

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Service Development (Family & Community)

Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service (2016-17) held on September 13, 2017 (Wednesday) at Room 1410, 14/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present

Mrs Angela CHIU (Chairperson)	Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council
Ms Wendy WONG (Vice-chairperson)	St James' Settlement
Mr Daniel CHU (Vice-chairperson)	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Ms Eva WONG	Caritas – Hong Kong
Ms HSU Siu-man	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Ms Jessie YU	Hong Kong Single Parents Association
Mr Kerin CHAM	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
Ms Ramy CHAK	The Salvation Army
Dr Margaret WONG	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Ms Mable KWOK	Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service
Mr NG Ka-kui, Charles	Christian Family Service Centre
Mrs Doris LEE	Harmony House Limited
Mrs Cross LEUNG	Hong Kong Christian Service
Ms Charrix LEE	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Mr CHAN Ching-wa	Hong Kong SKH Lady MacLehose Centre
Ms Tammy SO	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association
Ms Agnes NG	-
Mr Kenny NG	Community Development Alliance
Mr Daniel MA	Yan Oi Tong
Mr Anthony WONG	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Mr Moses MUI	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Lynn LAW	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Mr CHAN Wing-Sun	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Blanche KI	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Mr Billy WONG	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Noel CHOW (recorder)	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Apologies

Mr FU Tsun-hung	-
Ms YUEN How-sin	Community Drug Advisory Council

Mr Moses Mui on behalf of the Council expressed sincere appreciation to members who finished their 2-year term of service for their unfailing support.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting - July 12, 2017

The minutes of last meeting was distributed to members by email on July 31, 2017, a revised version on September 4, 2017 and confirmed with nil amendment.

2. **Matters Arising**

2.1 **Advocacy on Maintenance Board and Specialized Service for Divorced Families**

Mr Moses Mui reported the progress of the advocacy on maintenance board:

While Family Council will commission the consultancy study on maintenance by end of 2017, a lunch meeting was initiated by the secretariat of Family Council for consulting our Council's view on the subject on August 24. Mr Daniel Chu, Mr Anthony Wong and Mr Moses Mui had joined the meeting on behalf of our Council, while Mr Patrick Li, Ms Karyn Chan, Ms Iris Ma and Mrs Patricia Chu attended on behalf of HAB and Family Council respectively. It was noted that the consultancy study will be likely last for 18 months and various stakeholders will be engaged.

Members suggested to form a designated working group under this Committee to follow up the advocacy work on the proposed maintenance board and specialized service in next year. And it was agreed that an explicit terms of reference should be laid out for this working group.

2.2 **Public Consultation on Gender Recognition (性別承認)**

A powerpoint (paper 1) highlighting the main items of the consultation was sent to members.

Mr Moses Mui explained in details to members in the following areas:

- i) background
- ii) interdepartmental working group
- iii) existing administrative system in Hong Kong
- iv) overseas experience
- v) issues of concerns
- vi) controversial arguments
- vii) scope of consultation

Members have shared views on the subject. In particular, hardship faced by the transgender people was shared. It was agreed that the suffering of transgender people, especially during the transition period should be addressed. Some members opined that the existing criteria of changing sex (i.e. completion of the whole sex reassignment surgery) is very strict. And it was reasonable to recognize the legal right of those transsexual people, from the equality perspective.

Members were noted that the consultation period would be due on October 31, 2017. Full set of consultation papers could be downloaded from <http://www.iwggr.gov.hk/chi/publications.html>.

A consultation forum organized by the Council would be held on September 21, 2017 to widen the sector's knowledge of gender recognition in various aspects and to collect views of different stakeholders. The memorandum, rundown and registration form was tabled for members use. Members were invited to participate the forum and there would be more discussion regarding this agenda in the next meeting.

3. For Discussion

3.1 Jockey Club FamConnect Project (賽馬會家在一起計劃)

A powerpoint (paper 2) was sent to members for discussion. Mr Moses Mui introduced this newly launched project (September 2017 to August 2020) in the meeting, including its background, the annual themes, objectives, component and content. Project timeline was also explained to encourage the involvement of members.

Members agreed that the project theme of “family connectedness” is valid and worthwhile to promote in the community. And it was supported that an inclusive approach to be adopted for engaging more NGOs to participate.

For the annual theme of first year (i.e. play together), members agreed board game could be an attractive means to carry the message. Some members also opined that flexibility should be provided for participating NGOs to apply different kind of “play”.

While members were noted SWD will be invited again to support the “Happy Family Month” campaign in the coming three years, it was shared that the previous experience of Happy Family Month 2016 was very positive. Some members suggested that parent engagement should be emphasized through the programs.

Members were noted that a Project Steering Committee will be formed to gear the project implementation. And the project progress will be reported regularly in this Committee.

4. For Information

4.1 The 10th Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau Conference on Prevention of Drug Abuse (October 17-20, 2017)

Paper 3: Relevant information of the Conference was emailed to members for information. It consisted the rundown, visitation brief, registration forms and conference poster.

While Mr Moses Mui reminded the deadline of registration would be September 22, 2017, both the conference and visitation registration forms as well as updated poster were tabled for members' easy reference.

4.2 HKCSS Convention 2017 cum 70th Anniversary (November 1, 2017)

It was confirmed that this year's annual general meeting of the Council would be held at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on November 1, 2017.

Mr Moses Mui reported that there would be a convention like last year to celebrate the 70th anniversary.

5. Progress Update

The Progress Report (August - September 2017) of the Family and Community Service (paper 4) was sent for members' information. The items included:

- i) Seminar o Handling Dual-diagnosis with "Ice" Substance Abuse;

- ii) Survey on Ethnic Minorities (EM) Most Concerned Issues and Voting Behavior;
- iii) Issues Related to Domestic and Sexual Violence;
- iv) Publication of Community Development Resource Book; and
- v) Jockey Club FamConnect Project

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Transferring Community Centres from HAB to LWB

Members were noted that Dr CK Law and Hon Shiu Ka Chun have mentioned the idea of transferring the existing Community Centres (CCs) and NLCDPs from HAB to LWB. In response to the idea, the operator of CC have many concerns about the rationales and the consultation process. The issue will be further discussed in the CD Network, and will be reported in this Committee.

6.2 Recent family tragedy in Shan King Estate

Mr Moses Mui reported that the Council had released two responses regarding the captioned incident. Members shared their insight and experiences in handling different family cases, especially suicide cases in public estates. Members shared the common obstacles in providing services in community, such as not being allowed to conduct door-to-door home visit (洗樓) in public housing estates, in particular for those estates under the Tenant Purchase Scheme. Some members also shared the lacking of effective cross-departmental mechanism in handling crisis in community. In general, members opined that more coordinated efforts should be done among different government departments and local NGOs, for various level of intervention, i.e. early identification, case follow-up, and crisis management.

After discussion, members suggested to consolidate the views and channel to Dr C K Law for follow up.

6.2 Caritas - Hong Kong

Admission tickets for Caritas Charity Bazaars to be held on September 17, 2017 were circulated to members.

6.3 St James' Settlement

A newly released publication "Searching the way home" were distributed to members for reference.

6.4 YWCA

A booklet 「家愛同行」 was shared among members.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on November 2 or 3, 2017.

(Post-meeting note: The 1st meeting of the Specialized Committee has been scheduled on November 2, 2017 (Thursday) after checking members' availability.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Adopted by

Chairperson
on the _____ day of _____ 2017