

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Standing Committee on Public Engagement and Partnership
Minutes of the 1st Meeting for the Year 2019/20

Date: 3 December 2019 (Tuesday)
Time: 2:30pm – 5:00pm
Venue: Rm 203, 2/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building
15 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, HK

Present:

Ms Chan Ching Yee, Susan	Hong Kong Association of Gerontology
Ms Chan Fung Man, Angel	Christian Family Service Centre
Mrs Chiu Chui Yuen Fun, Angela	The Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council
Ms Kwan Pui Ying, Jenny	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association
Ms Ng Man Yin, Connie	St. James' Settlement
Ms Tse Ho Yi, Apple	Hong Kong Christian Service
Mr Tsui Yu Hang, Walter	CareER Association Limited
Ms Wong Sau Yee, Carrie	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups

Apologies:

Ms Cheung Pui Yee, Pearl	Caritas – Hong Kong
Mr Ho Hin Ming, Patrick	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong
Ms Christine Kwan	Senior Manager, WiseGiving

In Attendance:

Mr Cliff Choi	Business Director, HKCSS
Ms Stella Ho	Project Director, NGO Governance Platform Project
Ms Wendy Luk	Senior Manager, Caring Company Scheme
Mr Eddie Tsang	Senior Manager, Corporate Communications
Ms Kandy Yau	Project Manager, Caring Company Scheme - Recorder

1. Welcome newly elected members

Mr Cliff Choi welcomed new members to the Public Engagement and Partnership (PEP) Standing Committee and thanked them for their support to the Council.

2. Declare of interest

All attended members signed and returned the Declaration of Interests Form to the Council.

3. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

- Ms Susan Chan was elected the Chairperson of PEP Standing Committee.
- Ms Apple Tse was elected the Vice-chairperson of PEP Standing Committee.

4. Endorsement of minutes of the last meeting held on Sep 26, 2019

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26 September 2019 was adopted.

5. Matters arising

5.1 Tripartite project on improving the living environment of residents of subdivided units (SDU)
Cliff reported that a briefing session for NGOs was held in late December 2019. The programme will accept all interested NGOs' applications.

5.2 Most Impactful Small and Medium-sized Non-subvented NGO Award
Cliff thanked the previous Committee members for their participation in judging period. 21 shortlisted NGOs will meet with the adjudication panel comprised of foundation representatives in January 2020. A final judging panel involves 100 judges will be formed with representatives from the business sector, funders, professional groups, media and the government, which allow them to explore further about non-subvented NGOs.

6. Discussion

6.1 Selection of representatives to serve Executive Committee, WiseGiving / Caring Company Scheme Steering Committees and Assessment Committee for Membership Application

- Ms Susan Chan was appointed as representative to the Executive Committee.
- Ms Connie Ng was appointed as representative to the Steering Committee on HKCSS WiseGiving.
- Ms Apple Tse was appointed as representative to the Caring Company Scheme Steering Committee.
- Ms Angel Chan was appointed as representative to the Assessment Committee for Membership Application.

6.2 Co-option of new members and vacancy replacement mechanism

- Members proposed to invite the below individuals to the Committee:
 - Ms Jasmine Hui, NWS Holdings Limited
 - Mr Vincent Tsui, Toast Communications Limited
 - Mr Andy Ho, Andy Ho Public Affairs Consulting Co., Limited
 - Ms Rachel Miu, Muse Consultancy Limited
 - Representatives from non-subvented small NGOs to cater their needs

(Post meeting note: The below individuals have accepted the invitation from the Committee as co-opted members.

- Mr Andy Ho, Andy Ho Public Affairs Consulting Co., Limited
- Ms Jasmine Hui, NWS Holdings Limited
- Ms Percy Kwok, Hong Kong Prostate Foundation
- Ms Joyce Leung, Fimmick Limited
- Mr Justin Li, Airport Authority Hong Kong)

- Members agreed to replace vacancy in the Committee by candidate who gained the next highest number of votes.

