

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy

Minutes of the 4th Meeting held on April 29, 2021 (Tuesday) at 3:00pm through Zoom Room.

Present:

Ms. Sky Siu (Vice-chairperson)	-	Kely Support Group
Ms. Nora Wong	-	HKSKH Lady MacLehose Centre
Ms. Sisi Liu	-	Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres
Dr. Tam Yat Hung	-	Shoebill Health Care
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
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
Mr. Charles Ho	-	HKCSS
Ms. Karen Yiu	-	HKCSS
Ms. Olivia Ip (Recorder)	-	HKCSS

Apologies:

Ms. Karrie Chan (Chairperson)	-	Hong Kong Christian Service
Ms. Jennis Ho	-	HKSKH Welfare Council Limited
Ms. Christa Cheung	-	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Mr. Billie Lau	-	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong
Dr. Fan Ning	-	Health in Action Limited
Mr. Wong Kwok Kei	-	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong (Representative of Specialized Committee on Social Security and Employment Policy)

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 with the following amendment:

Page 2, 3.1, (d) should read as "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. Matters for Discussion

3.1 Council's Proposal on Rent Control

3.1.1 Mr. Anthony Wong informed the committee members that although this proposal was endorsed at the PRA meeting on February 19, but he learned after the meeting that the original document had not been approved at the Specialized Committee on Social Security and Employment Policy meeting, therefore PRA members should go through the paper and endorsed the proposal one more time.

3.1.2 Mr. Anthony Wong highlighted Council's Proposal on Rent Control, Point 4, stated that the formulation of rent had been mentioned in last working group meeting. It was recommended that the government should measure housing supply and housing quality to establish a rent level that could balance the interests of owners and tenants.

3.1.3 Members supported the proposal on Rent Control and endorsed at this meeting.

3.2 Draft Annual Submission

3.2.1 Mr. Peace Wong told members that when conducting relevant research, he found that many unemployed people were unwilling to apply CSSA, because the government required applicants to prove that they were no job before applying.

3.2.2 Mr. Anthony Wong briefly introduced the draft Annual Submission.

3.2.3 Members shared their comments as below:

3.2.3.1.1 Create job opportunity and training: basically, the texts were same as last year.

3.2.3.1.2 Economic support: mainly advocated occupational subsidy.

3.2.3.1.3 Increase the number of posts for people with disabilities, which were suggested by Rehabilitation Service.

3.2.3.1.4 Ms. Karen Yiu explained the recommendation on creating job opportunity for youth.

3.2.3.1.5 Dr. Wong Yu Cheung proposed to ask the government to take the lead in hiring people with disabilities to work, and encouraged employers and their employees not to discriminate against people with disabilities, and provide support service.

3.2.3.1.6 The rent control report had been published, but the government had not any responded.

3.2.3.1.7 Ms. Karen Yiu briefed the recommendation on community mental health problem. She said that problems needed to be solved from the source of beginning, because school social workers found that most of the problems were due to the impact of the epidemic, students needed to stay at home for a long time to take online classes. When they returned to school for class,

the problem would emerge.

- 3.2.4 Dr. Paul Wong reacted that he was strongly agree to start with the school principal. In addition to the students, teachers also needed support. He also mentioned that some semi-retirees were very happy to take up voluntary work to assist students, and he suggested that the Government or NGOs could contact these semi-retirees. Karen would learn more with Dr. Wong after the meeting.
- 3.2.5 Members concerned that more than 4,000 students would be held criminally responsible after the social movement incident. It was hoped that after they were released from prison, a rehabilitation plan could be arranged to help them reintegrate into society. Ms. Sky Siu suggested that “Re-entry into Society” program could be opened for them.
- 3.2.6 Members suggested adding the recommendation on Online Parenting on family. Mr. Anthony Wong told members that Mr. Moses Mui and his team would conduct a new project on parenting which funded by Hong Kong Jockey Club. He would discuss with Moses whether this suggestion would be added into the Annual Submission.
- 3.2.7 Ms. Karen Yiu told members that in terms of child care and family support, the Council had mentioned that it was needed to enhance with the legal provision of child abuse. The government said that it should mandatory to report. Therefore, the Council would follow the general direction proposed by the government and modified the Submission.
- 3.2.8 Members supported the recommendation on PrisonCloud.
- 3.2.9 The preparation work of Carer Report processed smoothly. More than 500 questionnaires had been received. Colleagues of SSEP were now conducting analysis, results would be announced later.
- 3.2.10 Members shared their views on tele-practice as below:
 - 3.2.10.1.1 Tele-practice was an emergency tool.
 - 3.2.10.1.2 Heard that occupational therapists worried about the accuracy of the professional judgment of social workers.
- 3.2.11 Ms. Ivy Leung shared that:
 - 3.2.11.1.1 Agreed doing research from general directions, such as doing evidence-base work, or using some facilities to assist in processing. She believed that the participation of professionals was important. She knew that there might be different resistances in this part that made the work unsmooth, hope that it could still be resolved. If it was suspended for these reasons, she thought that it was wasteful.
 - 3.2.11.1.2 Caregivers received too much information, but they did not know how to distinguish and made the choice. No social

worker could teach/help them making choice. Caregivers might be maintained this condition for a long time, she wondered if there would be a database for caregivers to use, and for keeping contact with workers, not only for an emergency purposes.

3.2.11.1.3 Her colleagues found in the database that most of the caregivers had anxiety and depression. She agreed using tele-practice for keeping contact with caregivers.

3.2.11.1.4 She also noted that agencies would prefer recruiting young workers to take up mental health problems work, instead of recruiting workers with joint council work/rehabilitation work experience. She recommended the government to promote and set the direction as soon as possible, and protecting those people with disabilities.

3.2.12 Ms. Sisi Liu shared her views that:

3.2.12.1.1 Agreed with the suggestion of setting up “Capacity Building” Fund.

3.2.12.1.2 The Consultancy Study on Carer was still in progress, currently was working on data collection, therefore the completion date would be a little bit late.

3.2.12.1.3 If the Consultancy Study can be issued before the Annual Submission, PRA committee could revise the annual submission based on the recommendations of the study.

3.2.12.1.4 If our time could accommodate the launch of Consultancy Study, we could refer to its content to make additional suggestions in our Annual Submission.

3.2.13 Mr. Anthony Wong replied that Annual Submission should be submitted to the Council’s EXCO at the end of May. But the Council still had other platforms to express our recommendations to the government. It was expected that the Study would not be released for the time being. The Council would respond after the report was released.

3.2.14 Mr. Peace Wong added that SSEP prepared a paper on the caregiver allowance, which had very clear stated our position. In addition to recommendation of caregiver policy, we would also mention the establishment of special allowances for foreign workers/helpers, provided training programs, or soothing body, mind, and so on. The staff team was discussed and studied various suggestions, and would prepare the recommendation to the government.

3.2.15 Mr. Anthony Wong would revise the paper as soon as possible after receiving comments from members who left early at this meeting, then circulated to PRA members for endorsement, after that, final version would submit to Council’s EXCO for approval at the end of May.

4. **Any Other Business**

Mr. Anthony Wong reported that SSEP would re-structure in 2021, three new task forces would set up. He told members that next meeting agenda of PRA would be included this item for endorsement.

5. Date of Next Meeting

Some members left early due to other engagements, the date of next meeting would be processed through email.

Adopted by: _____
(Chairperson)

Date: _____