

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting held on February 19, 2021 (Tuesday) at 3:00pm through 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
Dr. Fan Ning	-	Health in Action Limited
Ms. Sisi Liu	-	Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres
Dr. Tam Yat Hung	-	Shoebill Health Care
Mr. Billie Lau	-	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong
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
Dr. Wong Yu Cheung	-	Caritas Institute of Higher Education
Dr. Paul Wong	-	University of Hong Kong
Mr. Wong Kwok Kei	-	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong (Representative of Specialized Committee on Social Security and Employment Policy)

In-attendance

Mr. Anthony Wong	-	HKCSS
Mr. Peace Wong	-	HKCSS
Mr. Moses Mui	-	HKCSS
Mr. Charles Ho	-	HKCSS
Ms. Karen Yiu	-	HKCSS
Ms. Olivia Ip (Recorder)	-	HKCSS

Apologies:

Ms. Nora Wong	-	HKSKH Lady MacLehose Centre
Ms. Ivy Leung	-	Christian Family Service Centre (Representative of Specialized Committee on Social Development)

1. To adopt the agenda of the meeting

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

2. To endorse the minutes of last meeting

The minutes of last meeting were confirmed without any amendment:

3. Matters for Discussion

3.1 Annual Submission

3.1.1 Mr. Anthony Wong reported that:

- (a) The Council held a press conference on 疫情下失業及就業不足面貌分析記者會 last Sunday (7/2/2021). It was based on the data for the third quarter of 2020 (July to September) to explore the characteristics of the current local unemployed and underemployed, and the impact on individuals and families.
- (b) In response to the Secretary for Labour and Welfare latest comment on the unemployment rate and working family allowance, it was suggested that the Council should include recommendations on working family allowance into the Annual Submission. In any case, unemployment issue would be the major focus of the Annual Submission this year.
- (c) “Community mental health”, especially that of the youth, was agreed to be a focus.
- (d) The Annual Submission would be submitted to the Executive Committee for endorsement at the end of May based on the recommendation by the Standing Committee.

3.1.2 At the meeting, Mr. Peace Wong briefed the committee members on the background of research study and recommendations at the press conference on February 7, 2021.

3.1.3 Ms. Sky Siu suggested including the concern of ethnic minorities into the Annual Submission. Mr Anthony Wong said the relevant network and committee would be consulted.

3.1.4 Ms. Iris Liu questioned on how to incorporate more voices from the social welfare sector, and how to make our suggestions more effectively heard. Members agreed with the comment but no concrete suggestion was made.

3.1.5 Dr. Wong Yu Cheung suggested that in terms of unemployment, in addition to adding minorities, it should also include people with disabilities, young people who had just graduated, and low-income elderly people.

3.1.6 Ms. Sisi Liu suggested adding alimony issue. Mr. Anthony Wong reacted that in the past few years, the Annual Submission had mentioned alimony, this year he would consider whether it was still appropriate to write into the Annual Submission again.

3.1.7 Mr. Anthony Wong responded to members’ questions about how to

collaborate with the business sector. He said that the Council had always been collaborating with the business sector through different channels, aiming to have more opportunities to educate them to care more about society and the needy.

3.2 Council's Proposal on Rent Control and Rent Subsidy

- 3.2.1 Mr. Peace Wong introduced the aims of the proposal on rent control and rent subsidy to members as recommended by the Specialized Committee on Social Security and Employment.
- 3.2.2 He emphasized that the proposal suggested the government to implement the landlords could not evict tenants within 6 years, and landlords could not increase rent excessively.
- 3.2.3 Mr. Wong Kwok Kei suggested re-defining the heading of “就劏房租務管制的意見”. Mr. Anthony Wong and Mr. Peace Wong would follow up.
- 3.2.4 After the discussion, proposal on Rent Control and proposal on Rent Subsidy were endorsed by the Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy.

(Post-meeting note:

Due to a procedural misunderstanding, the committee agreed on February 25, 2021 through email that two proposals should be considered as invalid. The Standing Committee would review the confirmed proposals and made the decision later once the formal recommendation by the Specialized Committee was received.)

4. Any Other Business

The Financial Secretary, Mr. Paul Chan, would deliver the 2021-22 Budget on February 24, 2021 (Wednesday). If members had any suggestions, please send to Mr. Anthony Wong via email.

5. Date of Next Meeting

Proposed next meeting dates were:

- 1. April 27, 2021 (Tuesday) from 3:00pm; or
- 2. April 29, 2021 (Thursday) from 3:00pm

(Post-meeting note: The next meeting was subsequently scheduled for 3pm, April 29)

Adopted by: _____
(Chairperson)

Date: _____