6.3 Draft views on the new Tax Guide of IRD

- Cliff introduced the background of IRD's Tax Guide for Charitable Institutions and Trusts of a Public Character.
- Ms Stella Ho summarised HKCSS' proposed views on the guide for IRD's reference as below:
 - More examples of activities carried out by NGOs with charitable status are suggested to be included.
 - Suggested to clarify that the income derived from letting of the property to specific group of clients related to the charity's expressed object in order to fully utilize the causal capacity of the property is tax-exempted.
 - If a charity invests its reserves in a way that the charity does not actively engage in any trading of investment funds or financial securities, the financial returns so derived are suggested to clarify as not chargeable to Profit Tax.
 - Suggested to state the penalty for failing to report NGOs' chargeability to tax.
- Cliff added that more NGOs are delivering business-to-business approach services such as corporate trainings and employee supporting services etc. which need NGOs' attention on the presentation and description of the services.
- Members agreed the above proposed views and made the below suggestions:
 - NGOs to review organization constitutions, articles and promotion materials accordingly to avoid potential misinterpretation of service nature.
 - Offering first priority to target clientele for property rental so as to utilize casual capacity and meet the requirement.
 - HKCSS to explore the development of tool kit & pro bono tax consultation services to assist NGOs.

6.4 Proposal on e-payment platform for NGO donations and fees collection

- Cliff presented the summary of proposal submitted by Octopus as below for members' comment:
 - Transactions could now be made through smart phones and no longer limited to Octopus machines only.
 - Transaction record for different events could be separated for NGOs' clear reporting.

- 12 months of trial period will be offered to HKCSS agency members with no administration fee and set up cost.
 - Administration fee will start below 1% and to be reviewed every 6 months after the 2nd year of service engagement.
 - Octopus will make a donation for participated NGOs to acquire smart phones.
 - It is a non-exclusive offer which requires NGOs to announce them as the first service provider.
- Cliff emphasized HKCSS' role is to negotiate and set up the plan for agency members. The donation mentioned will be offered to NGOs directly.
 - Members showed interest in acquiring the service and suggested HKCSS to clarify the questions below:
 - Whether the trial period is applicable to unlimited number of centers and accounts.
 - Any special offer applicable for existing service users.
 - To negotiate a better offer of administration charge with 2-year reviewing period.
- 6.5 Deliberation of HKCSS's effort in promoting CSV
- Cliff proposed different means to promote the concept of conscious capitalism to corporates .
 - Members suggested the below directions:
 - Take 'social inclusion', 'respect', 'sustainability' as promotion angles
 - Add CSV as one of the criteria in joining Caring Company Scheme
 - Showcase and analyze successful CSV cases

7. Discussion

7.1 Caring Company Scheme

- Wendy reported that the application deadline of Caring Company Scheme will be on 3 January 2020.
- The vetting procedure of Outstanding Partnership Project Award is in progress. The result will be ready in early January 2020.
- The selected Sustainable Development Goals of HSBC Living Business Award this year are: Goal 1 – No Poverty and Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production. Awardees will be shortlisted in January 2020.
- Caring Company Partnership Expo 2020 will be held in HKCEC on 19 May 2020. Exhibitors will be grouped according to main service categories. No interactive zone will be set up this year as exhibitors are encouraged to include interactive elements in their service booths. The team is also exploring additional photo taking sessions to engage 1-year and 5-year caring companies/ caring organisations.

7.2 WiseGiving

- Cliff shared that the Hong Kong Enharmonica concert was held smoothly last week. The team reminded enrolled NGOs to consider social unrest safety concern,

especially for participants with disabilities. Yet, the concert was well received by more than 3,500 audiences on the event day.

- Representatives from more than 10 foundations were invited to be the judging panel for the Most Impactful Small and Medium-sized Non-subsided NGO Award. All applicants will also be invited to attend NGOs' presentations and mingle with foundations.

7.3 Corporate Communications

- Eddie mentioned that the Council has received negative comments on social media and online forums about topics related to social unrest. The Council will continue to monitor the situation.
- GIES 2019 was completed last week with over 25,000 visitors attended in 4 days. 250 tours (40 visitors per tour) were canceled due to social unrest. Some NGOs were supportive to organize elderly tours to the event. The overall atmosphere was satisfying. The team is reviewing the possibility to set an exclusive session for professionals next year.
- The first transitional housing project in Nam Cheong Street, Sham Shui Po is expected to be completed in early 2020.

8. AOB

Without any other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

9. Date of remaining 3 meetings of this term

The next 3 meetings will be held on 20 February 2020, 28 May 2020 and 3 September 2020.