

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Service Development (Family & Community)

Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service (2022-23) held on May 17, 2023 (Wednesday) at Room 201, 2/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, WanChai, Hong Kong.

Present

Mrs Angela CHIU (Chairperson)	Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council
Ms Agnes LEUNG (Vice-chairperson)	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong
Ms Iris LIU (Vice-chairperson)	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
Ms Monica CHEUNG	Caritas – Hong Kong
Ms Joyce TSE	Christian Family Service Centre
Mr Mike CHEUNG	Hong Kong Christian Service
Mr Jonathan CHAN	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre
Ms Maggie CHAN	St. James' Settlement
Ms Phoebe WAN	Wofoo Social Enterprises Limited
Ms Priscilla LEUNG	The Salvation Army
Ms Doris LEE	Harmony House Limited
Ms May LAU	
Ms Angela CHENG	Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers
Ms Terry TSUI	Hong Kong Children & Youth Services
Dr Janet LEUNG	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Dr Anna CHOI	The University of Hong Kong
Ms Tracy LEUNG	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited
Ms Judy CHAN	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Ms Jessica TAM	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
Ms Jobe HSU	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Qubie TANG	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Kylie WONG (recorder)	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Apologies

Ms Cecily MA	The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Ms Carrie CHUNG	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Ms Irene SO	ZeShan Foundation
Ms Carmen LIAU	Breakthrough Limited
Mr Toby YIP	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Fion TAI	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on May 17, 2023, were circulated by email on May 11, 2023, and was confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Working Group on Mandatory Reporting Requirement (MRR)

Ms. Angie CHAN reported that a preparation meeting for the Welfare Agenda & Priorities Setting (WAPS) was conducted for the Members of the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service (SCFC) Mandatory Reporting Requirement (MRR) working group and Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs) network attended to discuss the Mandatory Reporting Requirement (MRR) issues. They successfully presented their concerns during the Welfare Agenda & Priorities Setting (WAPS) 2023 on 5 May 2023.

2.2 Follow up action on Welfare Agenda & Priorities Setting (WAPS) 2023

Ms. Angela CHIU summarized the key points discussed during the WAPS meeting as follows:

- **Topic 1: 推動賦權形式家長教育服務，支援高風險家庭預防虐兒發生**
The Social Welfare Department (SWD) emphasized that there would be a high threshold for reporting cases of suspected child abuse and training modules for social workers will be carried out. They also mentioned the importance of the follow up actions of the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS), the project that aimed at identifying at risk young children aged from 0 to 3.

Ms. Angie CHAN has highlighted the following revisions to the WAPS document:

- I. Collect data to understand the number of high-risk families.
 - II. Strengthen the service capacity ratio, such as the number of staff and supervisor ratio.
 - III. Establish a discussion platform for social workers to suggest guidelines of collaboration and for regular reviews.
 - IV. Enhance family and parenting education in the community.
- **Topic 2: 設立社區支援服務為不適切住房居民提供支援**
The Social Welfare Department (SWD) mentioned that District Welfare Officers would follow up on the needs of inadequate home residents, and NGOs could use community centers as a community living room.

Mr. Johnathan CHAN pointed out that there is a shortage of community living rooms, and many inadequate home residents do not qualify for apply for community living rooms. He suggested utilizing different funds, such as the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF), to implement diverse social capital development plans in the community, with the government playing a coordinating role. Mrs. Angela CHIU responded that the government emphasized

on eliminating cubicle units and encouraged residents to move into social housing or Light Public Housing, therefore they opined that long term and recurrent welfare service subvention seemed to be impossible. However, it is still important for the HKCSS to advocate the imminent need of a special social service team or any special fund schemes, for addressing the service needs of the people living in disadvantaged abodes.

➤ **Topic 3: 優化少數族裔社區大使服務規劃以擴大少數族裔社群接觸主流福利服務渠道**

The Ethnic Minority District Ambassador (EMDA) Pilot Scheme will be extended until March 2024. Ms. Qubie TANG shared the annual statistics on translation and interpretation services collected by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) for different government bodies (https://www.cmab.gov.hk/en/issues/aggregate_statistics_2021.htm) via WhatsApp for reference.

