

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting held on January 5, 2021 (Tuesday) at 3:30pm though 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
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
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)
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. Olivia Ip (Recorder)	- HKCSS

Apologies:

Mr. Billie Lau	- Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong
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1. Welcoming remarks

Before the meeting, the Chairperson extended warm welcome to Dr. Paul Wong and Dr. Wong Yu Cheung to join this Committee.

2. To adopt the agenda of the meeting

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

3. To endorse the minutes of last meeting

The minutes of last meeting were confirmed with the following amendment:

Dr. Tam Yat Hung's organization should be amended as "Shoebill Health Care".

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Confirmation of Co-opted Members

Mr. Anthony Wong reported that the cooption of members had been completed as advised. Two members joined the meeting.

4.2 Endorsement of Mid-year Progress Report

Since the mid-term work report was sent to members this morning before the meeting, Mr. Anthony Wong asked the members to send their opinions to him by email before 5:00 this Friday (8/1). (Post-meeting Note: No comment was received before the deadline. The report was thus endorsed.)

5. Matters for Discussion

5.1 Business Plan: Major initiatives for the financial year of 2021-2022

- 5.1.1 Mr. Anthony Wong briefly introduced PRA major areas of works to new members for more understanding. Our major foci lately were: basic income protection, social security, social development, housing, health care policy (including long term care financing), ageing and carer.
- 5.1.2 One of the major research study that would be conducted in 2021 was the study on households of sub-divided units, which would be branched out into 4 themes housing, income protection, health status, family relations and community relations.
- 5.1.3 On unemployment issue, members supported our initiative. Members were concerned that since the pandemic began last year, more and more people became unemployed. As we did not have employment social protection, they would have to apply for CSSA if needed. Stigmatization however would prevent them for applying. Members thought that instead of other forms of assistance, many would prefer monetary assistance.
- 5.1.4 Member supported our plan to conduct studies related to employment and unemployment, both on unemployment related social security programme as well as other employment supports.
- 5.1.5 Members were informed that a deliberation day event of "Campaign on Carer" was held in December 30, 2020. Around 170 carers and workers had joined in. A survey of the well-being of carer would be conducted in February. Result would be released in April 2021.

5.1.6 Housing

- (i) The Council continued to follow up on rental control and rental subsidies.
- (ii) Community Housing Movement Project:
Although the three-year project had been completed, but some tenancies would not end until 2025, the work on this project would continue.
- (iii) Modula Housing Project:
Yen Chow Street Site would produce around 205 units, hopefully it could be completed and ready for in the first quarter of 2022. Yip Shing Street Site would produce around 100 units, expecting to be completed and ready by second quarter of 2022.

5.1.7 Health Care

- (a) Mr. Anthony Wong told members that in the area of work of Primary Health Care, more discussion would be needed to explore how to operationalize our research and advocacy effort along the direction of social-medical collaboration.
- (b) Tele-medical treatment would also be explored.
- (c) Long term care financing and community support programme for the elderly would also be explored after the establishment of the Task Force concerning this area.

5.1.8 Ms Sisi Liu raised if we could seize the opportunity to advocate carer support through the CEDAW “Convention on the Elimination of All Discrimination against Women” (消除一切對女性歧視公約), as the HK report submitted by the government would be due for review in March 2022. She suggested the Council should strive to advocate carer advocacy during this period. She also suggested the Council writing a shadow report together with other NGOs and could apply for funding to join the hearing session in UN. Mr Anthony Wong agreed to explore how this could be followed up while told members that:

- The work of application for overseas event was decentralized to each subject team. He took this opportunity to brief all members that the HKCSS would apply to FSA or Chest funding for overseas study visits each year. After receiving the application, the management of the Council would set priority for applying FSA or Chest funding.
- All overseas events supported by Chest in 2021 and 2022 had been cancelled due to the epidemic.
- The Council had communicated with SWD and the Chest that next year's application might need to be evaluated and depended on the development of the pandemic. It was expected to be evaluated in mid-September this year.

5.1.9 Capacity Building

Social Impact Assessment team would continue to promote research and advocacy work. In the future, it would line up work team and plan to organize conferences and training courses. The upcoming events

included youth suicide and youth communication.

5.1.10 Social Enterprise Business Centre

Although SEBC's business plan had not been submitted, it was known that they planned to develop and promote silver-haired food in the coming year.

5.1.11 Mental Health

Members raised concern on mental health and Mr Anthony Wong echoed and briefed members that this had been on the agenda for some time. Yet, nothing really concrete had been deliberated so far for research and advocacy effort. Mr. Anthony Wong stated that this topic would appear in the coming Extended Governance Meeting, which would be held at January 25, 2021.

Members suggested update regularly on mental health issue in Hong Kong.

6. **Any Other Business**

- 6.1 Mr. Anthony Wong reported that social development index (SDI) would not be further updated after the latest release in December 2020, and the work of SDI was ceased.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

Proposed next meeting dates were:

1. February 18, 2021 (Thursday) from 3:30pm; or
2. February 19, 2021 (Friday) from 10:30am

(Post-meeting note:

Next meeting would be held at February 19, 2021 (Friday) from 10:30am.)

Adopted by: _____
(Chairperson)

Date: February 19, 2021