

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 (2023-24) held on Jan 16, 2024 (Tuesday) at Room 202, 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
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. Anna CHOI	The University of Hong Kong
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 May Lee	Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong, The
Ms Irene SO	ZeShan Foundation
Ms Terry TSUI	Hong Kong Children & Youth Services
Ms Carrie CHUNG	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Ms Jessica TAM	The Hong Kong Council of 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

Mr Mike CHEUNG	Hong Kong Christian Service
Ms Phoebe WAN	Wofoo Social Enterprises Limited
Dr. Janet LEUNG	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Mr Yip Kin Chung	Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited

1. Welcoming for new member

Members extended warm welcome to Ms May Lee (replacement of Ms Maggie CHAN),

also, attending members and staff of Family and Community Service team introduced themselves to each other.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting – Nov 15, 2023

The draft minutes of the meeting held on Nov 15, 2023 was circulated by email on Jan 12, 2024 and was confirmed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Networks reporting

Ms. Angie Chan, Ms. Qubie Tang and Mr. Jim Hoe, provided an overview of the various networks and working groups that operate under the Family and Community Service (FCS) team. They have collectively delineated the responsibilities and expectations of the Network to our members, including:

- i) Network on Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)
- ii) Network on Substance Abuse Services
- iii) Network on Domestic and Sexual Violence Services
- iv) Network on Ethnic Minorities Services
- v) Network on Community Development

The network serves as an important platform for collecting and consolidating service needs, operational hiccups from frontline service supervisors, and bringing up issues for constructive discussion or data collection. It adopts a bottom-up approach to developing potential social agendas. Meetings are usually scheduled on a quarterly basis, with additional pop-up meetings convened to address ad hoc issues.

3.2 Working Group on Mandatory Report System

A concise summary of the recent report presented by Ms. Angie Chan regarding key issues of concern among Legco members. The issues highlighted include:

- I. Age-related issues
- II. Definition of “serious harm”
- III. Children's point of view
- IV. Views on punishment Approaches

The second phase of the “Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Bill” is currently in progress. The government is in the process of establishing three professional consultative panels, each in the social welfare sector, education sector and healthcare sector, Mr Kerin CHAM and Ms Judy CHAN were invited to join the professional consultative panel. The professional consultative panels will conduct intensive discussions based on the feedback, questions, and opinions collected in the first phase regarding reporting Threshold.

The members agreed on the need to establish a mandatory reporting mechanism in Hong Kong. Also believed that the government needs to ensure that sufficient resources and support measures are in place before the bill comes into effect.

HKCSS staff will continue monitoring this issue.

(Post-meeting Addendum: On January 16, 2024, Mr. Jonathan Chan sent an email to all members detailing the Legislative Council's request for additional information from the government.)

4. For Discussion

4.1 Cost Apportionment Guidelines update

Based on the previous meeting minutes, members supported the overall direction proposed by the HKCSS and determined that another meeting with the Assistant Director was unnecessary. As of now, no additional follow-up is required, and HKCSS staff will continue monitoring this matter.

4.2 Lump Sum Grant Manual Issue

Ms. Angie Chan provided a briefing on the recent revisions to the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) Subvention Manual, which will take effect on April 1, 2024. The key changes are as follows:

- I. Service providers must give a six-month notice before withdrawing LSG funding and discontinuing the related service.
- II. The Social Welfare Department now has the authority to cancel the Funding Service Agreement (FSA) with a 30-day notice, and there is no appeal system for such suspension decisions made by the government.
- III. The Social Welfare Department may adjust the subsidies amount depending on

available resources.

- IV. The non-time-limited contract duration for the FSA will be converted to a five-year period following the service review.

HKCSS has sent a letter to the Director of the Social Welfare Department expressing the sector's concerns and will continue to monitor this issue.

5. For Information

5.1 Progress Update (Nov 2023 to January 2024) (Paper1)

Paper 1: Progress Report from Nov 2023 to Jan 2024 of Family and Community Service was sent to members for information. The highlight items as follow:

- I. Innovation Hub Symposium 2023
- II. Practical Workshop for Professionals: Supporting Mental Health of Ethnic Minorities (November 15th)

5.2 Report-back Session of NIH Symposium 2023

Ms Jobe HSU reported that the symposium took place On December 15, 2023, gathered 160 professionals including international and local experts in Social Innovation and Community Development, as well as NIH project contributors. It aimed to exchange global and local insights, showcase the Innovation Hub's success in applying community models to social innovation, and foster dialogue among participants from diverse sectors like NGOs, social enterprises, universities, and foundations. The event served as a dynamic platform for sharing experiences and ideas in community development.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Basic Training on Children in Divorce Families (Paper2)

Ms. Angie Chan promoted the organization of the Basic Training on Children in Divorce Families, initiative by the Asian Academy of Family Therapy (AAFT), which is scheduled to take place on February 23rd and March 8th, 2024. This training is designed for professionals from various disciplines who aspire to become AAFT-certified divorce counselors, with the opportunity for further advanced training.

Concurrently, Ms. Monica Cheung is at the forefront of "Relationship University," an

innovative online platform offering courses on self-help therapy, dating, marriage, family, and broader social relationships. This platform is tailored to foster self-reflection and enhance interpersonal skills across different life phases and social contexts.

Additionally, Dr. Anna Choi is coordinating a career talk in partnership with the University of Hong Kong, which will occur on April 13, 2024, utilizing the Zoom platform. Dr. Choi warmly invites NGOs interested in participating and disseminating their sector knowledge to attend this informative event. The session is designed to motivate and educate students about the meaningful contributions within the social welfare sector and to inspire a new generation to engage in this essential area of work.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on **March 13, 2024 (Wednesday) at 2:30 pm in Room 201**, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Adopted by

Chairperson

on the _____ day of _____ 2024