

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Policy Research & Advocacy
Specialized Committee on Social Development (2018/2019)

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting

Date:	19 th Dec, 2018 (Wednesday)
Time:	15:00 – 17:00
Venue:	Room 505, 5/F, Harcourt House, 39 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Present:	Mr. Bill LAY - Caritas Hong Kong (Chairperson) Ms. Iris LIU - International Social Service Hong Kong Branch (Vice Chairperson) Ms. Ivy LEUNG - Christian Family Service Centre Mr. Raymond LAI - The Salvation Army Ms. Mei Lin WU (Co-opted) - Hong Kong Women Workers' Association Mr. Anthony WONG - The Hong Kong Council of Social Service Mr. Keith WONG - The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
In attendance:	Ms. Natalie YAU - The Hong Kong Council of Social Service Mr. Danny YEUNG (Recorder) - The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Apologies:	Mr. Po Shan TANG - Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service Dr. Kim Wah CHUNG (Co-opted) - The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Prof. Tai Lok LUI (Co-opted) - The Education University of Hong Kong

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. Matters for discussion

Mr. Keith WONG thanked Ms. Mei Lin WU and Dr. Kim Wah CHUNG for becoming co-opted members in the specialized committee on social development in the coming year.

3.1 Mid-Year Progress

3.1.1 Identification of social issues and advocacy

Two social issues had been paid attention to – 1) the debate on land supply, and 2) primary healthcare this half an year. Firstly, Mr. Keith WONG reported that Policy Bulletin Issue 26 would focus on the dearth of lands for social welfare uses in Hong Kong as a follow-up of the debate on land supply. Next, he also reported that a working group on primary healthcare had been established, and the group had come up with a proposal emphasizing the cooperation between medical and social welfare sectors in the establishment of District Healthcare Centre in Kwai Tsing District.

In addition, Mr. Keith WONG also reported that an initial draft of women profile would be done by April, 2019. He explained that the profile was driven by relevant figures in the Social Index 2018. Further reporting to the committee members would be done once the draft is finished.

3.1.2 Service research and advocacy

Mr. Keith WONG reported that a research on the wellbeing of caregivers of the disabled was expected to be conducted. Ms. Mei Lin WU asked what kind of the disabled would be chosen in the research. Mr. Keith WONG replied that people with disabilities who were on the waiting list for residential services would be selected in the research. Ms. Mei Lin WU further suggested that the scope of the research should be expanded beyond the disabled who were on the waiting list.

Ms. Ivy LEUNG expressed that with differences in providing care for people with various disabilities, burden of caregivers would change accordingly. This characteristic would remain even choosing the disabled who are on the waiting list for residential services in the research. Mr. Keith WONG replied that the message of the committee members that advocating policies covering the disabled outside of the waiting list would be delivered to the service team and be discussed afterwards.

Mr. Keith WONG reported that there was a merge among practice research group and research salons to attract more researchers to participate, and provide a chance for practice research group members who are interested in sharing on related topics to engage more other researchers in discussion.

3.2 Initial idea on business plan for 2019-2020

3.2.1 Policy Research and Advocacy

With respect to housing issue, Mr. Keith WONG reported that there would be two separate research potentially be done with focuses on – 1) tenancy control, and 2) impacts brought by the decision of government that selling subsidized flats. For the former research, with further inputs from the working group on housing and Dr. Kwok Kin FUNG, it was expected to be conducted across the coming two years. Moreover, a roundtable discussion on the development of tenancy was expected to be held in the coming year.

Mr. Bill LAY suggested that the research on tenancy control can include both house owners who joined the Social Housing Movement Scheme and that in the Hong Kong Owners Club.

In respect of primary healthcare, Mr. Keith WONG reported that there was a desktop research on the implementation of primary healthcare in foreign countries. The case study of Singapore was expected to be completed by Jan, 2019. Moreover, he also expressed that a desktop research collecting existing research focusing on the cooperation between medical and social welfare sectors can be done in the future, and the overseas visit to Singapore was expected to be held in Oct, 2019.

Mr. Raymond LAI expressed that some groups of people like the homeless in society can hardly be included in primary healthcare, thus the research should also look into whether there were similar problems in existing resources and services. Mr. Keith WONG replied that more discussions would be in place in the working group on primary healthcare later.

3.2.2 Centre for Social Impact

Mr. Keith WONG showed a list of all the SIA projects in hands to the committee members, and reported the progress of them respectively. Moreover, he stressed that no more SIA projects would be accepted in exchange of a capacity for reconsidering the role of Centre for Social Impact.

Moreover, Mr. Keith WONG proposed that the centre would be conducting research on certain policy areas (e.g. housing policies) to measure their social impacts. Nonetheless, he pointed out that the decision would lead to a deficit budget in the coming year, but the impact would be acceptable. In addition, the centre would keep providing SIA trainings.

Ms. Iris LIU suggested that the coming research can cover policy areas beyond housing policies like maternity leave and labour issues. Ms. Mei Lin WU also expressed that not much attention had been paid to particular issues like labour issues and time-use of caregivers in existing research, and more research on these issues can be done in the future. Mr. Keith WONG replied that more discussions on the selection of policy areas in research would be in place in the latter half of the coming year.

Mr. Bill LAY expressed that the Centre for Social Impacts should think about the ultimate goal of conducting social impact assessments (i.e. proposing them to become a standard like environment impact assessments or to become a toolkit to apply for funding), and more research studying how foreign countries make use of social impact assessments can also be done.

Mr. Raymond LAY expressed that social impact assessments had assisted agencies in building evidence-based practice as well as expanding their focus from services to social development and policies. Thus, the centre can further explore how to motivate the social sector as a whole towards this vibe.

Mr. Keith WONG reported that there would be a new SIA training offering to members of Community Chest Fund in the coming year. Moreover, he expressed that more work would be done to push for evidence-based practice including cooperation and interaction with other agencies (e.g. research salon), and revitalization of practice research group (e.g. strengthening the connections among members, and recruitment of new members).

4. Any other business

No other businesses were raised by the committee members.

5. The date of next meeting

Date: 11th March, 2019 or 14th March, 2019

Time: 15:00

The meeting was adjourned at 17:15.

Confirmed by :

Mr. Bill LAY

Chairperson of Specialized Committee on
Social Development

Date:
