

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Executive Committee 2017/18

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Executive Committee for 2017/18 held on Monday, 29 January, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 201, 2/F., Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present : The Hon. Bernard Chan (Chairperson)
Ms. Susan Chan Mr. Benny Cheung
Ms. Wendy Cheung Mr. Andy Ho
Mr. Kwok Lit Tung Ms. Irene Leung
Ms. Becky Luk Mr. Joseph Man
Ms. Bonnie So Mr. Edmond Wong
Ms. Kathy Wong Mr. Stephen Wong
Ms. Noel Yeung Ms. Yvonne Yeung
Ms. Amarantha Yip

In-Attendance : Mr. Chua Hoi Wai, Chief Executive
Ms. Crystal Cheng, Business Director
Mr. Anthony Wong, Business Director
Dr. John Fung, Business Director
Mr. Cliff Choi, Business Director

Apologies : Mr. Francis Chau Dr. Fung Cheung Tim
Mr. Larry Kwok Dr. Lam Ching Choi
Mr. Otto Lau Ms. Elizabeth Law
Mr. Kennedy Liu Dr. Annissa Lui
Dr. CC Luk Mr. Ng Shui Lai
Hon. Shiu Ka Chun Dr. Alice Yuk

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1. Minutes of the last meeting dated 27 November 2017 were confirmed with no amendment.

MATTERS ARISING

2. No matters arising were reported.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND APPROVAL

To note the Chief Executive's Progress Report

3. Members noted the Chief Executive's Progress Report and supplementary information and updates on below items were further provided:

- Dialogue with Principal Officials: The first dialogue session's official guest was Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Dr. C.K. Law, which had been successfully held on 13 November 2017. The second session's invited guest was Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan, and it would be held on 1 February 2018. The medical-social collaboration was one of the many core issues to be raised to the Secretary for more in-depth discussion.
- The Caring Company Partnership Expo cum Recognition Ceremony 2018: The Ceremony would be held on 16 March 2018, Friday, at Hall 5FG of HKCEC, and the Expo would consist of over 100 NGO exhibitors, including 12 from small NGOs. A pilot set up of an experiential zone was one of key features in the Expo to highlight several widely concerned social agenda, and to be an anchor point catching the attention of visitors towards current social issues as well as to create partnership opportunities with

NGOs.

- Enhancement on Lump Sum Grant (“LSG”) Subvention System: It was noted that the Task Force for Review on Enhancement of LSG Subvention System 「優化整筆撥款津助制度檢討專責小組」 had held its first two meetings in November and December 2017 respectively, in which the Terms of Reference and scope of review were the foci of discussion. The Council had been engaging member agencies, including their board members, to collect views and to identify possible enhancements and changes to the LSG System. Exchange sessions would be organized by the Council in February/March in addressing concerns and needs of NGOs of different sizes. Preliminarily, the sessions would cover governance issues, management and operation practices, like transparency and accountability, as well as other existing measures related to service and subvention / FSA, in addition to the monitoring of LSG utilization, including the use of reserves and disclosure issues, etc. An Agency Heads Meeting would be held on 2 March 2018.

- Review of Procedural Guide on Handling Child Abuse Cases: In light of the recent child abuse cases, the Council and the sector had expressed serious concerns and SWD had been invited to meet with relevant networks from both children & youth service and family service to discuss current gaps in the child protection system, especially in identification and referrals, so as to ensure that such would be addressed in the review of Procedural Guide. The LegCo Panel on Welfare Services held a special meeting on 19 January to look into child protection policies and procedures, the Council had attended and made a written submission on concerns and recommendations on enhancement of the child protection system. Moreover, inadequacies in child abuse data collection and analysis, in early identification and intervention at kindergartens and primary schools due to limited resources for social work professional and supervisory support were also highlighted and it would be further pursued by the Council.

To note the Position of Funds

4. Members noted the Position of Funds and HKCSS Reserves with no further enquiries.

To note and approve Application for Agency Membership

5. Members noted and approved the application for agency membership of:
 - Louis Program Training Centre Company Limited 努力試課程訓練中心有限公司
 - Positive Buddha-Dharma Limited 正悟佛法有限公司

The application of La Violet Charity Foundation Limited 籽識慈善基金有限公司 was rejected after careful deliberation on information presented. The membership team would proceed with relevant follow-up action as necessary.