Ms. Angie CHAN has highlighted the following revisions to the WAPS document:

- I. It is recommended to collect and publish data on the Ethnic Minorities' use of social services.
- II. Providing training for Ethnic Minority colleagues can improve their retention rates in their posts.

2.3 Follow up action on Sharing Session for Ethnic Minority Leaders on Child Protection in Hong Kong

Ms. Iris LIU stated that this meeting is a good platform for communication and suggested that follow-up actions should be taken to sustain and enhance this communication for service promotion and social integration.

Ms. Angie CHAN provided three key points for follow-up by the HKCSS:

- I. It is recommended to convene an additional one or two sessions with representatives from law enforcement, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community leaders from ethnically marginalized (EM) groups to address the concerns raised during the previous session and provide valuable insights to improve child protection.
- II. A constructive dialogue should be arranged between the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and relevant NGOs to establish clear roles and responsibilities in child protection and to address the challenges encountered by NGOs. This will facilitate mutual understanding and collaboration in promoting the well-being and safety of children.

- III. It is recommended to enhance the cultural sensitivity and capacity of social workers who serve the EM community in child protection work. This includes providing appropriate training, resources, and support to enable social workers to effectively engage with diverse communities and deliver culturally responsive services that meet the unique needs of EM children and families.

3. For Discussion

3.1 Social Agenda under Family and Community Domain

Ms. Angie CHAN suggested that members can raise different family issues for discussion, and the response from members has been enthusiastic:

➤ *Family issues:*

- I. A Family Happiness Index showed a significant decrease in the happiness index.
- II. The pandemic has led to changes in family dynamics and increased pressure on families.
- III. There is an increase in domestic violence, suicide rates, mental health issues, elderly abuse, and women staying in dormitories.
- IV. NGOs have reported that students are struggling to adapt to returning to school after three years.
- V. Adult children who were addicted in gambling or suffered from mental health problems have created burden to their old, aged parents.

➤ *Policy:*

- I. The "Strategy of Targeted Poverty Alleviation" is too focused on the elderly, neglecting issues related to housing and women.
- II. A comprehensive and long-term policy is essential to strengthen the functionality of families.

➤ *Immigration-related issues:*

- I. After siblings emigrate, those left behind in Hong Kong are under pressure to take care of their parents.

➤ *Cross-border students:*

- I. These students have forgotten how to speak Cantonese and face challenges with various exams and assessments.

➤ *Social work support:*

- I. There is a shortage of social workers available to handle cases.
- II. The turnover of experienced social workers due to emigration and resignation.

Ms. Angie CHAN shared information about a symposium called “賽馬會「你」想家長培力計劃 - 「家長服務新維度」研討會, which will be held on August 4th, 2023. It aims to provide a platform for discussing the concerns regarding family and parenting nowadays and exploring solutions.

4. For Information

4.1 Progress update (Paper 3)

Progress Report from March to May 2023 of FCS was sent to members for information, for details, please see the attachment for the explanation (paper 3).

4.2 Checkpoint Invitation to Join Social Resources City Hunt (July 2nd in Yuen Long, August 5th in Yau Tsim Mong)

Ms Qubie TANG promoted an upcoming event of “Social Resources City Hunt on July 2nd in Yuen Long and August 5th in Yau Tsim Mong, and Invited members to design a checkpoint task to tell the good inclusion stories of Hong Kong this Summer. The aims of the City Hunt are to familiarize Ethnic Minorities To enhance the accessibility of social resources for district residents, enhance social inclusion between Chinese and Ethnic Minorities, and tell the world the good stories of Hong Kong through Ethnic Minority's established overseas connections.

5. Any Other Business

- Ms May LAU has resigned from her position at the Lee Kum Kee Family Foundation and will be transferring to Chow Tai Fook. Nonetheless, all members agreed that Ms May LAU should continue to serve this committee with her new role.
- Ms. Angie CHAN reminded members about the motion related to Advance Directive and the legislation on dying at home that will be discussed in the Legislative Council.
- Mr. Jim HOE updated members on the progress of the draft of the Family Procedure Bill, which has been passed and consolidated into one single piece of legislation.

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Jul 19, 2023, at 14:30pm in Room 201**, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:00 pm.

Adopted by

Chairperson

on the _____ day of _____ 2023