

## The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy (2021-22)

Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting held on November 23, 2021 (Tuesday) at 2:30 pm in Room 505, Office of Social Housing at Harcourt Road.

Present:

Ms. Sky Siu (Chairperson)	-	Kely Support Group
Ms. Iris Liu (Vice-Chairperson)	-	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
Mr. David Fung	-	St. James' Settlement
Mr. Jim Hoe	-	Sai Kung District Community Centre Limited
Ms. Christa Cheung	-	Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Ms. Yvonne Chak	-	Hong Kong Christian Service
Mr. Keswick Chuk	-	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong
Dr. Raymond Tam	-	Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Department of Applied Social Sciences
Mr. Benson Ng	-	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre
Ms. Cindy Pun	-	Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service

In-attendance

Mr. Anthony Wong	-	HKCSS
Mr. Peace Wong	-	HKCSS
Mr. Charles Ho	-	HKCSS
Ms. Natalie Yau	-	HKCSS
Ms. Edith Yam	-	HKCSS
Ms. Becky Fung	-	HKCSS
Ms. Olivia Ip (Recorder)	-	HKCSS

Apologies:

Dr. Wong Yu Cheung	-	Caritas Institute of Higher Education
Dr. Paul Wong	-	University of Hong Kong

**1. Welcome members of the Committee**

Mr. Anthony Wong, on behalf of HKCSS, welcomed new members to join the Committee.

**2. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

- 2.1 Nominated by Mr. Jim Hoe and seconded by Ms. Yvonne Chak, Ms. Sky Siu was elected as Chairperson unanimously.
- 2.2 Nominated by Ms. Sky Siu and seconded by Ms. Cindy Pun, Ms. Iris Liu was elected as Vice-chairperson unanimously.
- 2.3 The Chairperson, Ms. Sky Siu would be the representative to the Council's Executive Committee.

**3. To adopt the agenda of the meeting**

Mr. Anthony Wong added that in the agenda item on appoint member, for discussing the recommendation of PRA Standing Committee co-opt members. The added agenda of the meeting was adopted.

**4. To endorse the minutes of last meeting**

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

At item 5.1 should read as: “Mr. Anthony Wong reported that the Standing Committee on PRA needed to handle Billie’s vacancy. He reported that **the** committee might at most hold one more meeting. Members agreed that the vacancy could be left vacant as Billie’s term was going to finish in Nov 2021. Hence the position would be filled by election in the AGM of 2021.”

**5. Matters Arising**

5.1 Elections (Election Committee, LegCo, and CE) in 2021 and 2022

Mr. Anthony Wong reported that 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections: Election Forum for Second Sector - Social Welfare held on September 5, 2021. 36 participants joined the Forum.

5.2 2021 Legislative Council (Social Welfare Functional Constituency) Election Forum

The Council and Hong Kong Social Workers Association would jointly organize 2021 Legislative Council (Social Welfare Functional Constituency) Election Forum for agency members and social workers on December 4, 2021. Members were invited to join the Forum.

**6. To appoint member(s) to join**

6.1 PRA Standing Committee Co-opt member

6.1.1 Mr. Anthony Wong told members that Ms. Sisi Liu of Hong Kong Federation of Women’s Centres, had just completed a term of membership for the period 2019-21. He said that members might consider whether to invite her again and became 2021-23 co-opt member. Members agreed unanimously.

(Post-meeting note:

Ms. Sisi Liu accepted the invitation as co-opt member for 2021-23.)

6.1.2 There would be one more vacancy to be co-opt member. After discussion, members agreed to consider PRA future direction of work before suggesting names for co-option. Members were asked to give further suggestions through email.

## 6.2 Assessment Committee for Membership Application

- 6.2.1 Mr. Anthony Wong explained the aim of setting up Assessment Committee for Membership Application. The representative of PRA last year term was Ms. Jennis Ho. Since she had completed her year term of PRA, PRA should appoint representative into this Committee.
- 6.2.2 After discussion, Mr. David Fung was appointed by the Committee to represent the Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy Committee to join Assessment Committee for Membership Application.

## 7. To appoint members and convenors of Task Forces

- 7.1 Mr. Anthony Wong briefed the background and the function of setting up three task forces to members for information.
- 7.2 Three Task Forces would normally have a 3-year term of office. The Convenor of each Task Force should be appointed by and from PRA Committee.
- 7.3 PRA members were concerned about how to deal with the vacancy when the convenor of the task force was vacant. Mr. Anthony Wong explained that PRA member should hold office for two-year term, members representing the same agency should be eligible for election or co-option to the PRA Committee for not more than two consecutive terms at most. The convenor of the task force was supposed to have a three-year term. If the two-year term of the convenor just ended, PRA Committee should appoint another PRA member as the convenor of the task force.
- 7.4 Members discussed the list of candidates recommended by the selection panel and suggested co-opted members to join the task forces.
- 7.5 PRA members accepted the list of candidates recommended by the selection panel, and the secretariat was requested to complete the work of co-opting members as soon as possible.
- 7.6 After discussion and nomination, three task forces chairpersons were:
- Task Force on Poverty and Basic Income Protection 2021-24
    - Ms. Yvonne Chak
  - Task Force on Health and Housing of the Grassroots 2021-24
    - Mr. Jim Hoe
  - Task Force on Aging Population and Society 2021-24
    - Dr. Raymond Tam
- 7.7 The term of three Task Forces would start on November 23, 2021.

## 8. To discuss and endorse 5-year social development agenda 2022

- 8.1 Mr. Anthony Wong introduced the policy recommendations: 5-year social

development agenda 2022 to members for comment.

8.2 He told members that the recommendations would be shared with the candidates before December 4, and would also be circulated to the candidates for the CE Election for consideration later.

8.3 Members shared their views as follows:

- (a) Ms. Iris Liu commented the contents of 10.1 and 11.1 overlapped; members agreed sorting out the contents of 10.1 and 11.1.
- (b) Ms. Iris Liu also found that the recommendations did not mention human life and death education, resistance to adversity or any mental health recommendations. Ms. Yvonne Chak and Mr. Anthony Wong suggested adding preambles. Members agreed.
- (c) Ms Yvonne Chak commented that the new government should lead Hong Kong residents to strengthen their resilience. Members agreed.
- (d) Ms. Cindy Pun was worried that there were so many young couples under pressure. They worried about their children's relationship with their peers, parents' difficulties in educating their children, and their children's difficulties with special needs. Many parents did not have much career choices or did not have stable family income. She suggested increasing the newborn baby allowance or set up policies to support these kinds of families, etc.
- (e) Ms. Cindy Pun also was also concerned how to make child care service more widely available to those grassroots parents.
- (f) Mr. Anthony Wong mentioned that there were suggestions by the Council previously and he would refer to those recommendations and add relevant suggestions in this list of recommendations.
- (g) Mr. Keswick Chuk commented that government's Pilot Scheme on Multi-disciplinary Outreaching Support Teams for the Elderly (MOSTE), which was funded by the Lotteries Fund, would end in one year. He worried about the services for the elderly, including private residential care homes, would also be affected. Mr. Benson Ng responded that the Social Welfare Department was now reviewing the matter. Mr. Anthony Wong would check with Ms. Rachel Szeto, Chief Officer of Elderly Services about this matter.
- (h) Mr. Keswick Chuk suggested:
  - To extend the age of the target group of children and youth services from 24 to 29, supporting the mental health of young adults.
  - Service bidding was problematic. Not sure if there was any concern or suggestion on this. Mr. Anthony Wong said he could discuss with the responsible team in the Council and explore.
  - Collaboration of medical-social-education for children and youth

should be something that should deserve more attention and discussion in the sector.

- (i) Members agreed that the above were issues of concern. Yet, they also commented that the recommendations would have to be very specific for the candidates of elections to be able to follow up.
- (j) Mr. Anthony Wong said that if members still had any big issues on policy recommendations after today's meeting, they were welcome to raise before the Legislative Council Election Forum or before the Chief Executive Election. He would consolidate the recommendations, and submit to PRA Committee for endorsement. He would send to three candidates before the Forum, and would distribute to the participants on the day of the Forum.

**9. Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Mr. Anthony Wong reported that Mid-year Progress Report sent to members for information and kept record through email before the meeting.
- 9.2 Co-opt new member  
Ms. Sky Siu welcomed members to provide names for co-option.
- 9.3 PRA Annual Conference  
PRA Annual Conference would be held at March 11, 2022. Secretariat was now working in progress to contact speakers.
- 9.4 Mr. Jim Hoe invited members to participate his agency event on Sharing Session on Primary Health Care which would be held on December 17, 2021.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next meeting would be processed through email or whatsapp.

Post-meeting note:

Next meeting was scheduled for 3pm of 20 January 2022.

Adopted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairperson)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_