To note and approve Withdrawal of Agency Membership

6. Members noted and approved the withdrawal of agency membership of:
 - AVP HK Foundation Limited 香港愛和平基金會

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Feedback on Extended Governance Meeting on HKCSS Business Plan 2018-19

7. Mr. Chua thanked Members of governance for joining the Extended Governance meeting and for the fruitful and effective exchanges of views on a number of issues that the sector were concerned about. Mr. Chua said that suggestions collected would be taken into careful consideration by the Council and to be further deliberated at meetings of respective Standing and Specialized committees. Subsequently, a finalized HKCSS 2018-19 Core

Business Plan: Strategic Areas and Key Social Development Agenda & Objectives would be submitted to ExCo for endorsement at the meeting in March 2018.

Members were also invited to share their further feedback. Some additional views were noted and summarized in following key aspects:

- There was a need for training on capacity building and competency development for NGO workers, especially for mid-level workers. It was commented that NGOs should have a vision on future development and in setting a focus to groom and to provide youth workers with more exposures. The issue of succession in the level of management and board, and second / third tier workers, was also being raised as a concern for some NGOs. Besides, relationships between the management, the Board and frontlines, division of roles, responsibilities and accountability, between the Board and management, were being raised as issues of concern in the sector. There was also a remark that small NGOs have difficulties in engaging quality board members. It was suggested that the Council explore if more efforts could be done to facilitate enhancement in such areas.
- Given the LSG review had just started, there was a view that the Council should ride on this opportunity in taking the lead to explore for enhanced resources and strengthening measures, helping NGOs to build good corporate governance. There were also few suggestions that corporate standard setting, best practice benchmarking and accreditation should be a direction for the sector to pursue in order to cope with upcoming challenges to NGOs on management and service operation practices.
- There was also a suggestion that the Council consider initiating a consultant-conducted organization health survey for NGOs, to devise standard setting tools and self-evaluation mechanisms to measure different NGOs' performance on various aspects of corporate management and governance.
- The sector's image was important and the Council could further boost programs like Best Practice Award and 'HKCSS Channel', so that stronger impact on the branding of NGOs could be promoted and a positive public perception and trust on NGOs could be gained. There was also a view that the Council should be careful in admitting membership application from NGOs with recognized charitable status, in order to avoid from being associated with non-charitable fund-raising activities by some irresponsible NGOs. It was further noted that tension had recently been created with increased monitoring of statutory / public bodies on the performance of NGOs in terms of utilization and management of public funds, as well as on the issue of operation transparency and accountability, etc.

Mr. Chua thanked Members for the views which would be considered for more in-depth deliberation in respective Committee meetings.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Appointment of Members to Executive Committee (ExCo) and HKCSS Development Fund Committee (the Fund Committee)

8. Mr. Chua reported that following the resignation of Ms. Lilian Law from ExCo, a vacancy was left to be filled and its service term would last until November 2018 or next AGM, whichever came earlier. Mr. Chua noted that according to section 45 of the Council's Constitution:

“Any vacancy occurring in the Executive Committee by reason of death, resignation, being incapacitated or disqualification resulting from an elected member ceasing to be an Agency Member may be filled by the Executive Committee, subject to retirement at the same time as originally set for the member in whose place he is appointed. “

The management then proposed to co-opt Mr. Stephen Yau, Chief Executive of International Social Service - Hong Kong Branch, being the next candidate in the line of the last election, with higher number of votes.

With no objection received from Members in the Meeting, Mr. Chua would proceed with the co-option of Mr. Yau.

9. Mr. Chua further reported that there was a vacancy left by retiring ExCo Member, Mr. Suen Lai Sang, who had been appointed to be a member of HKCSS Development Fund Committee. According to the Terms of Reference of the Fund, members of the Fund Committee should be appointed by the ExCo. The management then recommended that Ms. Amarantha Yip, Executive Director of Hong Kong Family Welfare Society, be appointed to fill the vacancy.

With no objection received, Members agreed with the appointment and Ms. Yip would be appointed to serve on the Fund Committee for a two-year term.

HKCSS Annual Spring Social Gathering 2018

10. Mr. Chua invited Members to attend the Council's Annual Spring Social Gathering to be held on 2 March at the Auditorium from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. And before the gathering, an Agency Heads Meeting would be held in the same afternoon from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11. The next meeting was scheduled for 26 March 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at Room 201 of Duke of Windsor Social Service Building.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.