

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Policy Research and Advocacy

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting held on April 3, 2020 (Friday) at 3:00pm through Zoom Room.

Present:

Mr. Wong Chi Hung, Edmond (Chairperson)	- Caritas – Hong Kong
Ms. Karrie Chan (Vice-chairperson)	- Hong Kong Christian Service
Ms. Ho Sim Ki, Jennis	- HKSKH Welfare Council Limited
Mr. Francis Chau	- The Association of Evangelical Free Church of Hong Kong
Ms. Ng Mei Mui, Angela	- Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group
Dr. Wong Yu Cheung	- Caritas Institute of Higher Education
Dr. Tam Yat Hung	- University of Hong Kong
Ms. Nora Wong	- HKSKH Lady MacLehose Centre
Mr. Lau Chung, Billie	- Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong
Mr. Wong Kwok Kei	- Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong (Representative of Specialized Committee on Social Security and Employment Policy)
Mr. Bill Lay	- Caritas – Hong Kong (Representative of Specialized Committee on Social Development)
Dr. Fan Ning	- Health in Action Limited
Ms. Sisi Liu	- Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres
Ms. Cindy Pun	- Tsing Tsing Mission of Hong Kong Social Service
In-attendance	
Mr. Anthony Wong	- HKCSS
Mr. Charles Ho	- HKCSS
Ms. Olivia Ip (Recorder)	- HKCSS

Apologies:

Dr. Wong Kwai Yau	- BGCA
Professor Ray Yip	- City University of Hong Kong

Welcome new member

Before the meeting, on behalf of the Committee, Mr. Anthony Wong extended a warm welcome to Ms. Sisi Liu for joining the Committee.

1. To confirm the agenda of the meeting

The agenda of the meeting were confirmed without any amendment.

2. To confirm the minutes of last meeting

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

- 2.1 At Present item, Ms. Sisi Liu, her agency name should read as “Hong Kong Federation of Women’s Centres”.
- 2.2 At Present item, Dr. Wong Yu Cheung, his agency name should read as “Caritas Institute of Higher Education”.

3. To report

3.1 Progress of Key initiative of the Year Plan for 2019-2020

- (a) Mr. Anthony Wong reported that due to the impact of Coronavirus, the 2019-2020 overseas events were cancelled or postponed.
- (b) Study Visit to Singapore on Primary Health Care would be re-scheduled after the outbreak, and this plan would also be notified to the relevant organizations in Singapore.
- (c) The Conference for Research and Practice for Social Service Excellence in April would also be cancelled.
- (d) Committee on Poverty events originally planned in March had been cancelled. They would discuss future arrangement later.
- (e) Christian Family Service Centre lent place at Kwun Tong to the Council for packing masks and epidemic prevention materials for distributing to NGOs.
- (f) Due to the impact of Coronavirus, Mr. Anthony Wong told members that the business plan for this year could not be fully implemented. The final report of PRA, which was being drafted and to be circulated to members, would be incomplete. Members noted that this was due to factors beyond the team’s control.

3.2 Progress of transitional social housing projects

- (a) Trackside Villas (策誠軒) located at Tai Po was originally owned by the MTR, and was now managed by the Hong Kong Housing Society, the Council would have 185 units as social housing. It was expected that the Council would complete more than 500 social housing units by end of Community Housing Movement project. On the other hand, the Council had been applying to the Community Chest for project extension, it was because many tenants would not end the lease contract period after the end of the project in September 2020. Reply from the Community Chest was still awaiting.
- (b) Nam Cheong Street Site was resumed work at early March, but it was

also delayed due to the Coronavirus. Therefore the Nam Cheong Street Site project might not be completed as scheduled. It should be ready for admission by quarter 3 of this year.

- (c) For Yam Chow Street site (the Second Project), the application for short –term tenancy was still pending approval. Tender invitation for Main Contractor had been issued and the deadline was April 20, 2020.
- (d) Regarding the land donated by Wheelock last year, an approval application would be submitted to the Town Planning Board in June 2020. If the application was successful, it would be a 3-year project, and could be renewed for 3 years (total 6 years).
- (e) Mr. Anthony Wong responded to the Chairperson’s question that in addition to the four items listed in the business plan, there were currently several sites under consideration and assessment.
- (f) The Executive Committee of HKCSS agreed that CHM should be transformed into an subsidiary entity such as a social housing enterprise and continue to develop future work.
- (g) In response to members' questions, Mr. Anthony Wong said that the main purpose of the Community Housing Movement Project of the HKCSS was not only to provide housing in need, but also to do community services. Therefore, NGOs were responsible for the operation of the unit, so as to achieve social services, and the people who lived including street sleepers.
- (h) Due to the increasing number of units, it was necessary to do a good management. Mr. Charles Ho of HKCSS would regularly meet with the operators, they would share their working experience in the meeting.
- (i) Members expressed concern over lack of resource for running individual units of a number less than 5. Community Chest refused to provide resource. Mr Anthony Wong explained that the team kept initiating this issue with Chest, though without much success. The team would try to raise with Chest every now and then.
- (j) Mr. Anthony Wong also told members that CHM had invited some people to write stories, members reacted that it was well worth to carry out.

4. To discuss

4.1 Draft Topic for Annual Submission 2020

Mr. Anthony Wong reported the followings:

- (a) He was still waiting for Councils' department heads providing proposal of Annual Submission 2020. Mr. Wong showed the outline of the proposal to members through the zoom screen at this meeting.
- (b) The process of submitting proposal to the Council's EXCO:
 - (i) Early May: submitted to PRA Standing Committee for comment
 - (ii) Mid May: finalized the proposal and endorsed from PRA Standing Committee
 - (iii) End of May: submitted to EXCO for comment and for endorsement
- (c) Some suggested items were listed by Specialized Committees, such as:
 - (i) Specialized Committee on Family Services and Community had just completed the Research Study on Alimony, the final report was being prepared by the Consultant. The Committee proposed to ask the government establish Management Committee on Alimony through the Annual Submission.
 - (ii) Carer Allowance proposal had also been mentioned in the past Annual Submission, and would continue to be included this year. The Council was conducting a Research Study on Carer Allowance, questionnaire was prepared, and the content of this proposal would be included in the Annual Submission.
 - (iii) Dr. C.K. Law, Secretary for Social Welfare announced earlier that there would be a rental allowance scheme in the near future, the Council would write policy proposal and it would be included in the Annual Submission.

As the Government would conduct rental control rule for sub-divided unit study, and set up a sub-divided unit working group. Although the details were unclear, the Council would continue to write something on it in the Annual Submission
- (d) Members discussed and agreed to include all these items. Members were also concerned about the issues or problems arising from the outbreak of pandemic, and would hope that some measures concerning income protection, job creation, mental health etc. could be suggested and included in the Annual Submission.
- (e) HKCSS Welfare Agenda Setting would be coordinated and prepared by another Business Director, Mr. Raymond Lai.

4.2 Work and initiatives in response of Coronavirus

- (i) The Council was conducting an impact study of employment assistant and unemployment under the Coronavirus, result would be announced next week.

- (ii) Members said that under the current circumstances, it might not be possible to wait for the Annual Submission to recommend to the CE of HKSAR. Because Hong Kong was facing very serious condition, such as catering, bars, restaurants were facing severe conditions, even NGOs were running a risk of halt of service provision. These issues might need to be addressed.
- (iii) Members suggested to recommend the Government to add manpower in social service settings as job creation measure.
- (iv) People with disabilities were also under- or unemployed. Some form of assistance and employment support might be needed.
- (v) Members suggested the Council could consider to lead and hold a large fundraising event to support Hong Kong's anti the epidemic.

5. To form an Advisory Group on Study of Life Experiences of Households Living in Sub-Divided Units

Mr. Anthony Wong said that a project aiming to provide home improvement support sub-divided units was approved by the Community Care Fund. Riding on the opportunity, which would distribute materials and services to 20,000 household units, our research team would conduct a Study of Life Experiences of Households Living in the Sub-Divided Units, and would set up an Advisory Group. A paper for the formation of such group and its terms of reference was discussed. Members agreed to appoint a member into the Advisory Group and as a Convenor. Nomination would be invited later.

6. Any Other Business
Nil.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting would be held at May 8, 2020 (Friday) at 2:30pm.

Adopted by: _____
(Chairperson)

Date: _____