

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Service Development (Family & Community)

Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service (2023-24) held on Nov 15, 2023 (Wednesday) at Room 203, 2/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present

Ms Agnes LEUNG (Chairperson)	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong
Ms Monica CHEUNG (Vice-chairperson)	Caritas – Hong Kong
Ms Cecily MA (Vice-chairperson)	Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Mr Yip Kin Chung	Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited
Ms Doris LEE	Harmony House Limited
Ms Judy CHAN	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Mr Jonathan CHAN	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre
Mr Kerin CHAM	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
Ms Cindy YIU	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
Ms Angela CHENG	Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers
Dr. Janet LEUNG	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Dr. Anna CHOI	The University of Hong Kong
Mr Mike CHEUNG	Hong Kong Christian Service
Ms Phoebe WAN	Wofoo Social Enterprises Limited
Ms Carrie CHUNG	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Ms Angie CHAN	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Jobe HSU	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Mr Jim HOE	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 Carmen LIAU	Breakthrough Limited
Ms Lincole CHAN	Salvation Army, The
Ms Joyce TSE	Christian Family Service Centre
Ms May LAU	Chow Tai Fook
Ms Irene SO	ZeShan Foundation
Ms Terry TSUI	Hong Kong Children & Youth Services

1. Welcoming and Introduction

The meeting began with introductions from each member and staff of the Family and Community Service team. Ms. Angie Chan warmly welcomed all attendees. All members agreed to join a WhatsApp group, to be created by the Family and Community Service Team, for improved

communication.

2. Structure and Terms of Reference of Specialized Committee

The structure of the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service and Terms of Reference of Specialized Committees (paper 1) were sent to members for information. Ms Angie Chan also briefed members on the composition of the existing networks and working/task groups under family and community services. She further took members through the Terms of Reference, especially the composition and functions of the Specialized Committee as well as the term of office of its members.

3. Election of Chairperson and Vice-chairperson; Appointment of Representative to Standing Committee on Social Development

Ms Agnes LEUNG was elected to be the chairperson while Ms Monica CHEUNG and Ms Cecily MA were elected to be the vice-chairpersons of the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service for 2023-2024. Hence, Ms Agnes LEUNG would represent the Committee to join the Standing Committee on Service Development and Liaison as ex-officio member in 2023-2024.

Additionally, Ms Agnes Leung was elected to be the representative of Talent Development; Ms Phoebe Wan was elected to be the representative of Tech Enablement and Ms Cecily Ma was elected to be the representative of Co-creation.

4. Co-opted Members

Ms Angie Chan briefed members there had been a policy that only one representative from each agency could be Committee member (which is applied for both elected and co-opted members). After deliberation, the members agreed to keep the practice continuing six co-opt representatives from the Networks, academia, and the funder.

5. Declaration of Interests by Members of Governing Committees of HKCSS

The Declaration of Interests by Members of Governing Committees of HKCSS (Paper 2) was sent to all members by email. Most completed forms were collected prior to or during the meeting.

6. Report

6.1 Mandatory Reporting Requirement update

Ms. Angie Chan updated members on the government's current efforts to gather feedback and inquiries on the draft legislation from relevant professional groups. The initial phase of input collection is expected to continue until December 19, 2023. Members were strongly encouraged to submit their inputs during this period.

Ms. Angie Chan also announced the government's plan to establish a "Professional Advisory Group" to provide guidance on the topic. A guidebook will be introduced upon enactment of the legislation in the second phase, mandating designated professionals to report suspected child abuse. Regarding this matter, members have raised shared concerns, including the content of the guidelines, they concerned that the harsh penalties will lead to over-reporting or frequent false reporting, which could negatively impact the service resources intended for those in need.

Members agreed on the importance of enhancing intersectoral communication among social welfare, medical, and education professionals. Public awareness of the regulations should also be raised to prevent accidents, and children's perspectives on the regulations should be respected.

HKCSS staff will continue monitoring this issue.

6.2 Report on cost apportionment

Ms. Angie CHAN reported on the collection of opinions on activities and cost apportionment related to the NGO "Funding and Service Agreements". The Family and Community Services Team notes and determines the following:

- i. **Service targets of the "Agreement"-related services:** The team agreed to incorporate HKCSS's seven suggestions on "cross-service region" into the working guidelines.
- ii. **Self-financing services and social enterprises:** The team agreed with HKCSS's two main arguments on "self-financing activities" and "social enterprises".
- iii. **Fundraising activities and corporate function activities:** The team accepted the Social Welfare Department's response and agreed with HKCSS's suggestions.
- iv. **Clarifications on items 1-4:** Members look forward to further clarifications from the Social Welfare Department and had no specific opinions.
Items 1-4 as follows:
 - 1)填報《協議》服務的服務量納入季度服務統計（SIS）
 - 2)兩個《協議》服務（及《協議》相關活動）合作
 - 3)為員工提供膳食及交通
 - 4)增值服務
- v. **Government's welfare measures:** The team agreed with HKCSS's suggestion that cost apportionment should not be implemented for welfare measures introduced by government

departments. This suggestion will be included in the relevant "working guidelines".

- vi. The categorization of "mediation services" under Family Support and Services (FSA) and the need for cost apportionment were questioned. Responses among organizations varied; some classified it under FSA, while others considered it non-FSA for cost apportionment. This variation is due to the different contracts between NGOs and the Social Welfare Department (SWD). As a result, the issue will be handled individually by the responsible NGOs.
- vii. The team agreed with the general direction suggested by the HKCSS and saw no need for another meeting with the Assistant Director.

6.3 Progress Report (September to October 2022)

The Progress Report (September to October 2023) of the Family and Community Service (paper 3) has been sent to members for information.

- I. October - Carer Month
 - The "Support for Carers - HKCSS hosted Policy Advocacy and Service Development" Symposium on 6 Oct 2023 Carer Policy and Service
- II. Carer Policy and Service
 - The consolidated carer development recommendations have been developed and an opinion paper has been drafted and submitted to the government
- III. Opinion Paper on Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (2024-2026)
 - The opinion paper on three-year plan on drug treatment and rehabilitation service in Hong Kong (2024-2026) has been drafted and submitted to government.
- IV. A protocol in cultivating inclusive work environment
 - A protocol titled "A Protocol for Cultivating an Inclusive Work Environment," in collaboration with Good Lab, is currently in the editing process and is expected to be released by the first quarter of 2024.

7. Policy Address 2023

Ms. Angie CHAN reported that the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) welcomes the government's latest Policy Address, which responds to numerous demands from the social welfare sector and concerned groups. These include:

- I. Making good use of technology for the elderly
- II. Strengthening support for carers
- III. Addressing subdivided housing and rental issues
- IV. Setting poverty alleviation goals

Members discussed measures related to ethnic minorities and suggested that the continuation of 3-year Ethnic Minority District Ambassador (EMDA) Scheme be evaluated, including a discussion on its exit strategy and overall effectiveness.

8. Replacement of SC-FC member

Following the resignation of Ms. Maggie CHAN, the committee agreed to nominate candidates to fill the one-year remainder of her term.

Further information about the nomination process will be provided by the team and the membership team.

9. Any Other Business

Ms Jobe Hsu promoted an upcoming symposium “Innovation Hub symposium 2023” will be held on 15 December 2023 (Friday), she encouraged members to join the symposium and shared the event link via WhatsApp.

10. Date of next meeting – Proposed Meeting Schedule (Paper 4)

The proposed meeting schedule (referenced in Paper 4) has been distributed to all members for review and discussion. Please note that amendments are required for the scheduling of our 2nd meeting and the next meeting would be held on 16 Jan 2023 at 2:30pm, at Duke of Windsor Social Service Building.

(Post-meeting note: A Doodle poll was sent to all members on 20 Nov 2023, for polling.)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Adopted by

Chairperson

on the _____ day of _____
2022