

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Service Development (Family & Community)

Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service (2018-19) held on July 10, 2019 (Wednesday) at Room 1401, 14/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present

Ms Eliza LAM (Chairperson)	Caritas – Hong Kong
Mr Charles NG (Vice-chairperson)	Christian Family Service Centre
Mr Kerin CHAM	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
Ms Ramy CHAK	The Salvation Army
Mr Daniel CHU	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Ms Lea YIP	Breakthrough Limited
Ms Florence KONG	Hong Kong Christian Service
Ms Charrix LEE	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Ms Polly PANG	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre
Ms KEUNG Choi-yin	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council limited
Mr Kenny NG	Community Development Alliance
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 W S CHAN	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Noel CHOW (recorder)	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Apologies

Dr FAN Ning	Health in Action Limited
Ms HSU Siu-man	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Ms Jessie YU	Hong Kong Single Parents Association
Ms Angela CHENG	Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers
Mrs Doris LEE	Harmony House Limited
Dr Margaret WONG	Hong Kong Shue Yan University
Ms Carol NG	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod
Ms Sky SIU	Kely Support Group

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on May 8, 2019 was circulated by email on June 24, 2019 and was confirmed with nil amendment.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Maintenance Related Issues

Mr Moses Mui reported that 3 meetings were arranged among Working Group members and LegCo members on May 15 and 30, 2019 respectively.

A follow up meeting with SWD was arranged on June 26, 2019 to discuss the matter of CSSA recipients with difficulties in receiving eligible maintenance. Representative of SWD has shared the existing policy and measure adopted by the SWD Field Units in helping those CSSA recipients in need of legal aid service (i.e. direct referral mechanism with Legal Aid Department). It was also emphasized that the relevant CSSA amount would not be deducted once the service users agree to be referred to Legal Aid Department. While the policy mentioned is different from frontline observation, members has requested in the meeting that SWD should provide written document spelling out the policy and measures for clarification. The Working Group will follow up the matter.

Some members suggested the issue should be brought up in the Committee on IFSCs (under SWD), so as to draw the attention of SWD Family Branch.

(Post-meeting note: the issue has been brought up in the meeting of Committee on IFSCs on July 17, 2019.)

2.2 Review Report of the Task Force on Home-school Co-operation and Parent Education

Some members of the Committee met with Education Bureau on May 22, 2019 regarding this Review Report to convey our concerns over the proposed framework on parent education as well as the role of NGOs in relation to the implementation of the Task Group's recommendations.

Paper 1: The draft form 收集與家長教育相關的服務資料 was sent to members prior to the meeting. After Mr Moses Mui's introduction on the form, members suggested to add the field of "program category" with the view to demonstrate the diverse scope of parent education. Moreover, members agreed that only one service contact under the same agency should be provided for each district for the sake of clarity.

The information collection will be completed by late August or early September, 2019. Consolidated information will be uploaded in Council's website for dissemination.

(Post-meeting note: the concerned memo was sent out to all agency members on August 19.)

2.3 Family Service Program Plan

Mr Moses Mui reported that the last meeting of the Task Group on FSPP was held on June 16, 2019. Task Group members suggested to adopt the policy framework of United Nations for further discussion. The Task Group will further discuss the framework in local context and the sector engagement plan in the next meeting in August 2019. The matter will be further reported in the next meeting of this Committee.

3. LRC's Consultation Paper on Causing or Allowing the Death or Serious Harm of a Child or Vulnerable Adult (簡稱“沒有保護罪”)

Paper 3: 香港法律改革委員會 導致或任由兒童或易受傷害成年人死亡個案小組委員會《導致或任由兒童或易受傷害成年人死亡或受到嚴重傷害個案》諮詢文件 摘要 was sent to members for reference. Related supplementary notes were tabled.

The Council would organize 2 sharing sessions on July 12 and 15, 2019 with children and youth plus family service and elderly and rehabilitation service respectively. Members were encouraged to participate, especially those operators who need further clarification of the consultation paper and implications brought.

Members opined that the proposed legal reform is quite complicated and more time is needed to examine the impact on existing operation of different services. Hence it was suggested to ask the LRC secretariat for an extension of submission deadline (i.e. August 16, 2019).

It was agreed that a draft recommendation from the Council would be circulated to members for comment before next meeting in case no extension is allowed.

(Post-meeting note: after communication with the LRC secretariat, it was agreed that the Council's comment could be submitted by October 15, 2019.)

4. Welfare Sector's Response to the Proposed Amendment to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance

Mr Moses Mui briefed members this agenda item in detail and shared the work done by the Council recently, such as providing information pack to the public. A special meeting of Network on IFSCs was held in the morning of July 10, 2019 on this subject matter.

Members shared their observations and insights based on the recent service experience.

After discussion, members had raised the following concerns:

- i) issue of confidentiality and privacy;
- ii) intra-family conflict across generations;
- iii) pressing need of legal support for frontline social workers;
- iv) trust issue between service users and social workers, and also between frontline workers and supervisors;
- v) mental health of frontline social workers, especially those in youth services, debriefing is needed; and
- vi) preparation for the commencement of upcoming school year (September 2019).

It was noted that the SWD had sent out letter to agencies operating IFSCs regarding FSA flexibility and additional resources in response to the recent incidents.

5. For Information

5.1 Welfare Agenda & Priorities Setting 2019

Paper 4: 2019 福利議題及優次建議書 were submitted to SWD on June 14, 2019. A copy has been sent to members for record. As in previous years, an evaluation meeting would be organized with SWD around end of 2019.

5.2 2019 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare

Mr W S Chan reported that the 2nd round adjudication was undergone. The Awards would be presented in the Council's annual general meeting on November 18, 2019.

6. Progress Update

The Progress Report (July 2019) of the Family and Community Service (paper 5) had been sent to members for information.

The following items were included:

- i) Support for Divorced Families with Maintenance Order Issues
- ii) Community Work Roundtable Series: Support for Residents in Subdivided Units
- iii) Procedural Guide in Handling elder Abuse Cases
- iv) Jockey Club FamConnect Project

Mr W S Chan supplemented that 4 speakers were invited to present at the roundtable on July 4, 2019. Mr Moses Mui added that the third roundtable on carer's support would be held in the end of 2019.

7. Any Other Business

Nil

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on September 11, 2019 (Wednesday) at 2:30 pm in Room 1410, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Adopted by

Chairperson

on the _____ day of _____ 2019