

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Standing Committee on Service Development
 (2018-19)

Minutes of the 5th meeting held on 23rd July 2019 at 2:30pm in Room 1410 of the Duke of Windsor Social Service Building.

Present:	Ms Yvonne CHAK (Chairperson)	Hong Kong Christian Service
	Mr LAI Wing Hoi (Vice-Chairperson)	Caritas – Hong Kong
	Ms MA Lai Wah, Anka	The Free Methodist Church of Hong Kong
	Ms CHOW Mee Tim	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited
	Mr. CHU Muk Wah, Daniel	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
	Ms LEUNG Yuen Ching, Cindy	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
	Mr LAI Kwan Ho, Raymond	The Salvation Army
	Ms LAW Mei Chun, Vivian	Evangelical Free Church of China- Evangel Children's Home
	Ms LEUNG Wai Ling, Rachel	Heep Hong Society
	Ms CHUNG Mei Ling	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, LC-HK / Rep of SC(CY)
	Mr NG Ting Shan	Care for the Elderly Association Limited / Rep of SC(ELD)
	Mr Moses MUI	HKCSS
In-attendance:	Mr Anthony WONG	HKCSS
	Ms Rachel SZETO	HKCSS
	Mr. KUO Chun Chuen	HKCSS
	Ms Karen YIU	HKCSS
	Ms Teresa SO (Recorder)	HKCSS
Apologies:	Ms CHAN Lai Kwan, Queenie	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service-HK
	Mrs WONG HO Kit Yuk, Winnie	The Hong Kong Society for the Deaf / Rep of SC(Rehab)
	Ms LAM Yee Wan, Eliza	Caritas-Hong Kong / Rep of SC(FC)
	Mr. LING Kar Kan	Co-opted Member
	Mr Stephen SUI	Co-opted Member

Confirmation of minutes of the last meeting

Minutes were confirmed without any amendment.

Matters arising

2.1 Task group on manpower shortage

The Task Group on Manpower Shortage meeting was held on 24th June 2019. Members of the task group discussed the manpower situation of the elderly care services and suggested the Government to enhance the manpower supply and improve the work conditions. SWD conducted a survey on subsidized service units, including elderly, rehabilitation and family and child welfare service units, earlier this year (the 2019 survey). They would conduct an in-depth analysis of the data collected with a view to mapping out the proposed way forward.

Members highlighted the importation of foreign labor. Importation of workers would help alleviating the labor shortage problem in the RCHE sector in the short run. Besides, members suggested the Government needed to increase salary for frontline staff so as to attract and retain talents.

Discussion

3.1. 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”)

A sub-committee of the Law Reform Commission (LRC) released a consultation paper making preliminary proposals for reform of the law relating to the criminal liability of parents, carers and others when children or vulnerable adults died or were seriously harmed as a result of abuse or neglect while in their care.

The Sub-committee recommended the introduction of a new offence of “failure to protect a child or vulnerable person where the child's or vulnerable person's death or serious harm results from an unlawful act or neglect”. Members shared their concerns, including the definition of “serious harm” and the concept of “the failure to report the fact”. Some key terms were needed to be identified so that parents, carers and others would not breach the law inadvertently.

Members concerned about the impact of the Law to the operation of social services, such as residential care services for the elderly. Due to the limited time, members suggested to negotiating with LRC to extend the deadline for the submission of HKCSS opinion paper. Besides, it's to advise to further collect views from different specialized committees and it would be followed up in upcoming meeting.

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

A debriefing session was held on 5th July with 92 participants from 45 NGOs. They concerned about young people with suicidal ideation to commit suicide. Besides, they also worried that a large number of youth would be arrested. Members suggested to providing support to frontline social workers by organizing training to address their needs, such as crisis management and handling suicidal case. Besides, members also recommended to mobilizing cross-agency collaboration in different districts in order to facilitate sharing of information, resource as well as good practice & wisdom to handle the social issue. Mutual support with bottom-up actions in district level was encouraged. Members suggested to identify potential districts / NGOs to explore the feasibility. On the other hand, mental health problems of young people should be addressed. It was

suggested to prepare “Info-pack” for teachers and students in September to highlight the possible ways and methods to deal with the emotional needs of students. Mental health support services would also be explored.

For Information

4.1 Progress of 2019 Best Practice Awards

The final round adjudication had been conducted in July 2019. The final result would be released in September 2019. The award presentation ceremony would be held in the HKCSS Convention 2019 on 8th November 2019.

4.2 Progress report

A full report had been sent to members and they were encouraged to go through the documents.

Any other business

5.1 Adjustment in Fees for Subvented Welfare Services in 2019-20

Due to the unforeseeable situation in HK, the adjustment in Fees for subvented welfare services in 2019-20 would be pending by SWD.

Adopted By: _____
(Chairperson)

Date: _____