

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
2nd Meeting of
The Standing Committee on Sector and Capacity Development (2019-20)

Date : 16 March 2020 December 2019 (Wednesday)

Time : 2:30pm – 5:30 pm

Format : Zoom meeting online

Present:

Mr. CHAN Kin-hung, Charles(Chairman)	The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Ms. CHAN Lai-kwan, Queenie	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong (Representative of Specialized Committee on Sector Finance)
Mr. AU YEUNG Wai-hong, Peter	Heep Hong Society
Ms. CHAN Pui-yi	Hong Kong Christian Service
Dr. LUI Wai-ling, Annissa	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, The Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod
Ms. WONG Sim-yim, Rebecca	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited
Ms. Judy KONG	InspiringHK Sports Foundation
Ms. FUNG Dun-mi, Amy	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
Ms. WONG Sau-wa	The Church of United Brethren in Christ, Hong Kong Limited – Social Service Division

Apology:

Ms. LO Ka-lok, Annie	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Mr. CHAN Wai-leung	Caritas - Hong Kong
Mr CHUN Shing-Chi	Life Workshop

In attendance:

Mr. Cliff CHOI (Secretary)	HKCSS
Ms. CHEUNG Lai-wah	HKCSS
Ms. Stella HO	HKCSS
Ms. Lois LAM	HKCSS
Mr. Tony LEE	HKCSS
Ms. Larine LEE (recorder)	HKCSS

1. Welcome newly co-opted member

Mr CHUN Shing-Chi was welcomed to the committee, but he was unable to join this time.

2. Confirmation of the Agenda

The Agenda was confirmed unanimously by the Committee. All decision endorsed in this zoom meeting will be effective as face-to-face meeting.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the First Meeting

The Minutes was confirmed unanimously by the Committee.

4. Highlights of work units (App 2)

The progress report was sent to all Members before the meeting and staff team highlighted below updates.

Ms.CHEUNG Lai-wah reported that the Most Impactful Small and Medium-sized Non-subvented NGOs under Project Star would be postponed to June due to COVID-19.

Mr. Tony LEE updated the progress of the information portal developed by ITRC. The platform, receiving over 7,000 “likes” from users and more than 15,700 page view. It was foresaw that there would be a steady growth of the figure in the future.

Ms. Lois LAM reminded that the content of NGO salary survey had been enriched.

Dr. LUI Wai-ling, Annissa raised concern over flexibility of report timeline under SWDF/LF/FSA as subvented NGOs may not be able to submit reports by March under the effect of COVID-19. Many trainings or workshops were forced to cancel.

Mr. Cliff CHOI responded that NGOs under SWDF should make request of timeline adjustment for lenient handling by SWD.

5. Updates on 社福界抗疫送暖大行動(reported by Mr. Cliff CHOI)

The Project SPACE was first initiated in Feb 2020. Funders including the Charities Trust, Standard Chartered and Swire had sponsored the purchase of 4 million facemasks. All resources would be distributed to needy families through local service units in 11 districts.

It is anticipated that demand for masks would soon increase when service resume, so 2 million facemasks are expected to provide for service providers in the coming months. The Project is expected to source 1.5 million masks monthly through local channels. In-kind donation is also welcomed as non-subvented organizations may not be benefited from central distribution.

A questionnaire concerning difficulties under epidemic was undergoing. It covers education, employment status and psychological health of people in Hong Kong. Mr. CHOI remarked that the objectives of Project SHARE was to consolidate resources, streamline process and wisely distribute them among the society.

Mr. Peter AU YEUNG concerned about the supply of children mask, which needed further exploration at the moment.

Ms. Rebecca WONG suggested to substitute part of global sourced masks with high-tech local cotton mask as less time was expected for getting the certificate for the latter.

Ms. WONG Sau-wa reminded that NGOs using LSG to purchase mask is not enough as service providers/ users may require more than 1 mask per day under hot weather. The committee agreed that 1 mask/ person/ day was the baseline the Project can secure.

6. Pursuit to SWD on taking lenient approach regarding FSA, LF and flag selling targets

Mr. Cliff CHOI explained that for quarterly statistics under FSA, NGOs might have to explain in reports about the effects brought by COVID-19. For LF and flag selling, SWD agreed to adopt a more lenient approach in processing output standard and calculating the level of fund raising target.. The Committee agreed to urge SWD to confirmation by official memo.

Mr. CHOI reminded the Committee that flexibility was different from exemption, improvement plan was still required even with flexibility. A clearer guideline for services under vary governmental department or bureau was needed.

7. Updates on Lump Sum Grant (LSG) Review and LSG related issues (MLS)

The calculation of central admin fee proportion over LSG was suggested to be reviewed according to increasing level of recurrent fund and expenses spent on Central Administrative overhead. Members agreed to leave the discussion to Specialized Committee on Sector Finance.

8. Difficulties non-subsvented NGOs encountered in light of Covid-19 after a difficult period of social unrest, and proposed measures to support (MLS)

Laid off, cash flow and fund raising were common difficulties NGOs encountered. To address difficulties, HKCSSS encouraged some Foundations and Corporates to support the services of non-subsvented organizations. In past month, funders like Swire had provided funding support to non-subsvented organizations.

9. Tax Guide (GPP)

Ms Stella HO remarked that tax exemption of trading or business was subject to nature of cases. Examples on P.10 of the guide tried to explain with explicit guideline. Organizations were expected to update tax exemption status proactively, and made request for tax guide clarification, e.g. penalty, if needed.

10. Digital Television Assistant Project (ILRC)

Mr. Tony LEE provided an update on the Digital Television Assistance Programme (DTVAP). Installation could be completed within 8 weeks upon receipt of application, and now 2/3 of cases received services within 4 weeks. More than 5,000 applications had been received and most people opted for 32-inch digital TV. Around 40 households required an extra amplifier to receive DTV signals.

11. Salary Survey and data usage (HKCSSI)

Ms. CHEUNG Lai-wah questioned about the representativeness of some data concerning the LSG review as consultant adopt mid-point as baseline for analysis, yet some service (e.g. social worker direct service) were not taken into account. Both year of service and salary were important factors. The discussions would be continued if interim data can be

collected within short period of time. The Committee agreed to initiate an exercise to collect both “year of experience” from subvented agencies, so as to develop argument for a review, and subsequent enhancement on the mid-point benchmark provision.

12. Logo of HKCSS members and rules on usage (Appendix 3)

The Members had taken note of the requirements and write in for comments if any

13. A.O.B.

There was no A.O.B.

14. Date of next meeting and upcoming meetings

The following dates and time were proposed for the upcoming meetings:

Date	Meeting Time
11 May 2020 (Monday)	2:30 pm
13 July 2020 (Monday)	2:30 pm
14 September 2020 (Monday)	2:30 pm