

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Policy Research and Advocacy

Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on May 8, 2020 (Friday) at 2:30pm 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, Jenis	- 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. 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 Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service
Dr. Wong Kwai Yau	- BGCA
Professor Ray Yep	- City University of Hong Kong

In-attendance

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

Apologies:

Mr. Wong Kwok Kei	- Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong (Representative of Specialized Committee on Social Security and Employment Policy)
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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:

- Page 4, point ( c ) (i) should read as “The University of Hong Kong conducted the Research Study on Alimony. The final report was being prepared by the

Consultant. The University of Hong Kong proposed to ask the government establish a management committee.”

### 3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 The Council continued to distribute anti-epidemic materials.
- 3.2 To ride out the storm and current difficult times with grassroots community, several foundations donated money to the Council for supporting families in Hong Kong who had recently become unemployed or underemployed as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Expected to complete approval work by the end of May.
- 3.3 The Council had been discussing with the Social Welfare Department on the resumption of service. We recently met with the representatives of Social Welfare Department, learned that social service operators were operating normally though the operation had yet been in full. SWD also told that the social service units might not fully operate shortly.
- 3.4 Got the information from SWD that as long as there was enough space arranged by the organization, services could operate normally though not fully. Drop-in should be ceased and all services for users might be arranged largely by appointment. She would clarify with SWD for more detail after the meeting.
- 3.5 A guideline had been issued by SWD to operators.

### 4. To discuss

#### 4.1 Annual Submission 2020 initial draft

4.1.1 Mr. Anthony Wong reported the drafted contents of Annual Submission 2020.

4.1.2 Member’s views were:

##### 4.1.2.1 CSSA and Employment Assistance

- Members generally agreed with the recommendations.
- After discussion, members agreed to modify page 9, the third paragraph “長遠而言，應研究獨立於現存綜援制度的失業現金保障政策，以更完善地應付失業人士的經濟需要。”
- Member suggested:
  - The government could cooperate with enterprises and organizations for providing jobs.
  - Member said that there were many professionals (i.e health care workers) staying at home because of the epidemic, they could only do short-term work. It would be important to help them match

up job or re-entered the labour market was one of the problem.

- Many employees were previously employed in part-time and flexible mode due to their daily life scheme. The government should consider to create jobs of this nature to cater the need of this group of people.
- Member agreed to suggest implementing telemedicine system. Yet, it was commented that a telemedicine system was not just about device but a whole set of community-based service, implementation and administration.

#### 4.1.2.2 Caregiver

- A member shared her views that caregiver had accumulated very valuable working experiences in the process of care. Caregivers could join the nursing care industry to help more people in needed. Recommended the government could issue certificate of work, it could be used to encourage caregivers and could help them enter into the market.
- She also told that her agency had started work as a caregiver café. Colleagues could choose to develop their own business while taking care of their family members, they did not need to quit their current job. The suggestion was agreed, but it was suggested to delete the word “社區”, “大埔” and “北區” in item 5. “建立照顧者為本的照顧者政策、改善及恆常化照顧者津貼”. Members agreed.

#### 4.1.2.3 E-learning

- Mr. Anthony Wong briefed the content of E-learning. He told members that grassroots family had always been a problem of updating computer accessories, and the current epidemic situation had increased their needs.
- Members commented and disagreed that schools should be the base for management of devices and assistance.
- On-site parental support and improve parental assistance were also recommended

#### 4.1.2.4 Family capacity

- A member updated that her colleague had a meeting with the government officials last April, knew that the government would not consider setting up Alimony Bureau. The consultant preferred to set up a maintenance management system/mechanism, not

- exactly Maintenance Board we suggested.
- Since this agenda was about family, a member suggested that addition to Maintenance Board, we should add suggestions to tackle domestic violence, including identifying shelter places and setting up emergency assistance.

#### 4.1.2.5 Civil society capacity

- It was now still waiting the suggestions from colleague. Mr. Anthony Wong would finalize the Annual Submission and circulated to members for endorsement as soon as possible.

*(Post-meeting note: A revised draft was sent to all members subsequently. No further comment was received. The Annual Submission was forwarded to ExCo, which had endorsed the final draft)*

#### 5. Any Other Business

Nil.

#### 6. Date of Next Meeting

The secretariat would coordinate the date of next meeting through email.  
*(Post-meeting note: The meeting was scheduled for 4pm, 10 June 2020.)*

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

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