

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Standing Committee on Service Development
(2021-22)

Minutes of the 5th meeting held on 19th Jul 2022 at 2:30pm in Room 203 of the Duke of Windsor Social Service Building.

Present:	Ms. CHAN Lai Kwan, Queenie (Chairperson)	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service-HK
	Ms. LEUNG Siu Ling, Ivy (Vice-chairperson)	Christian Family Service Centre
	Ms. CHAN Chung Ho Karrie	Hong Kong Christian Service
	Ms. CHAN Siu Lai	The Salvation Army
	Mrs. LEE Doris	Harmony House
	Ms. LEUNG Wai Ling, Rachel	Heep Hong Society
	Ms. LEUNG Yuen Ching, Cindy	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
	Ms. CHUNG Mei-ling	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, LC-HKS / Rep of SC(CY)
	Mrs. CHIU CHUI Yuen-fun, Angela	Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council / Rep of SC(FC)
	Ms. Frankie TSUI Kwan-yin	Fu Hong Society / Rep of SC(Rehab)
In-attendance:	Mr. Raymond LAI	HKCSS
	Ms. Karen YIU	HKCSS
	Ms. Rachel SZETO	HKCSS
	Ms. Angie CHAN	HKCSS
	Ms. Teresa LI	HKCSS
	Ms. Carmen TAI (Recorder)	HKCSS
Apology	Mr. CHU Muk-wah, Daniel	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
	Ms. LEE Man Shan, Emily	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association
	Ms. YU Mei Yuk, Doris	Caritas – Hong Kong
	Mr. LING Kar Kan	Co-opted Member
	Ms. CHAN Ching Yee, Susan	Hong Kong Association of Gerontology / Rep of SC(ELD)

(1) Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting (Appendix 1)

- Members confirmed the Minutes without any amendment.

(2) Matters arising

(2.1) Mandatory reporting requirement for suspected child abuse cases

- A sector consultation forum on mandatory reporting requirement was held on 18 July 2022. The reporting requirement and thresholds, definition of child abuse, and procedural guidelines, etc. were brought up for discussion, with legal advices sought. International law and oversea references on mandatory reporting were shared. The polling results of the forum was tabled. Members suggested to bring the discussion to the Committees and networks and to deliberate the concerns more clearly afterwards, in order to lessen the anxiety of the sector, and to follow-up on the operational difficulties and implementation scheme. It was clarified that the teachers and school social workers shared the same sole responsibility to report the suspected cases. Members recommended to leave buffer time for the sector to cope with the new legislation and help the law to successfully land. Members suggested the Social Workers Registration Board and SWD to co-organise some trainings for social workers of child welfare and related services. Professional liability insurance was also considered to protect the rights of social workers. It was suggested to raise the cross-service concerns in the meeting with SLW on 20 July.
- Members added that the Hong Kong Police Force organised some training programs to support polices on statement-taking of suspected child abuse cases. Also, child protection campaign would be launched again this year.

(2.2) Latest update on COVID-19 pandemic and welfare support

- SWD organized a briefing and consultation session to staff of RCHs on 19 July. Discussion on compulsory testing, visiting arrangement, vaccine pass, prevention and control measures were raised.
- Regarding the online reporting platform of COVID-19 confirmed cases, some RCHs failed to report the number of positive cases, and thus, were being warned.
- The on-site isolation of RCHs and the transportation to quarantine facilities at AsiaWorld-Expo were discussed. Noted that it was difficult to transport the RCHs confirmed cases to the Treatment Centre for COVID-19 due to limited school bus, especially at night. Members urged for the improvement of the transport facilities to the quarantine centres. Besides, the handling of close contacts was inefficient. The communication channels of the patients in isolation centre and their carers were hindered. Members suggested to bring the above-mentioned issues to SWD.
- Regarding the SWD hotline, members reported that it was difficult to reach the receptionist, therefore, they suggested to set up voicemail. Hotline of the Department of Health also helped to provide useful information. More inter-departmental coordination was needed.
- The staff team would follow-up with the inter-departmental task force chaired by the Permanent Secretary for LWB on the protocol and amendment, and the improvement in operational level.

