

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

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

Minutes of the 5th meeting held on October 10, 2022 (Monday) at 3:00pm through zoom.

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
Ms. Yvonne Chak	- Hong Kong Christian Service
Dr. Wong Yu Cheung	- Caritas Institute of Higher Education
Dr. Paul Wong	- University of Hong Kong
Ms. Christa Cheung	- Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Dr. Raymond Tam	- Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Department of Applied Social Sciences
Mr. Benson Ng	- Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre
Ms. Sisi Liu	- Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres

Apologies

Mr. Keswick Chuk	- Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong
Ms. Cindy Pun	- Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service
Dr. Flora Ko	- School of Professional Education and Executive Development, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

In-attendance

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

1. To adopt the agenda of the meeting

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

2. To confirm the minutes of last meeting

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

Point 5, Date of Next Meeting: Date of next meeting would be processed through email or whatsapp.

3. To update progress of organizational review of the Council

3.1 Mr. Anthony Wong updated the progress of Council organization review:

- 3.1.1 After the Council's organizational review, strategies were identified, namely, co-creation, tech-enablement and talent development. A strategy committee would be formed to drive the work in each area.

- 3.1.2 The original four Specialized Committees would be maintained under the Standing Committee of Social Agenda, and the names of Specialized Committees would have slightly changed, they were Specialized Committee on Rehabilitation, Specialized Committee on *Ageing*, Specialized Committee on Family and Community and Specialized Committee on Children and Youth.
 - 3.1.3 Standing Committee on Sector Development and Finance would be responsible to steer Best Practice Award, Caring Company, Networking with Funders, Co-creation Projects.
 - 3.1.4 The current Standing Committees would be reduced from 4 to 2. While each Business Director would be responsible for one strategy committee, Mr. Raymond Lai would be responsible to work with the two Standing Committees.
 - 3.1.5 EXCO agreed in principle with the changes in the governance and staff team structure, but it deemed it unnecessary to implement the whole plan in full in the coming year. A small team was formed by the EXCO to steer through a process of one year to iron out how to implement the new plan in the coming year, a view that perhaps some time after the AGM in 2023, the new structure should be fully implemented.
 - 3.1.6 Members were thus told that those who would stand for election in 2022-23 would serve only one-year term. Elections for the new standing committees would be held at AGM in 2023-24.
- 3.2 Regarding the upcoming re-organization of the HKCSS, PRA members expressed the following opinions:
- 3.2.1 Members were concerned with the planning of the work of the 3 task forces. Mr. Anthony Wong responded that in principle all the works of the task forces should continue, and the task forces may continue to exist too. If individual task forces want to complete the work within the current term, members could decide how to complete the work accordingly.

4. To discuss and identify social support measures to households living in subdivided units

- 4.1 Mr. Anthony Wong was particularly concerned about social support for single-parent families living in sub-divided units, especially in child abuse cases and neglected taking care of children.
- 4.2 PRA research team was now conducting “低收入劏房住戶調查: <居於劏房的單獨兒童照顧者>數據分析。 Ms. Edith Yim introduced the draft findings to members. Press Conference would be held at October 17, 2022.
- 4.3 Members shared their views as follows:
 - 4.3.1 There were many sub-divided unit households who knew that the government had resources but they did not use them. If we wanted to help, we needed to know exactly what the problem was and why they were eligible but did not apply.
 - 4.3.2 Working Group on Supporting Divorce Family meeting held last week, members agreed that single parents were more in need of financial support, they wished to have alimony support, but in HKU research study on alimony, the report showed that government would not set up Alimony Board.
 - 4.3.3 Females might be worried about living in inappropriate housing unit and felt unsafe. It would be ideal if the housing waiting list could be separated and by gender, and set special priority queues, hoped that public housing could be allocated to them faster.
 - 4.3.4 Sub-divided housing residents who took on the role of carers to take care of disabled family members, would also have the same problem.
 - 4.3.5 Most of the sub-divided housing families were busy in their daily lives and had no chance to seek help. Members agreed that it was necessary to set up sub-divided housing outreach support team.
 - 4.3.6 Members agreed the HKCSS was the most suitable organization to advocate and co-ordinate with the government.
 - 4.3.7 The chairman reminded that there might be some agency's outreaching team assisting sub-divided unit households in contacting with the government. In order to avoid repetition, the chairman suggested to contact and learnt from them.
 - 4.3.8 Members agreed to let funders know the problems of single parent family or carers who were in what situations, and why they lived in sub-divided unit instead of applying public housing unit.

- 4.3.9 Chairman recommended HKCSS to engage district family service units, to see if they would agree the findings of the study conducted by the HKCSS.
- 4.3.10 Mr. Peace Wong reported that HKCSS and Caritas Institute of Higher Education jointly conducted a study on the starting rent amount under the rent control. The main research of the work was how to determine the reasonable starting rent for sub-divided housing unit, and the calculation method would base on the general direction, and a reasonable rent level would be calculated based on the area of the room and the living situation.
- 4.3.11 Mr. Anthony Wong reported that Community Care Fund (CCF) project on “Assistance Programme to Improve the Living Environment of Low-income Subdivided Unit Households”, CCF was trying to engage in the supporting network but it was not easy.
- 4.3.12 Members thought that most of the 2-3 people family were single parent family, most of them were facing housing problem. Mr. Anthony Wong encouraged members to help HKCSS think about what it could do for such families.

5. To identify topic for the coming Policy Bulletin

- 5.1 Mr. Peace Wong told members that 2 proposed issues were suggested, they were mandatory report for child protection and end of life.
- 5.2 After discussion, members agreed these two proposed items and endorsed.
- 5.3 Mr. Peace Wong added that these two issues of Policy Bulletin would be launched in the same quarter.

6. To report works related to Policy Address

- 6.1 Engagement of official
- 6.1.1 The Council had met with some government officials, they were: Secretary for Education, Secretary for Housing, Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs.
- 6.1.2 In the meeting with Secretary for Education, the Council shared the issue of student could not keep up with their learning progress after school started, and would have youth mental health problem. The Council was going to explore organizing training course to school principal.
- 6.2 Policy Address briefing

6.2.1 Dialogue with Secretary for Labour and Welfare - Mr. Chris Sun would be held at November 11, 2022 at 2:30pm. Invitation memo would be sent out to all agency members soon.

6.3 Social Housing – Nam Cheong 220

6.3.1 Mr. Anthony Wong reported that Nam Cheong 220 would be finished soon and would be demolished. The Council would hold the exhibition "Our Housing Diary" at the original site of Nan Cheong 220 in October. Members were welcome to visit.

6.3.2 The dismantled components would be relocated to Tai Po for another social housing project. The land of Nam Cheong 220 would be handed over to Henderson Land. Nam Cheong 220 was the first redevelopment project in the world. Currently, 1/4 of the households had obtained public housing, and 60+ households had moved to other transitional housing dwellings, and others preferred choosing to return to the private market for personal reasons.

7. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Adopted by: _____
(Sky Siu, Chairperson)

Date: _____