

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Service Development (Family & Community)

Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service (2018-19) held on September 11, 2019 (Wednesday) at Room 1410, 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
Dr FAN Ning	Health in Action Limited
Ms Jessie YU	Hong Kong Single Parents Association
Mr Kerin CHAM	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
Ms Ramy CHAK	The Salvation Army
Ms Angela CHENG	Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers
Mr Daniel CHU	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Mrs Doris LEE	Harmony House 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
Dr Margaret WONG	Hong Kong Shue Yan University
Mr Kenny NG	Community Development Alliance
Ms Carol NG	Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod
Ms Sky SIU	Kely Support Group
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

Ms HSU Siu-man	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Ms Lea YIP	Breakthrough Limited

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on July 10, 2019 was circulated by email on August 27, 2019 and was confirmed with nil amendment.

2. Matters Arising

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

Paper 1: The final form 收集與家長教育相關的服務資料 was sent to members prior to the meeting. Mr Moses Mui's reported that the memorandum to all agency members were distributed on August 19, 2019.

All agency members should supply the relevant information by September 27, 2019. Consolidated information would be uploaded in Council's website for dissemination.

2.2 Working Group on Maintenance Issues

Mr Moses Mui recapped the matter of CSSA recipients with difficulties in receiving eligible maintenance. While SWD has confirmed 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) in previous meeting in June, members noted that SWD is now preparing a pamphlet detailing the policy and measures for distribution.

Ms Jessie Yu, convener of the Working Group added that the idea of transferring the subject of maintenance issue from HAB to LWB has been discussed in the working group and this will be followed up in the next meeting.

Mr Kenny Ng informed members that there would be public engagement activities organized by the Commission on Children (COC) in November 2019. It was suggested to raise the concern of maintenance issues from the perspective of children's right and well-being through the COC platform. Some members also suggested to arrange dialogue session among the service users and COC members.

2.3 Working Group on Family Service Programme Plan

Paper 2: Brief Report of Task Group on Family Service Programme Plan was sent to members for information. Dr Margaret Wong, convener of the working group reported the progress in the meeting.

Members noted that the Task Group proposed a policy framework on family well-being based on UN framework and Sustainable Development Goals. It was agreed that a broader framework (not just focused on FSPP) should be adopted for stimulating thoughts. Yet, in view of the recent social unrest, it was suggested to initiate the sector discussion from examining existing service gap, particularly in the aspect of "protecting families". It was expected that planning issues would be raised up throughout the discussion. It was also suggested the sector discussion could be held from end of 2019.

Regarding the service gaps in response to the recent social unrest, members shared their observations as summarized below:

- i) handling of trauma of frontline workers
- ii) confidentiality and anonymity concern (e.g. hotline service for parent)
- iii) programs on mental well-being
- iv) handling of onset of psychiatric cases (e.g. follow up of known cases)

2.4 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: Powerpoint of 熊運信律師『導致或任由兒童或易受傷害成年人死亡個案小組委員會』 was sent to members for reference.

Mr Moses Mui reported that two sharing sessions were held by Council on July 12 and July 15 with representative of LRC working group being invited. While various committees have expressed more time is needed for deliberation, Council has sought the consent of LRC for late submission before end of October.

Members shared their concerns on the proposed legislation, especially the need for clarifying vague concepts such as "duty of care", "serious harm" etc. Major concerns were summarized as below:

- 建議條文內有很多不清晰之處有待澄清，以便進一步評估實施新條例所帶來之影響。例如嚴重傷害是否包括心理或精神傷害，以及性侵犯所引致的傷害？居於分隔單位或分租單位的鄰舍是否屬於同一住戶？
- 在家庭個案的工作領域，照顧責任誰屬的介定存在模糊的地方，容易引起爭議。例如當個案轉介予另一服務單位，在個案交接期間發生事故；又例如一些兒童住宿照顧個案，如果在 home leave 期間發生事故等。

Further discussion would be held in Standing Committee to formulate the Council's submission. Members are invited to give further comment before September 24.

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

Mr Anthony Wong briefed members on Council's recently launched project "Time to Heal". The background, guidelines and target users of the project were highlighted. 心理治療服務資助指引 and 精神科服務資助指引 were tabled. Applicants would be required to be referred by social workers of SWD or subvented NGOs. Some members suggested to extend the scope of referring workers to non-subvented agencies.

3. Specialized Co-parenting Support Centres

Members noted the five new support centres would be commencing services from October 2019. Members suggested to invite the operators to share their service provision, exchange common concerns or issues that might need collaboration in the coming Committee meetings after the service commencement.

4. For Information

4.1 Additional Resources for IFSC Manpower and Family Aide Service

With the increase in resources, Mr Moses Mui reported that the NGO operators and SWD have agreed to adjust the service output with more additional efforts on preventive work (i.e. groups and programmes). On the other hand, additional resources will be provided to NGO IFSCs for operating family aide service.

4.2 Election of Specialized Committee 2019-2021

The election of all specialized committee 2019-2021 was in progress. The election result would be announced by end of September 2019.

Ms Eliza Lam extended special thanks to those members served their 2 times 2-year term for the committee, namely Ms Jessie Yu, Mr Kerin Cham, Ms SM Hsu, Ms Ramy Chak and Mr Daniel Chu.

4.3 2019 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare

Mr Kerin Cham, as an organizing Committee member of the 2019 Best Practice Awards, reported that the adjudication was completed and the result was finalized. The award presentation would be held in the Council's annual general meeting on November 8, 2019.

5. Progress Update

Paper 4: The Progress Report (September 2019) of the Family and Community Service was sent to members for information.

The following items were included:

- i) Strengthened Manpower of NGO Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs)
- ii) Seminar on Handling and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse for EM Service Providers
- iii) Cultural Sensitivity in Provision of Welfare Services
- iv) Publication of Community Development Resource Book

Supplementary information was shared with members in the meeting.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 The 25th Issue of CIFA Newsletter was tabled for members' reference.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be confirmed with all members for the term year 2019-2020.

(Post-meeting note: The first meeting would be held on November 13, 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 5:40 pm.

Adopted by

Chairperson
on the _____ day of _____ 2019