- Members raised that a one-off allowance of \$2,000 was given to staff who accompanied children for their stay in the quarantine centre. Members suggested to check the terms of insurance to make sure that it covered the change of work venue.

(2.3) WAPS 2022 (Appendix 2)

- WAPS was held on 21 June 2022. After consolidating the views and feedbacks, the finalized proposal was sent to SWD for follow-up. An evaluation meeting with SWD would be held in late 2022. Noted members' comments to review the WAPS and annual submission during the HKCSS restructuring, and to further engage LWB.

(3) The McKinsey Report - Committees Restructuring and Convention & NGO Expo

- The staff team updated members on the restructuring of HKCSS. Noted members concerns on the importance to maintain the spirit of "bottom-up approach" in the Council's governance structure. The Council adopted to keep the network meeting.
- The existing four Standing Committees were proposed to integrate into two committees, namely the Standing Committee on Social Agenda and Standing Committee on Sector Development and Finance. Agenda groups and strategy committees would be formed accordingly. The practice of WAPS, annual submission and convention would be held annually. The maximum number of members and co-opted members of the Committees would increase. The restructuring would be expected to endorse in next Ex-co meeting in late July and the progress would be updated in the next meeting. HKCSS AGM would be held on 25 November.
- The election of the members of the Standing Committee would be included. Details would be shared with members once confirmed.
- The Joint Council, also served as one of the Specialized Committee, was formed and guided by its M&A. It was expected that further development of its governance structure would be reviewed by the Management Committee of Joint Council.
- Regarding the term of office of the existing elected members, the members would be directly transferred to the new Committee if the term was not over. Members raised that there might be more than one representative of the same agency serving the same committee after the combination of the Standing Committees. Members suggested three options to handle the cases: (1) Representatives of the same agency could stay in the Committee during the transitional year, (2) the agencies had to internally settle the term of office and suggest one representative to stay, (3) the agencies were given the right to freely choose from option (1) or (2).

(4) Consultancy Study on Needs and Support Required of Carers of Elderly Persons and of Persons with Disabilities in Hong Kong (Appendix 3, 4 & 5)

- The government supported the consultancy study report. Suggestions of HKCSS and the concerns of the sector were illustrated. HKCSS would follow-up with the new term government and LWB on the work schedule and the recommendations.
- The Specialized Committee on Elderly Service invited SWD to discuss carer issues, including the vacancy of the respite service, online booking system including the day respite. Besides, a sector engagement session would be held on 26 August.
- Members showed concerns on the regularization of the pilot schemes on carer

allowance which had been extended to Sep 2023. Besides, members also concerned on the provision of respite service for carers, community support and financing support to the carer, including the future development of CCSV, sustainable financing model in carer support, encashment and carer allowance.

- Members advised to form a working group or social agenda group to follow-up the carer service and policy advocacy. A joint working group consisting the LWB, Council and NGOs was also suggested. The staff team updated members that the Specialized Committee on Elderly Service had already formed a working group on CCSV and carer allowance.
- Members pointed out that the welfare panel on July also discussed on care issues, and it was stated that the voucher could be used for renting auxiliary equipment and supplies.
- Given that there was a wide spectrum of the cared and the carers, it was suggested to build a platform to engage the general public. Members also emphasized the importance of IT support and to cultivate community network of the carers.
- Members suggested to organise some sharing sessions to introduce the new projects launched by HKJC, including setting up carer centers targeting on PWDs, and a project to train graduate carers to be peer support counsellors.

(5) Service progress update (Appendix 6)

- The major progress of service teams was highlighted. Members mentioned that some agencies were given resources by the SWD to employ temporary EM workers at district support centres, other than EMDA. Members suggested to include the workers in the Centralized Training under the Professional Traineeship Program for the EM next time. The Council would also consider to stock take the EM staffing of EMDA, the leadership training and Praise Project in the future.

(6) A.O.B.

- Noted members' concerns on the progress of the Special Sites Scheme. The Council would follow-up with the new term government, and raise in the meeting with SLW on 20 July.

(7) Date of next meeting

20 September 2022, 2:30pm

Adopted by:

(Chairperson)

Date:
