

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 (2019-20) held on September 9, 2020 (Wednesday) via ZOOM platform.

Present

Ms Eliza LAM (Chairperson)	Caritas – Hong Kong
Mr Charles NG (Vice-chairperson)	Christian Family Service Centre
Mrs Angela CHIU (Vice-chairperson)	Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council
Mrs Doris LEE	Harmony House Limited
Ms Florence KONG	Hong Kong Christian Service
Ms Charrix LEE	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Ms Polly PANG	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre
Ms LAM Yee-mui	Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Ms Lea YIP	Breakthrough Limited
Ms KEUNG Choi-yin	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited
Dr Margaret WONG	Hong Kong Shue Yan University
Ms Iris LIU	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
Mr Tom MA	The Salvation Army
Mr Raymond WONG	St James' Settlement
Ms Wendy WONG	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Mr Kenny NG	Community Development Alliance
Ms Carol NG	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service
Mr Moses MUI	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Lynn LAW	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Mr CHAN Wing-sun	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Noel CHOW (recorder)	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Apologies

Ms CHENG Miu-nar	Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers
Ms Sky SIU	KELY Support Group Limited

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on July 8, 2020 was circulated by email on August 28, 2020 and was confirmed with nil amendment:

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Working Group on Maintenance Issue

Ms Wendy Wong updated members the progress of the Working Group over the past two months, including a zoom meeting with HKU research team has been arranged on August 20 and promotion of parental responsibility has been put on agenda with representatives of SCSCs joined the Working Group.

Mr Moses Mui supplemented that HKU research team has shared with us the thoughts of major recommendations including setting up Family Relationship Office, Maintenance Assurance Scheme and Loan Scheme in order to address the maintenance issues. At the same time, NGO members had expressed their concerns on the rationale of loan scheme and other operational details. It was also estimated that the final report would be submitted to Government as well as Family Council for further deliberation.

After discussion, members suggested to facilitate thorough discussion on HKU's recommendations, especially among key stakeholders, i.e. IFSCs and SCSCs. Besides, it was opined that another critical factor is which policy bureau (HAB or LWB) to be responsible for the subject matter. In any case, it was agreed that concrete response could only be made after the final report being released. Hence, it was suggested to write a formal letter to Family Council, reiterating our policy recommendation and urging for public release of the final report.

(Post-meeting note: The letter was sent to Family Council on September 18, 2020.)

2.2 Working Group on Carer Service and Policy

Mr Chan Wing-sun briefed members the progress of the working group under the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service with a powerpoint presentation. It was emphasized that a framework of different stages of carer has been adopted to describe the various kinds of carers' service needs, as well as suggested service responses.

It was agreed that the input of family and community service team will be more on the community development service approach to address the carers' needs, though the government's consultancy study is mainly focused on the current elderly services and rehabilitation services. Besides, members were noted that concrete service recommendation will be formulated targeting at WAPS 2021. The working group will keep on to work out the details in the coming several months.

3. Three Year-Plan Treatment and Rehabilitation Services in Hong Kong (2021-2023)

Paper 1: 香港戒毒治療和康復服務三年計劃(2021-2023) 擬議大綱 was sent to members for reference. Members were briefed the background of the Three-Year Plan driven by Narcotics Division, and the corresponding work of our Council, i.e. organizing 4 sessions of online consultation meeting to collect sector's views. Ms Carol Ng highlighted the key concerns and recommendations collected from the sector over the past months. The consolidated views would be sent to members for further comment before submitting to Narcotics Division by end of September 2020.

(Post-meeting note: Consolidated sector's views have been sent to Narcotics Division on September 18, 2020.)

4. Family Service Practices in the New Normal

Mr Moses Mui shared the recent observations of the online programs provided by family service providers (IFSCs and FLEUs) through a powerpoint presentation.

It was reported that most IFSCs / ISCs / FLEs operated by NGOs had been organizing online activities for service users over the past months under the influence of COVID-19. Members shared their views of providing online services and the need of extra resources based on their solid experiences.

Some of the strengths of developing online services were:

- i) Can reach the hard-to-reach clients (e.g. young couples, working parents, male service users);
- ii) Higher attendance for programs;
- iii) Can use free tools, eg. google earth;
- iv) No weather affection; and
- v) Less space concern.

Some of the cons of organizing online activities were:

- i) Need more training for frontline workers;
- ii) Need of extra equipment, eg. camera, video recorder;
- iii) Need of IT professionals;
- iv) Need of social media expertise;
- v) Privacy and data security concern; and
- vi) FSA recognition not clarified.

It was agreed to organize practice sharing session to exchange views and experiences among NGOs, on various topic (i.e. online program skills, online counselling work etc). Besides, collective efforts could be lined up riding on WAPS to pursue service enhancement with additional resources.

5. For Information

5.1 EM Ambassador and Related Training Program

It was briefed to members by Ms Lynn Law regarding the new EM District Ambassador scheme and the related training needs for NGO service operators. This topic would be further discussed in the event 多元文化實踐智慧論壇 - 建立種族共融的工作團隊 on October 8, 2020. Memorandum with full programme (paper 2a) was sent for member's information.

5.2 Scope Expansion for "Time to Heal" Project

Mr Stanley Ho, Project Manager was invited to update members the recent development of "Time to Heal" Project with a powerpoint presentation. The Project theme, service content and latest development was explained in details.

(Post-meeting note: The related powerpoint was emailed to members on September 18, 2020.)

6. Progress Update

Paper 3: Progress Update of Family and Community Service (August to September 2020) was sent to members for information.

The following items were included:

- i) Consultation Meetings on Three-year Plan on Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Services
- ii) Workshop on Local Standards of Community Development Practice
- iii) Workshop on Integrative Harm Reduction Psychotherapy
- iv) Jockey Club Parent Empowerment Project

Mr Moses Mui highlighted the major progress and welcomed members to raise enquiries directly to the subject officers.

7. Any Other Business

Nil.

8. Date of Next Meeting – To be confirmed

The next meeting would be confirmed with all members for the term year 2020-2021.

Mr Moses Mui thanked all members for their services for the term year 2019-2020, especially for those members completing their terms including Ms Lea Yip, Mr Charles Ng, Mrs Doris Lee, Ms Florence Kong, Ms Charrix Lee, Ms Polly Pang, Ms Keung Choi-yin, Dr Margaret Wong, Mr Kenny Ng, Ms Carol Ng and Ms Sky Siu.

There being no other business and the meeting was adjourned 5:40 pm.

Adopted by

Chairperson
on the _____ day of _____ 2020