of suspected cases to be reported; (d) what should be the appropriate level of penalty; and (e) how to safeguard mandated reporters' interest. REPORTING CHANNEL, TRAINING & ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT MEASURES are also listed for seeking view on this paper. Meanwhile, LWB has arranged sector consultation sessions during September. Opinion paper submission is welcome until 30th September 2022. HKCSS will consult with the related service networks and Specialized Committee for their view. Another consultation session will be arranged by HKCSS on 5th October for clarification on legal perspectives.

The convenor of MRS WG of SCFC, Ms. Iris Liu, supplemented that WG has arranged a meeting and come up with the below summaries and recommendations.

The sector concerned about:

1. The definition of legal terms on the paper
2. The threshold for reporting should be clear

Recommendation: the threshold should focus only on reporting cases instead of 3 levels of judgment and intervention.

3. Reporting Chanel should be easy to access, and the process should be simple.

Recommendation: digital reporting tools are recommended to develop to benchmark the professional decision-making process and to simplify the reporting process on the documentary report.

4. Administrative Support includes 1) Logistic arrangement to connect with mainstream services, 2) The operation mechanism of the triage system; 3) service shortage, e.g., urgent placement for an abuse case.
5. Recurrent training arrangement.
6. Agency Practice Guidelines for Mandatory Report Responsibility should be introduced to cater to the needs of performing individual professional responsibility and the operation and management procedure of the agency.
7. Awareness of child protection should be further enhanced by public education and supportive services at community levels to identify the high-risk cases should be available.

3.2 Structure of networks and working groups under Family and Community Service

Mr. Raymond Lai updated the members about the Revamping Exercise of HKCSS, emphasizing the three strategic pillars of Tech Enablement, Talent Development, and Co-Creation. HKCSS would like to strive for change and be impact-driven by the social agenda. SCFC would like to make changes so as to echo the mission of HKCSS as well.

Ms. Angie Chan introduced three layers of governance of SCFC, namely, the Agenda Group, Service Network and Working Group. For details, please see the attachment for the explanation.

Chairperson Ms. Angela Chiu showed concerns about the overlapping of the Agenda Group and the agenda team of HKCSS internal structure and wondered if it might create more workload to the staff team. However, she appreciated the staff team's observations on the operation and functions of SCFC. She agreed with the rationale for revamping, however, consultation and trial run are necessary. In recent years, there is limited time for the SCFC members to discuss on service models building, which is in fact essential for service development.

Ms. Monica Cheung showed concern for the function of the Working Group and Agenda teams. It may be overlapping and difficult to differentiate their functions. Besides, she also doubted if agenda groups should be under SCFC and wondered if it is the responsibility of SCFC to form an agenda group. Ms. Iris Liu replied that according to her experience of working with the HKCSS committees, there have

been a lot of collaboration between HKCSS and the sector stakeholders in initiating new projects and advocacy, such as the example of social housing project. However, she agreed to examine the structure of the agenda groups and to avoid overlapping. Besides, there should be flexibility in terms of the group size and meeting time.

Ms. Carol Ng suggested that the Agenda Group should be above Specialized Committee and parallel with the Agenda Team (HKCSS Staff Team).

Ms. Angie Chan supplemented that the Revamping exercise of SCFC will comply with the principle of 1) Bottom-up discussion, 2) Equal participation and cocreation 3) Align with the HKCSS position through the governance procedure.

She concluded as follow:

1. Combining of the Network on IFSC and Domestic Violence as a Network of Family Service will be continued by consultation next year.
2. Number of meetings on the Network will be at least three times and subject to the actual need. New WG about social welfare issues of FCS or Ad Hoc issues working group could be formed under SCFC or Network, subject to the workload of the FCS staff team.

Mr. Raymond Lai summed up that he appreciated the suggestions from members. We will put forward the revamping exercise for the parts that with no significant concerns as follow:

1. WGs should be set up with specific objectives and limited timeframe. The existing WG will be reviewed upon the target met and termination date.
2. HKCSS will further review the position, focus and formation of the Agenda Group.

4. For Information

4.1 Progress Update

Progress Report of FCS from July to September 2022 was sent to members for information. The following items were included:

- I. NGO Innovation Hub (NIH)
- II. Practice sharing workshop on intervention for Men who have sex with men (MSM) for drug treatment and rehabilitation service practitioners
- III. Carer Policy and Service
- IV. Social Service City Hunt – On-board training of Professional Traineeship Programme for the Ethnic Minorities (August 11, 2022)

V. 2nd Centralized Interview of Professional Traineeship Program for the Ethnic Minorities (17th August & 2nd September)

Ms Angie Chan highlighted the gist in the meeting.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Professional Traineeship Programme for the Ethnic Minorities

Ms Qubie Tang shared a video highlight of the “Social Service City Hunt” which was organized by HKCSS on August 11, 2022. It was an on-board training for the trainees from Professional Traineeship Programme for the Ethnic Minorities. In August 2023, the 24 trainees will be the organizers organizing the Social Service City Hunt in 2 districts as their traineeship showcase event.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting date and venue will be announced after AGM.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Adopted by

Chairperson
on the _____ day of _____ 2022