

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy
(2018-2019)

Minutes of the Fifth meeting held on October 28, 2019 (Monday) at 3:00pm in Room 1410, 14/F., Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15, Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Present

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|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mr. Wong Chi Hung, Edmond (Chairperson) | - Caritas – Hong Kong |
| Dr. Annissa Lui | - Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service |
| Dr. Wong Kwai Yau | - BGCA |
| Mr. Charles Ng | - Christian Family Service Centre |
| Ms. Cindy Pun | - The Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong Social Service |
| Ms. Sky Siu | - Kely Support Groups |
| Mr. Francis Chau | - The Association of Evangelical Free Churches of Hong Kong |
| Ms. Karrie Chan | - Hong Kong Christian Service |
| Mr. Bill Lay | - Caritas – Hong Kong (Representative of Specialized Committee on Social Development) |
| Mr. James Tsim | - Hong Kong Christian Service (Representative of Specialized Committee on Social Security and Employment Policy) |

In-attendance

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Mr. Anthony Wong | - HKCSS |
| Ms. Karen Yiu | - HKCSS |
| Mr. Moses Mui | - HKCSS |
| Mr. Keith Wong | - HKCSS |
| Mr. Peace Wong | - HKCSS |
| Ms. Olivia Ip (Recorder) | - HKCSS |

Apologies

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Professor Ray Yep | - City University of Hong Kong |
| Dr. Fan Ning | - Health in Action Limited |
| Dr. Wong Yu Cheung | - The Chinese University of Hong Kong |
| Ms. Ngai Mei Mui, Angela | - Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups |
| Dr. Tam Yat Hung | - University of Hong Kong |

1. To adopt the agenda of the meeting

The agenda was adopted.

2. To adopt the minutes of last meeting

The minutes of last meeting were confirmed with no amendment.

3. To update Council's efforts in response to the current social/political crisis and to deliberate further actions

a. Public Statements

- HKCSS had released nine statements (including joint organization 三會一方) to response the social movement, they were:

June 11	社聯促請政府撤回逃犯條例修訂草案
June 13	三會一方聯合聲明【香港人絕非暴徒！】
July 19	跨界別聯署聲明
August 2	三會一方對社工在示威過程中履行社工專業角色被捕的關注
August 27	Launched a new project “Time To Heal 港講訴計劃”
September 2	盡責社工被控暴動罪 社聯強烈憤怒
September 6	促請警務處認可社工支援角色 緩和社會撕裂氣氛
October 3	社福界「三會一方」嚴正要求約制警暴
October 13	社聯促獨立調查個案 充份保護性暴力受害人

- Meeting with the Director of Social Welfare Department (SWD) was arranged. In the meeting, we strongly urged the government to ensure social workers providing services safely on site or in hospitals on humanitarian ground.

b. Ongoing dialogue and coordination within our sector and across sectors

- Meetings with the Education Department and Food & Welfare Bureau were held to review the current situation and deliberated what could be done to ensure smooth operation in schools and to support persons/community who were mentally or emotionally affected by the current crisis.

c. Programme

i. Time To Heal 港講訴

Ms. Karen Yiu briefed a new project on Time To Heal which was funded 10 million by an anonymous person. Three categories of activities for this project were:

- For those who had serious psychological trauma and family relationship breaks caused by social crisis, the programme would provide 4 free psychotherapy to each recipient;
- For those who had mental health problems arising from the social crisis, the programme would provide psychiatric medical services. Eligible persons could receive a subsidy of \$7,000 for initial diagnosis and treatment.
- Capacity building for the sector: the HKCSS would work with different sectors of experts to provide 100 trainings for teachers, social workers, religious figures and volunteers. The themes included how to deal with family conflicts, community conflicts and emotional distress in the current social crisis and so on. For examples, we organized [法律補習班: 社運潮裡社福機構及社工的法律權責](#) and [應用非暴力溝通 — 促進師生就社會事件對話的心法與技巧](#).

They were the most popular sessions and the demand such these supports was huge. The third round of 法律補習班 would be held on November 6.

ii. Mr. Anthony Wong said a meeting between formal and informal supporting organizations was held to discuss helping those with social anxiety, such as youth, parents and the elders. They found they lost trust with friends, government, or even families. Social workers found difficulty providing service to restore social trust. He urged members to give suggestions on what more could be done in view of the current crisis:

- Members shared their experiences on handling service users with social anxiety;
- Suggested organizing Legal Talk for youth under 18;
- Supervisor of service unit should handle staff's working pressure with care;
- Food delivery for the elderly: delivery team staffs reported that it was difficult to provide service during the incidents. There was also sensitivity in handling some staff involved as they felt discontent against the protestors who created all these inconveniences;
- Members also suggested organizing training session for young social workers;
- Delicacy in handling divergent political views among elderly home and colleagues was shared;
- Members also reported that some activities were cancelled. Colleagues were suffering from anxiety. Some even required psychological counseling. Tension within staff team was also found. Supervisors had to be vigilant about potential conflict. Colleagues were strictly forbidden to bring or wear "full gear" (e.g. helmet, masks, etc.) into the office building to triggering any emotion among other colleagues. Colleagues were also being asked to respect different stakeholders.
- Members also suggested organizing school talks with students. Speakers should be prepared and communicate with the school first, and being able to build a mutual trust with the students.

d. Research

- Mr. Anthony Wong reported that there was a meeting with Professor Lee Ching Kwan to discuss a research study on social crisis issue. Professor Lee would like to engage the Council to conduct a research team. And we might jointly apply for a research grant to conduct the research.

4. Any Other Business

Mr Anthony Wong reported to the Committee that Mr. Keith Wong, CO (Social Development) had resigned from the position. While thanking the contribution of him, an internal discussion was kicked off to discuss a possibility of staff restructuring which was aimed at strengthening the research and advocacy of the Council. Members noted the initiative, and agreed that the research and advocacy should be further strengthened.

5. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed. (Post-meeting note: the meeting was subsequently scheduled for 3pm, 4 December 2019)

Adopted by : _____
Chairperson

Date : _____