

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

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting

Date:	11 th Mar, 2019 (Monday)	
Time:	15:00 – 17:00	
Venue:	Room 1410, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessey Road, Wan Chai	
Present:	Mr. Bill LAY (Chairperson)	- Caritas Hong Kong
	Ms. Iris LIU (Vice Chairperson)	- International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
	Ms. Ivy LEUNG	- Christian Family Service Centre
	Mr. Po Shan TANG	- Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service
	Ms. Mei Lin WU (Co-opted)	- Hong Kong Women Workers' Association
	Dr. Kim Wah CHUNG (Co-opted)	- The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
	Prof. Tai Lok LUI (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
	Mr. Danny YEUNG (Recorder)	- The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Apologies:	Mr. Raymond LAI	- The Salvation Army
	Mr. Anthony WONG	- The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

1. To receive the agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

2. To confirm minutes of last meeting

The minutes were confirmed with a correction of the name of one of the members.

3. Business Update

3.1 Policy Research and Advocacy

3.1.1 Policy Bulletin Issue 26

Mr. Keith WONG reported that the Editorial Board of Policy Bulletin had decided to choose “Planning and Provision of Social Welfare Premises” as the topic of Policy Bulletin Issue 26. Moreover, he added that more groundwork had been done before the production of the issue. For instance, the team had interviews with some potential contributors (e.g. Mr. K.K. LING who is a former Director of Planning Department).

Mr. Bill LAY asked whether the new issue could cover the new policy that government plans to spend \$20 billion on private units, and turn them into social welfare premises. Mr. Keith WONG replied that the article of Mr. K.K. LING would try to cover the issue.

3.1.2 Research on tenancy control

Mr. Keith WONG expressed that the research design had been changed to a qualitative approach after having discussions with members of Standing Committee on Policy Research and Advocacy, and Working Group on Housing. Furthermore, he also added that the research would focus on the landlords who were willing to participate in the Community Housing Movement by asking predominately about what factors attracted them to join the scheme, with an aim to understand what considerations the landlords would have while thinking about tenancy control.

On the other hand, Mr. Keith WONG expressed that more discussions on the approach of advocating tenancy control within Working Group on Housing would be arranged (e.g. discussion on Inadequate Housing Regulation).

Besides, Mr. Keith WONG reported that the production of women profile was in progress, and it was expected to be published in Apr or May, 2019.

3.2 Centre for Social Impact

3.1.3 The conference cum workshop on practice and research for social service excellence

Mr. Keith WONG reported that the conference cum workshop on practice and research for social service excellence had already been done in the previous week. He added that the event

had received positive feedback and comments from the participants. Moreover, he also took the chance to thank Ms. Iris LIU, and delegates from other agencies for becoming speakers in the event.

Most importantly, he stressed that some follow-up works would be done based on the participants' comments – 1) inviting the three agencies that acted as speakers in case sharing section to share their experiences again in upcoming research salons, 2) inviting local agencies to share the practice research they conducted by using the classification of practice research introduced by Prof. Lars Uggerhøj, who was the keynote speaker of the conference, and 3) thinking about the role of HKCSS and other organizations in providing support to agencies that are conducting practice research.

Mr. Bill LAY asked whether the agencies disclosed any concerns of doing practice research in the conference. Mr. Keith WONG replied that the agencies had lacked human and financial resources, thus they tended not to conduct practice research in the past. Moreover, Mr. Keith WONG also added that delegates of some agencies had got in touch with him, hoping that HKCSS could act as an interpreter while agencies are conducting practice research in collaboration with academics.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1 Community Support for Subdivided Unit Household

Mr. Keith WONG reported to the members that the staff team of Policy Research and Advocacy were trying to figure out how the living environment and social class of subdivided unit households affect their community participation. Thus, he encouraged the members to share the approached adopted by their agencies to serve the purpose.

Mr. Bill LAY shared that 4 out of 6 community centres of Caritas had a team to support subdivided unit households. Moreover, a common approach of organizing community support was developed (e.g. organizing community tours) among these centres. Apart from community tours, Caritas also provided new subdivided unit households with some tangible services (e.g. meal for grassroots) for engagement and community education.

Mr. Po Shan TANG expressed that Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service focused more on children living in subdivided units, and thus would offer some extracurricular activities and library of toys to them. Besides, it also provided counselling services to the subdivided unit

households.

Mr. Bill LAY added that most social welfare organizations were located in public housing estates, thus they could not sufficiently support the subdivided unit households. On the other hand, he discovered that the living environment of subdivided units differed to a great extent, thus he thought it was worth a discussion over establishing a scheme funding subdivided unit households to redecorate the units they are living.

Ms. Mei Lin WU expressed that establishing a scheme funding subdivided unit households to redecorate the units would lead to a situation where unit owners would encourage their tenants to apply for the grant, which might raise public concerns. Moreover, she proposed that improvements of public area (e.g. parks) could also be considered as one of means to boost the community participation of people in the neighborhood, including subdivided unit households.

4.2 Primary Healthcare Development in Singapore

Mr. Keith WONG introduced the primary healthcare development in Singapore to the members, in terms of the reasons why choosing Singapore as a case study in the research, an overview of primary healthcare in Singapore, its development and problems encountered in the last few years, and its implications to Hong Kong. Moreover, he also invited the members to give their opinions on the focus of the overseas visit to Singapore.

Mr. Bill LAY reminded that the overseas visit could explore more about how primary healthcare helps the ethnic minority groups with language barriers in Singapore.

Ms. Mei Lin WU expressed that the overseas visit could look into how people with various conditions (e.g. chronic diseases, disabilities) in Singapore receive health services (e.g. multifarious assessments) in community.

Dr. Kim Wah CHUNG expressed that the overseas visit could look into the synergy between the public and private medical sectors because many existing medical services are provided by the private medical sector that is included in policies and planning of Singaporean government.

Mr. Keith WONG further invited the members to express their opinions about the focuses of the overseas study trip in Singapore at the time. He also reported that three more pieces of research on the primary healthcare in Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom would be done in Jun,

2019. One more research on the primary healthcare in Spain that was recommended by members of working group on primary healthcare might be done, that would be dependent on the findings of the three researches mentioned and the capacity of staff team.

5. Any other business

5.1 Discussion over the negative impacts of new arrivals on society

Mr. Bill LAY expressed that there was a dispute across the city that new arrivals who came with one-way permit were the causes of different social problems (e.g. shortage of public housing). Therefore, he would like to ask whether there was a specific unit in HKCSS covering the issue. Mr. Keith WONG replied that the units of Family and Community Services, and Social Development are responsible for different aspects of the issue regarding new arrivals.

Mr. Keith WONG expressed that the staff team was open to take new arrivals as a topic of Policy Bulletin, nonetheless more contemplation over research questions (e.g. the capacity of having new arrivals in Hong Kong, and impacts brought by new arrivals on Hong Kong, etc.) was needed.

Mr. Po Shan TANG expressed that further discussions over the population policy in Hong Kong could be raised to tackle the myths about new arrivals. Mr. Bill LAY further asked whether there was any discussion over population policy within HKCSS. Mr. Keith WONG replied that there was a discussion over population policy within the HKCSS where immigration policy in Hong Kong was not touched. Nonetheless, he added that there was an issue of Policy Bulletin covering the relationship between immigration policy and social development, and more discussions could also be raised later.

6. The date of next meeting

Date: 4th Jun, 2019

Time: 15:00 – 17:00

The meeting was adjourned at 17:20.

Confirmed by :

Mr. Bill LAY

Chairperson of Specialized Committee on
Social Development

Date:
