

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Standing Committee on Sector Development & Finance
(2023-24)

Date & Time: 23 February 2024 at 3:00p.m.

Venue: Room 501 of The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong's
Headquarter.

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| Present: | Ms. YEUNG Kin Ha, Yvonne Hong Kong Young Women's Christian (Chairperson) | Association Church of United Brethren in Christ, |
| | Ms. WONG Sau Wa (Vice-chairperson) | Hong Kong Limited, The - Social Service Division Evangelical Lutheran Church Social |
| | Ms. CHAN Lai Kwan, Queenie | Service - Hong Kong |
| | Ms. LEE Shuk Wai, Anthea | The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong |
| | Mr. CHAN Pik Fai | Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong, The |
| | Mr. KUO Chun Chuen | Heep Hong Society |
| | Ms. LEE Shuk Ha, Carmen | Caritas- Hong Kong |
| | Ms. ONG Man Chi | Tung Wah Group of Hospitals |
| | Ms. NG Man Yin, Connie | St. James' Settlement |
| | Mr. NG Yan Ho, Henry | Chinese Evangelical Zion Church Social Service Division |
| | Ms. NG Yin Hing, Helen | Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong Limited |
| | Ms. LUI Wai Lin, Alice | Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, The |
| | Mr. SIOK Yu Yeung | Salvation Army, The |

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| | Ms. TSE Ho Yi, Apple | Hong Kong Christian Service |
| | Mr. WONG Kwok Chun, Alex | Hong Kong Social Welfare Department |
| | Ms. LI Wai Yi | Hong Kong Social Welfare Department |
| | Ms. CHAN Ching Yi | Hong Kong Social Welfare Department |
| In-attendance: | Mr. CHUA, Hoi Wai | HKCSS |
| | Ms. Angie CHAN | HKCSS |
| | Ms. Joyce HO | HKCSS |
| | Ms. Jessica TAM | HKCSS |
| | Ms. Vicky LI | HKCSS |
| | Ms. CHUNG, Lai Wah | HKCSS |
| | Ms. Katie WONG | HKCSS |
| | Vienna WONG | HKCSS |
| | Eureka TUET | HKCSS |
| | Dora NGAN | HKCSS |
| | Mr. Alex YEUNG (Recorder) | HKCSS |
| Apology: | Ms. Chau, Kitty | Hong Kong Family Welfare Society |
| | Ms. LEUNG Siu Ling, Ivy | Christian Family Service Centre |

1. To adopt the agenda of the meeting

- ★ Members confirmed the minutes without any amendment.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the 6th meeting for 2023/24 (Appendix 1) ★

- Members confirmed the minutes without any amendment.

3. Report back on WG on Sector Finance

- During the initial part of the meeting, the Council was pleased to have Mr. Alex Wong, the Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department (Service), present an update on the measures related to service operations in accordance with the Cost Apportionment Guideline. For a summarized abstract, please refer to the Chinese version.

- Updating exercise on Lump Sum Grant Manual

As the Council has yet to receive a response to our letter dated December 15, 2023, addressed to the Director of Social Welfare Department(DSW), which conveyed concerns regarding significant changes such as the transition from non-time-limited to time-limited service contracts, adjustments in Lump Sum Grant (LSG) allocation, and undefined terms and conditions that could lead to service termination as outlined in the draft LSG Manual Review. The Agency Members present at the Agency Heads Meeting on January 11, 2024, unanimously recommended that the Council issue a follow-up letter to the DSW. This subsequent letter was dispatched on January 15, 2024. As of March 7, 2024, the Council has still not received a written response from the department.

4. Progress update

i. MLS

- **The Directory of Social Service – Service Centre and Project map**
 - There have been improvements made to the Directory of Social Service (ngo.hkcss.org.hk). A center-and-project social service map as well as intelligent search features like keyword autocorrection, auto-suggestions, and relevant search are all part of the update. The goal of these improvements is to make social services more transparent and accessible. Roughly 90% of the social service centers listed in HKCSS's records are covered by the 4,000 basic information centers that MLS has

collected. Early in 2024, the updated version will be made available so that Agency Members can examine and confirm the information. MLS intends to advertise the update via foundation and business networks after it is released.

ii. ITRC

- The "Social Service Digital Transformation Study Tour," coordinated by the Council and the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) in Singapore. NCSS is a statutory board under the Ministry of Social and Family Development in Singapore, representing over 500-member social service organizations in Singapore. The study tour's objectives are to learn more about the digitalization infrastructure of Singapore's social service sector, investigate how to improve data analysis and use for service planning and operations, and address privacy and security concerns with better data governance.

iii. ICA

- Team does not have important updates.

iv. Talent Development

- Ms Vicky Li shared that the "JC InnoPower Social Welfare Fellowship" was launched in January 2024, aiming to enhance senior management's leadership and competence in developing service, organisational and sectoral resilience through action learning, talent development and collective leadership. Themed around the framework of "Adaptive Leadership", the Fellowship programme comprises a 30-day leadership development programme across 6 months and implementation of a staff development project in 6 months. Through a series of leadership workshops, study tours,

and individual and group coaching sessions, senior leaders will develop their adaptive leadership capacity to navigate the fastchanging world and effectively manage inevitable changes. Applications were open till the end of February 2024.

