

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy

Minutes of the 1st Meeting held on December 1, 2020 (Tuesday) at 3:00pm in Zoom Room.

Present:

Ms. Karrie Chan (Chairperson)	- Hong Kong Christian Service
Ms. Sky Siu (Vice-chairperson)	- Kely Support Group
Ms. Jennis Ho	- HKSKH Welfare Council Limited
Mr. Bille Lau	- Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong
Dr. Fan Ning	- Health in Action Limited
Ms. Sisi Liu	- Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres
Dr. Tam Yat Hung	- Shoebill Health Care
Ms. Nora Wong	- HKSKH Lady MacLehose Centre
Ms. Christa Cheung	- The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Mr. David Fung	- St. James' Settlement
Mr. Jim Hoe	- Sai Kung District Community Centre Limited
Ms. Iris Liu	- International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
Ms. Ivy Leung	- Christian Family Service Centre (Representative of Specialized Committee on Social Development)

In-attendance

Mr. Anthony Wong	- HKCSS
Mr. Peace Wong	- HKCSS
Mr. Moses Mui	- HKCSS
Ms. Olivia Ip (Recorder)	- HKCSS

Apologies:

Mr. Wong Kwok Kei	- Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong (Representative of Specialized Committee on Social Security and Employment Policy)
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1. Welcoming remarks

Before the meeting, Mr. Anthony Wong, on behalf of the PRA Standing Committee, extended warm welcome to all members to join this Committee. He introduced the Terms of Reference to new members, letting members have more understanding about PRA work.

2. Election of Chairperson and Vice-chairperson

- 2.1 Nominated by Ms. Iris Liu and seconded by Mr. Billie Lau, Ms. Karrie Chan was elected as Chairperson unanimously.
- 2.2 Nominated by Dr. Fan Ning and seconded by Mr. David Fung, Ms. Sky Siu was elected as Vice-chairperson unanimously.
- 2.3 The Chairperson, Ms. Karrie Chan would be the representative to the Council's Executive Committee.

3. To adopt the agenda of the meeting

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

4. To endorse the minutes of last meeting

The minutes of last meeting were confirmed without any amendment.

5. Matters for Reporting

5.1 Briefing on the current policy research and advocacy initiatives and new structure of staff team and governance

Mr. Anthony Wong reported the followings:

- Two specialized committees under Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy (PRA) would operate for one more year. A new governance structure, which had been endorsed by the Council's EXCO in July 2020, would be in force after the coming AGM.
- 3 new task forces would be formed to work together with the staff team.
- Three PRA representatives would be nominated to chair the 3 task forces.

5.2 Response to Policy Address

(a) Mr. Anthony Wong reported that:

- The Council would prepare Annual Submission to the Chief Executive of HKSAR every year.
- The Policy Address was announced earlier, and the Council had responded immediately.
- CE of HKSAR mainly focused on housing, and announced that an additional 3.3 billions for housing, but she did not put any new resources for other social welfare issues, especially the current unemployment rate in Hong Kong was very high. The Council proposed to set up short-term unemployment assistance but this had not been adopted. All those in need could only rely on CSSA, but the application requirement was extremely high.

(b) Members expressed the following opinions:

- Agreed that mental health problem would be acute in the coming years but surprised that the Government had little thought on it, and that it

decided to put additional resources of \$300 million under the Beat Drugs Fund to support the needy in the community and raise public awareness of mental health.

- The Government only focused too much on integration of Bay Area plan while did not pay enough attention to the pressing needs arising due to the Covid-19 and the social movement last year.
- Members were largely agreed that despite some additional resources were put in social housing, the fact that little resource was put in welfare, unemployment, mental health, and in helping the NGO sector (including both LSG enhancement and assistance to non-subsidized NGOs) was disappointing.

(c) Mr. Anthony Wong informed that 2020-2021 Budget Consultation Meeting would be held at December 11, 2020. He invited members to start thinking and preparing items for the next year Annual Submission.

6. To appoint member(s) to join

6.1 Assessment Committee for Membership Application

Ms. Jennis Ho was nominated and selected to represent Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy Committee to join this Committee.

6.2 Steering Committee for Community Housing Movement

Dr. Fan Ning was nominated and selected to represent Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy Committee to join this Committee.

6.3 Working Group for Primary Health Care Policy

Since Dr. Tam, Dr. Fan, Ms. Ivy Leung and Ms. Karrie Chan were also members of this committee, it was recommended to leave it to the formation of the new year term, and understood more about, then selecting a member to represent PRA. Members agreed.

7. Co-opt members

7.1 Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy had 2 co-opted member vacancies to fill.

7.1.1 Members agreed that mental health and unemployment issues would be most pressing in the coming years, and that we should co-opt experts in these two areas.

7.1.2 After discussion, members agreed to invite Dr. Wong Yu Cheung, who was conducting research study on unemployment insurance, to serve as co-opted member for 2020-2022.

7.1.3 For mental health, the followings were named and proposed, and

- members agreed to approach them by the following priority:
- (1) Dr. Paul Wong, University of Hong Kong
 - (2) Professor To Siu Ming, the Chinese University of Hong Kong
 - (3) Professor Wong Hung, the Chinese University of Hong Kong

8. Mid-year Progress Report

- 8.1 Mr. Anthony Wong shared PRA Mid-year Progress Report paper through zoom screen. He would circulate the report to members for endorsement after the meeting.
- 8.2 He proposed members to discuss next year business plan at next meeting. Members were welcomed to send him suggestions via email.

9. Any Other Business

- 9.1 The 1st meeting of Executive Committee meeting was scheduled at December 11, 2020.
- 9.2 The Extended Governance Meeting would be held at January 25, 2021.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting would be held at January 5, 2021 (Tuesday) from 3:30pm.

Adopted by: _____
(Chairperson)

Date: _____