

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Standing Committee on Sector and Capacity Development

Date : 27 July 2017 (Thursday)
Time : 2:15pm-4:00pm
Venue : Room 1410, 14/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building,
15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Present:

Mr KWOK Lit Tung (Chairperson)	Christian Family Service Centre
Ms Noel YEUNG (Vic-Chairperson)	Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service
Mr Peter AU YEUNG	Heep Hong Society
Ms Irene LEUNG	The Salvation Army
Ms Annie LO	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Mr James WONG	Hong Kong People's Council on Housing Policy
Ms Rebecca WONG	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited
Ms Yvonne YEUNG	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association

Apology:

Ms Susan CHAN	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong
Ms Jenny CHOI	St. James Settlement
Mr CHUN Shing Chi	Life Workshop
Ms Kathy WONG	Playright Children's Play Association

In attendance:

Ms CHEUNG Lai Wah	HKCSS
Ms Stella HO	HKCSS
Ms Lois LAM	HKCSS
Mr Tony LEE	HKCSS
Mr Peter KWOK	HKCSS
Ms Michelle KWONG	HKCSS
Mr Kelvin KWAN	HKCSS

1. Confirmation of the Agenda

The agenda was confirmed by the committee.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 25 May 2017

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed with one amendment:

- 2.1 The apologies for absence at last meeting should be Mr James WONG and Ms Rebecca WONG.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Directors of Audit's Report No. 68

Ms CHEUNG Lai Wah reported that the Council would line up a meeting with representatives of Inland Revenue Department and Audit Commission for discussion.

3.2 Policy Address

Ms CHEUNG Lai Wah reported that an advocacy paper regarding Policy Address had been endorsed by the Standing Committee on Policy Research & Advocacy and would be submitted to the Executive Committee for its endorsement. The paper will include two appeals in respect of the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) Subvention System, namely a) Suggested the Government to form a LSG review platform with the participation of multi-stakeholders, , and b) review on notional staffing and the baseline allocations.

4. Highlights of work units

Members noted the Progress Report and team heads provided supplementary information and updates on below items:

Membership Liaison and Service

4.1 Group Retirement / Provident Fund Scheme ORSO

A meeting with the attendance of 41 staff members from 16 agencies joining the Council's Group Retirement Scheme was held on July 13. The participants expressed the concern on their Agencies' management in respect of providing Fund choice under the Scheme.

4.2 Handling of non-complying agencies

After repeated reminders, 5 Agency Members still failed to provide the Council their annual reports and/or audited financial statements for

2014-15, the list of non-complying agencies will be submitted to the Executive Committee Meeting on July 31 for disciplinary actions, with membership termination as a recommendation.

5. Discussion Item

Advocacy for Lump Sum Grant System Reform – Sector Engagement Exercise co-organized by 三會一方

Ms CHEUNG Lai Wah reported that the Council, Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union, Hong Kong Social Workers Association and Legislative Council Office of Hon Shiu Ka-chun will co-organize nine consultation forums on Lump Sum Grant System Reform in October. Practitioners and users in the NGO sector will be invited to attend the forums to express their views and concern regarding the sustainability of LSG Subventions System, and the suggestions on enhancing the System. Separately, the Council has planned to engage the board and senior management of NGOs for more discussion on this Reform and would collect concrete suggestions for improving the baseline allocation. .

6. Members enquired about the objectives of the nine consultation forums and the possible outcome after the engagement exercise. Ms CHEUNG Lai Wah explained that the parties were intended to demonstrate collective power and expressed the united voice to advocate for system reform for the benefit of service users.

Information Items

6.1 Survey on Information Disclosure in NGO Annual Reports

This exploratory research aims at studying the contents of social service NGOs' annual reports, as well as finding the group practices of NGOs in different scales. The research showed that NGOs in larger scale tend to disclose more detailed information in their annual reports. Ms Stella HO reported that the research findings would be presented in a seminar on August 3. Guest Speakers of the seminar will include representatives from Against Child Abuse, Fu Hong Society, The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation and Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Board members, senior management staff and corporate communication team of NGOs were invited to attend the seminar.

6.2 Survey on Pay Level and Allowance of Head of Agencies & Social Workers Salary Level

Ms CHEUNG Lai Wah reported that Mr CHUA Hoi Wai, Chief Executive, and Cliff CHOI, Business Director, were interviewed by four newspapers and two phone-in programmes on the issue of pay level and allowances of heads of agency. It was observed that the key findings of the Council's Survey did reflect the actual situation of NGOs, as well as allaying public concerns over "fattening top employees and emaciating the lesser ones". Members opined that it was worth to collect updated information for NGOs benchmarking and report the trend for responding public enquiries. However, it was not recommended to to conduct the Survey and/or collect data annually as the heads' pay level would not have much changes annually.

7. Staff team suggested the possibility in combining the Survey of Heads' remuneration package into NGOs salary survey, members opined that the objectives, methodology and sampling population were different and it was not recommended to put together.

8. **A. O. B.**

There no other business.

9. **Date of next meeting**

21 September, 2017 (Thursday) at 2:30pm.