5. Discussion Items

i. Follow up Issues on Cost Apportionment

- The Chairperson deemed that ideas on agenda had been sounded out above and members agree not to repeat the discussion.

ii. 500M Designated Fund

- Angie Chan, Business Director, has sent invitations to AD to sit in this meeting to provide more information regarding the funding arrangements. However, Ad would like to share with members in person when more information is ready. At the moment, she shared over the phone that the funding arrangement proposal will be drafted around April to May and will consult different related committees when it's ready. The social welfare sector is welcome to provide suggestions. A briefing session will be conducted in June. As mentioned in the Policy Address, the designated fund is set up to enhance subvented service efficiency through IT or operational systems enhancement, as well as staff development. There will be theme-based or agency-based application formats. Theme-based funding will be designated for facilitating the implementation of government policy.
- Yvonne Yeung, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, has provided clarification regarding the 500 million Designated Fund, highlighting that it is intended to support projects on a project-based or theme-based approach. It is essential for the social welfare sector

to reach a consensus on the end of the designated fund with the SWD. The Council conducted an IT survey in 2022 to gather information on the IT requirements of NGOs, which can serve as a valuable database for internal discussions within the social welfare sector.

- Angie Chan, Business Director, has shared four themes on using the designated fund: IT governance, service provision, data mining, and training. For reference, Singapore is also pursuing the development of IT-enabled social services in these areas. Strengthening system security and developing prototype codes are crucial aspects of IT governance. Service provision aims to increase the contact points to public and connectivity between IT services. Data mining emphasizes the provision of cloud services in a secure environment, enabling NGOs to utilize data for service planning. The final theme focuses on training for social workers to enhance their understanding of new IT services as software and hardware continue to evolve.
- Members expressed a significant concern about the considerable discrepancies in data across the social welfare sector. They noted that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have varying perspectives, leading to inconsistent data, which hinders the accurate evaluation and response to essential aspects of the social welfare field. To effectively tackle this issue, the Designated Fund could be employed to foster collaboration and create a standardized framework for data gathering, analysis, and dissemination.
- Additionally, the Council has brought attention to the fact that recurrent maintenance expenses have been separated from the designated fund, which goes against the goal of advancing digitalization in the social welfare sector. It is crucial to incorporate

these overlooked services into the policy framework of the Social Welfare Department (SWD). However, the SWD has not yet provided any response or resolution regarding this matter. It is essential for the SWD to address this issue promptly and ensure that recurrent maintenance expenses are included within the designated fund. By doing so, the social welfare sector can effectively support its digitalization initiatives and fulfill its commitment to enhancing service delivery and efficiency.

iii. Co-option of new members

- The members did not have a specific idea of the talent or competence that this standing committee would like to supplement. Therefore, we will uphold the decision to invite the co-option of new members.

6. A.O.B.

- **S+ Summit cum Expo**
 - The S+ Summit cum Expo is scheduled to take place on May 2nd and 3rd. The primary objective of this event is to foster engagement among multiple stakeholders and facilitate collaborative efforts in developing impactful solutions for nurturing a sustainable society in Hong Kong, while also positioning the city as a regional philanthropy hub. On Day 1, Mr. Chris Sun, JP, Secretary for Labour and Welfare, has been invited as the distinguished guest of honor. Additionally, Professor Ma Xiu Lian from the National Academy of Governance and Ms. Louise Pulford from the Social Innovation Exchange will deliver keynote speeches, followed by a panel discussion featuring all three speakers. Subsequently, there will be 11 breakout sessions that focus on diverse themes and objectives.

- On Day 2, the S+ Expo will place particular emphasis on four Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Good Health and Well-being, Reduced Inequality and Social Inclusion, Decent Work and Economic Growth, and Sustainable Cities and Communities. The Council, in collaboration with the Financial Services Development Council, will co-host a policy dialogue, inviting key stakeholders to discuss strategies for unlocking Hong Kong's potential and establishing the city as a prominent regional philanthropic hub. Additionally, the Expo will feature S-Hub, an idea pitching platform that serves as a bridge connecting social entrepreneurs and their innovative solutions with impact investors and charitable foundations. This platform aims to foster meaningful collaborations, enabling the advancement of socially impactful initiatives in Hong Kong and beyond.

7. Date of next meeting

- 25th April, 2024

Adopted by:

(Chairperson)

Date:
