The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

<u>Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy</u>

Minutes of the 5th Meeting held on June 10, 2020 (Wednesday) at 4:00pm thought Zoom Room.

<u>Present</u>:
Mr. Wong Chi Hung, Edmond (Chairperson)	-	Caritas – Hong Kong
Ms. Ng Mei Mui, Angela	-	Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group
Dr. Wong Yu Cheung	-	Caritas Institute of Higher Education
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

<u>In-attendance</u>
Mr. Anthony Wong	-	HKCSS
Mr. Peace Wong	-	HKCSS
Ms. Karen Yiu	-	HKCSS
Mr. Moses Mui	-	HKCSS
Ms. Olivia Ip (Recorder)	-	HKCSS

<u>Apologies</u>:
Mr. Wong Kwok Kei	-	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service Hong Kong (Representative of Specialized Committee on Social Security and Employment Policy)
Ms. Karrie Chan (Vice-chairperson)	-	Hong Kong Christian Service
Mr. Francis Chau	-	The Association of Evangelical Free Church of Hong Kong
Ms. Ho Sim Ki, Jennis	-	HKSKH Welfare Council Limited
Dr. Tam Yat Hung	-	University of Hong Kong

1. <u>To confirm the agenda of the meeting</u>

   The agenda of the meeting were confirmed without any amendment.

2. <u>To confirm the minutes of last meeting</u>

   The minutes of last meeting were confirmed without any amendment.

3. Matters Arising

    3.1 Annual Submission

    Mr. Anthony Wong reported that comments collected from members at last meeting had been revised, and the revised version had been circulated to members via email. Since there was no further comment had been received, final version had been submitted to the Council's EXCO and endorsed.

4. Matters for discussion

    4.1 Consultation on Review of Governance of PRA

        4.1.1 Mr. Anthony Wong introduced the existing structure of PRA. Standing Committee on PRA should give opinion and the management should consolidate the views and opinions and submit a proposal to Council's EXCO in July for endorsement before the election process started.

        4.1.2 Members were given detailed reports of the views collected in ExCo and in two Specialized Committees concerned.

        4.1.3 In this PRA meeting, comments collected from members were:
            - to avoid being too complicated, a simple governance was the most suitable;
            - Agreed that expert groups would allow more in-depth participation of members
            - agency members should have channels to know or get informed what the HKCSS was doing, so in the long run, agency representatives should be arranged to participate in expert groups or other committees;
            - new proposed groups should enhance learning and and participation opportunities for staff members of Agency Members;
            - Expert group gave people an impression that only experts would be engaged while Agency Members might not be able to participate. The proposed restructure was to be recognizable in the sector, and to avoid misunderstanding that only external experts would be engaged and that they would direct our agenda on research and advocacy rather than Agency Members.
            - Members of expert groups coming from different sectors could complement each other; the social welfare sector and the council might have a position on social issues;
            - Agency Members could nominate colleagues to join three expert groups;
            - Should not invite those who had lost in the Council's immediate past election;

- members of the expert groups could not represent the Council as spokesperson;
- Given the current structure, there should be proper arrangement for a transition period. Agency Members should be informed of the change;
- suggested to modify the scope of works of the 3 expert groups, as it seemed that group one and group two might overlap;
- it was recommended to change the name "expert group". Other names proposed : research committee or focus group or task force;

4.1.4   Mr. Anthony Wong responded that:
- the spokespersons of the HKCSS were: the chairperson of the HKCSS, the Chief Executive of HKCSS, Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Chief Officer or above. Members of these groups would not speak unless being duly authorized.
- three proposed expert groups would be chaired by members of this Committee;
- the number of expert group members would not be less than the current number of specialized committees;
- same as before, if a position paper was to be released, it would need to be approved by the Standing Committee or ExCo.
- since the appointment of the committees of the Council was two year-term, half of the members would remain in the committee every year; therefore, after this year's AGM, half of the members would remain for one year, that could make the committee work continue as usual;
- the name "expert group" could be changed.

4.1.5   The chairperson concluded the discussion that:
- agency members could join the expert group;
- agency members from the sector could express their opinions within the group;
- arrangements for current members during the transition period;
- current members could have the priority to join the group;
- would change or modify the name of expert group, such as Research Committee or focus group or task force;
- final decision would be made by the Council's EXCO.

4.1.6   Mr. Anthony Wong said that he would consolidate members' views.

4.1.7   He highlighted that next EXCO meeting would be held on July 27, 2020. It might not be able to endorse the proposed restructuring plan in that meeting, if necessary, PRA would call for a meeting for further discussion.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 The funding application for Carer Study was unsuccessful. Nevertheless, colleagues of SSEP would continue to follow up this issue.

6. <u>Date of Next Meeting</u>

The next meeting would not be reserved for the time being. The secretariat would notify members as soon as it is necessary.

Adopted by: _____
                        (Chairperson)

Date: _____