

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Specialized Committee on Social Development (2019/2020)

Minutes of the 4th Meeting

Date: 23 September, 2020 (Wednesday)

Time: 14:30 – 17:30

Venue: Zoom (Remote meeting)

Present:	Mr. Bill LAY (Chairperson)	- Caritas Hong Kong
	Mr. Po Shan TANG (Vice Chairperson)	- Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service
	Mr. Billie LAU	- Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service
	Ms. Ivy LEUNG	- Christian Family Service Centre
	Dr. Fong Chi Hang, Brian (Co-opted)	- The Education University of Hong Kong
	Mr. Anthony WONG	- The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
	Mr. Wo Ping WONG	- The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
In attendance:	Ms. Natalie YAU	- The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
	Ms. Connie CHEN	- The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
	Mr. Dennis Lam (Recorder)	- The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Apologies:	Mr. Mike CHEUNG	- Hong Kong Christian Service
	Dr. Kim Wah CHUNG (Co-opted)	- Hong Kong Polytechnic University
	Dr. Margaret WONG (Co-opted)	- Hong Kong Shue Yan University

1 To receive the agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

2 To confirm minutes of last meeting

The minutes were confirmed without amendment.

3 Business Update

3.1 Policy Research and Advocacy

Policy Bulletin on Tenancy Control (Policy Bulletin Issue 29) was scheduled to be released in December, 2020.

3.1.2 Update of Sub Divided Units (SDU) Research

Survey on Households of Sub-divided Unit with all the 51 service units of the “Assistance Programme to the Living Environment of Low-income Subdivided Unit Households” (為低收入劏房住戶改善家居援助計劃) participated in the survey “Low-income SDU service needs survey” (低收入劏房住戶服務需要問卷調查). A 4-domain-survey would be conducted from July 2020 to Jun 2022, with an estimation of reaching 20,000 low-income SDU households throughout the programme.

Mr. Dennis LAM reported 1st domain “Housing Choice” was under data collection since July. Due to Covid-19 situation in July and August, which suspended the service progress of the programme, data collection of July and August cases was extended to the end of Oct.

3.1 Centre for Social Impact

Mr. Anthony WONG reported the progress of SIA projects. Some of the projects had been delayed due to Covid-19. Annual Conference of Research and Policy Advocacy would be held in the first quarter of 2021.

3.2 Restructuring of PRA Governance

Mr. Wo Ping WONG introduced the staff team restructuring of Policy Research & Advocacy (PRA) of the Council which had come to effect on 1st April, 2020. Divided into 3 sub-teams on corresponding subjects: (1) Poverty & Basic Income Protection, (2) Housing & Health of the Grassroots, and (3) Aging Society, the whole team was led by the Chief Officer of PRA.

Mr. Wo Ping WONG also introduced the new governance structure of PRA, which had been approved by the Ex-Co of the Council. The existing Specialized Committees would be kept for one more year until the AGM in 2021. The newly elected members in Nov 2020 would have to serve the Specialized Committee (SD and SEEP) for a 1-year term. After Nov 2021, Task forces would be formed and appointed by Standing Committee on PRA.

4. Matter for Discussion

4.1 Work on Housing Issue (Rental Allowance and Tenancy Control)

Ms. Natalie YAU gave a brief presentation on research work tasks and policy

analysis for recent policy windows on housing, namely the Tenancy Control on SDU and Rental Allowance to applicants of Public Rental Housing (PRH). Members agreed to formulate more detailed position papers on the above issues with the use of the Working Group on Housing (WG on Housing). Mr. Po Shan TANG added that arousing discussions and building consensus among more agency members towards specific policy recommendations would impose more effective influences on the policies. Members highlighted some of the important areas to be discussed at the (WG on Housing), such as the importance of the complementary effect of rental allowance and tenancy control, the coverage of grass-root tenants under existing policy, and the subsidy level of rental allowance.

4.2 Release and Follow-up of SDI 2020

Ms. Natalie YAU gave a brief presentation on the major findings of the Social Development Index 2020 (SDI 2020), highlighted the imbalanced development: HK got good progress on the development on ‘technology’ and ‘economy’, but with only limited developments on livelihoods of social groups. Major findings would be released by press release in November.

Ms. Natalie YAU recalled members’ previous comments on SDI for its lack of timely reflection of current social situation of the year in which the findings are released. Due to lack of technical solutions to the above problem, Members agreed that rather than releasing SDI in the future, the team should explore alternatives to describe current social needs. Ms. Ivy LEUNG added that the alternatives should not be limited to the method of constructing an index, but to see if the social service sector were in need of other research tools for service development and advocacy.

5. Any other business

No other businesses were raised by the committee members.

Confirmed by :

Mr. Bill LAY
Chairperson of Specialized Committee on
Social Development

Date:
