

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Policy Research & Advocacy
Specialized Committee on Social Development (2017/2018)

Minute of the 3rd Meeting

Date:	11 April, 2018
Time:	2:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Venue:	Room 1408, 14/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building
Present:	Mr. LAY Yan Piau, Bill (Chairperson) - Caritas – Hong Kong
	Ms. LIU Kam Fung, Iris (Vice-Chairperson) - International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
	Mr. NG Sze On - St. James' Settlement
	Ms. LEUNG Siu Ling, Ivy - Christian Family Service Centre
	Dr. Margaret Fung-yee WONG - Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
	Dr. CHUNG Kim Wah (Co-opted) - The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
	Prof. LUI Tai Lok (Co-opted) - The Education University of Hong Kong
	Mr. Keith WONG - The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
In attendance:	Ms. Natalie YAU - The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
	Ms. Jacey KAN (Recorder) - The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

1. To receive the agenda

2. To confirm minute of last meeting

3. Election of Chairperson

3.1. Election of Chairperson

Dr. Margaret WONG moved a motion to elect Mr. Bill LAY to be chairperson, seconded by Ms. Iris LIU. The motion was passed by 4 votes. As Mr. Bill LAY was previous vice-present chairperson, the meeting proceeded to election of vice-chairperson.

3.2. Election of Vice-chairperson

Dr. Margaret WONG moved a motion to elect Ms. Iris LIU to be vice-chairperson, seconded by Ms. Ivy LEUNG and Mr. NG Sze On. The motion was passed by 4 votes.

4. Business Update

4.1. Policy Research and Advocacy

Caregiver-based supports: Mr. Keith WONG reported that Issue 24 of Policy Bulletin (the Bulletin) was ready. Key features of this issue were: 1) the team had requested statistics of local caregivers from government department and had done detailed analysis, which helps the sector have deeper understanding of caregivers' landscape; 2) it depicted day-to-day circumstances of caregivers; 3) it compares and contrasts local and overseas caregiver policies. After release of the Bulletin, there would be a policy seminar following up the concerning issue.

Mr. Bill LAY asked how the Bulletin could influence policy makers. He further suggested that we could hold a press conference and submitting articles to media. Dr. Margaret WONG agreed that stories of interviewees (i.e. caregivers) could attract attention and thus, could try submitting articles to newspapers. Mr. Keith WONG responded that he would consider, let HKCSS Youtube Channel interview 'Salvation Army Senior Citizens Services -The Carer Association' and their elder caregivers.

Ms. Iris LIU asked the major issues we planned to advocate by doing this issue. Ms Natalie YAU responded there are 2 foci: 1) needs of caregivers; 2) caregiver-based supports (照顧者為本位的支援).

Primary healthcare: advocacy works have started. There would be a district-wise roundtable meeting in Kwai Tsing on 19 April with Food and Health Bureau of the Government. It would discuss healthcare needs of residents in Kwai Tsing district and HKCSS would draft a proposal for District Healthcare Centre for the meeting.

Ms. Iris LIU raised concerns that existing services would be transformed and moved to this centre and whether this centre would duplicate existing services. Mr. Bill LAY raised concern that this centre would respond to the needs of ethnic minorities.

4.2. Social Impact Assessment(SIA)

SIA team had recently received requests of in-house training from Hong Kong College of Technology, Po Leung Kuk and Caritas.

4.3. Overseas Event

Mr. Keith WONG reported that Evidence-Based Practice Conference (the Conference) held on 23rd March, 2018: the feedback received was positive; this time, the projects selected to present at conference showed high level of evidence and with delicate research

design. For next year's Conference, the team hoped to call for submissions instead of inviting on their own.

Dr. Margaret WONG, who also participated in the Conference, gave feedback that the topic (critical social work & qualitative methodology) delivered by keynote speaker was worth learning and contributing by the sector, as the advantage edge of social work was qualitative research.

As for funding offered Jockey Club to promote evidence-based practice and research training in the sector, Mr. Keith WONG reported that the team would not submit proposal now, but later in the future, because the team was yet to build very solid capacity so as to carry out the project.

5. Matters for Discussion

5.1. Co-opted member

Due to Mr. Charles CHAN's leaving from the Committee, the co-opted member was empty. The committee members all agree to leave the position empty.

5.2. Social Development Index 2018 (SDI 2018)

Mr. Keith WONG presented the tentative findings of SDI 2018 (Post-meeting note: SDI 2018 was released to the public on 23rd May, 2018). Major advices were of 4 major areas:

- a. Housing: To drive for adequate and stable supply of public rental housing in a long-run, the government should explore if the Housing Authority can work with the Urban Renewal Authority to build new public housing in urban renewal sites.
- b. Regulation on rental market: The Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) Ordinance should be reviewed, given the severe imbalanced bargaining power between owners and tenants in the rental market.
- c. School social workers: Increase the number of school social workers to 2 for prevention and alleviation of students mental health issues so that school social workers would have more space to provide groupwork, activities and peer support network to outreach and identify students in need, and thus provide immediate support to them.
- d. Supports to women in low-income families: Setting up of authority in settling alimony for divorced couples to ensure stable family income for basic living of younger people of the family. The current CSSA system has been implemented for more than 20 years.

It is time for the government to review and make reasonable adjustments to the significantly changing living conditions of the people. Comprehensive reviews on CSSA should cover the mechanism and level of CSSA, the definitions of basic living, and the sufficient subsidy level in maintaining basic and adequate life of the people.

Committee members commented on the findings of SDI 2018. Ms. Iris LIU asked if the decline of Sub-index of 'family solidarity' was related to child abuse. Prof. LUI Tai-lok added that he observed that reason for young adults attempting to suicide face severe family problems, including divorced parents. Dr. Margaret WONG also her offered views that declining situations among women, young adults did a lot to family. The government gave the least budget to family services. Dr. CHUNG Kim Wah added that development cannot underplay that of youths.

Many single mothers were employees before they gave birth to children and yet, did unpaid house works when gave birth to children. She added that domestic chores should be recognized as 'works'. Yet, they did not enjoy MPF or retired benefits like employed women. Therefore, the society should give this group of women economic security. Mr. Bill LAY said that there was a press release stating that there were 9000+ unused flats and wondered how HKCSS would social housing would make use of this.

6. Any other business

6.1. SIA Project: AI application

The team might have chance to use AI (artificial intelligence) to collect child abuse statistics and its analysis would apply on child protection. If this SIA project could happen, there would be one more head count in the team.

6.2. Change of staff

Ms. Jacey KAN had resigned and her last day would be the end of May.

7. Next date of meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on 20 July, 2018 at 10:00am.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

Confirmed by :

Mr. LAY Yan Piau, Bill

Chairperson of Specialized Committee on
Social Development

Date:

20 July, 2018
