

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Standing Committee on Public Engagement and Partnership
Minutes of the 4th Meeting for the Year 2018/19

Date: 26 September 2019 (Thursday)
Time: 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Venue: Hong Kong Family Welfare Society North Point Integrated Family Service Centre
Upper G/F., Healthy Village, Phase II, 668 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong

Present:

Ms CHAU Shuk King, Kitty	Christian Family Service Centre
Mr LEUNG Chi Hang, Wilfred	The Salvation Army
Mrs CHIU CHUI Yuen Fun, Angela	The Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council
Mr HO Hin Ming, Patrick	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong
Ms KWAN Pui Ying, Jenny	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association
Mr TSUI Yu Hang, Walter	CareER
Ms NG Man Yin, Connie	St. James' Settlement
Mr SIN Kai Chi, Anthony	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Ms TSE Ho Yi, Apple	Hong Kong Christian Service
Ms CHAN Ka Po, Judy	The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited
Mr ORR Ka Yeung, Kevin	Winner Medical (Hong Kong) Ltd
Mr SZETO Kwong Chiu, Ralph	CMRS Digital Solutions Ltd.

Apologies:

Mr WONG Man Shun, Stephen	Caritas Wellness Link
Mr LAW Wing Chung	Jervois One
Ms LEUNG Shuk Yee, Irene	i-CABLE Communications Limited

In Attendance:

Mr Cliff CHOI	Business Director
Ms Wendy LUK	Senior Manager, Caring Company Scheme
Ms Christine KWAN	Senior Manager, WiseGiving
Mr Keevin POON	Programme Manager, Caring Company Scheme
Ms Joyce LEUNG	Officer, WiseGiving - Recorder

1 Endorsement of minutes of the last meeting

1.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on May 29, 2019 was adopted.

2 Matters arising

2.1 The requirements of the Public Subscription Permit

2.1.1 Christine reported that SWD is liaising with ICPA to review the practice note regarding NGO financial reports for compliance with the permit conditions. Besides, the proposed new regulation on face-to-face fundraising in public places will be announced in late 2019, which allow maximum 6 charitable organisations per day in each district. The permit license duration will be for 6 months.

2.2 e-channels for donation collection or receipt of payment for NGOs

2.2.1 Cliff reported that he met Octopus and Bank of China with Kitty in the early September 2019 for discussing the captioned agenda.

2.2.2 Cliff suggested to conduct one-day seminar and discuss the best deal for the sector.

2.2.3 Christine made a highlight regarding the e-channels donation service provided by ITRC. Ralph remarked that we should also explore FPS.

2.2.4 Kitty raised that the above agenda will also arrange a joint discussion and work out together with Sector Finance Committee.

2.2.5 Members agreed and decide to form the working group for further action. Working group members are Ms. Kitty CHAU, Mr. Walter TSUI, Mr. Ralph SZETO, Ms. Jenny KWAN and Mr. Kevin ORR.

2.3 Tripartite project on improving the living environment of residents of subdivided units (SDU)

2.3.1 Cliff expressed that he had reported NGO's responses and concerns to Community Care Fund (CCF) on SDU project. CCF agreed and accepted. A service spec will be issued by CCF for HKCSS sign off in Oct, so that HKCSS will then arrange a briefing workshop for NGOs.

2.3.2 Cliff emphasized that an IT system will be developed and undertake the programme logistic operations.

2.4 Outstanding award for smaller non-subsented NGOs

2.4.1 Cliff briefly introduced the award programme and invited all committee members to be the judges during application vetting period in early November.

3 Discussion

3.1 HKCSS's communication strategy for recent social unrest

3.1.1 Cliff recapped the efforts that HKCSS initiated in early stage,

3.1.1.1 Released seven statements / multi-sectoral joint statements

3.1.1.2 Released 12 blogs / journals

3.1.1.3 Set-up rest center with first-aid service at HKCSS building during the rally

3.1.1.4 Conducted two projects relevant to the recent social unrest

3.1.1.5 Discussed with the Director of SWD on protection order

3.1.2 Members appreciated HKCSS's efforts and summarized the upcoming strategy for consideration,

3.1.2.1 Set-up propaganda team and professional consultant team with legal advisory

services

3.1.2.2 Integrated capacity with sector and compile appropriate service for public

3.1.2.3 Implement the coordination in a practical & realistic manner and forecast the upcoming political situation for a better preparation

3.2 Tax liability of the charitable organisations

3.2.1 Cliff recapped the three principles under proviso to section 88 of the IRO provides that if a charity carries on a trade or business, the profits from such trade or business are exempt from Profits Tax only if:

3.2.1.1 Profits are applied solely for charitable purposes, and

3.2.1.2 Profits are not expended substantially outside Hong Kong, and

3.2.1.3 Either - (i) the trade or business is exercised in the course of the actual carrying out of the expressed objects of the charity; or (ii) the work in connection with the trade or business is mainly carried on by persons for whose benefit such charity is established.

3.2.2 As the tax guide for charities have been released and Cliff suggested all members to feed the tax exemption cases for HKCSS and IRD discussion. Assume IRD will update and include all exemption scenarios shortly.

3.3 Changes of WiseGiving website and the revamping of Directory of Social Service Organisations

3.3.1 WiseGiving website will stop operation by end December and in parallel the Directory of Social Service Organisations will be revamped with a higher standard of disclosure. The enhanced portal will include all HKCSS agency members and continue to promote charity accountability and transparency.

4 **Progress report**

4.1 Caring Company Scheme

4.1.1 Wendy thanked all committee members to complete the scoring for the 2nd Business for Social Good(BSG) Outstanding Awards, there are 3 finalists being shortlisted for the final adjudication, followed by vote casting by CEOs of HK businesses and NGOs, as well as business school students studying at local universities for selecting the winner of the Outstanding BSG Award. All award winners will be recognised in an award presentation ceremony scheduled to be held on Nov 21, 2019.

4.1.2 Wendy mentioned that over 20 applications for the Outstanding Partnership Project Award were received this year, the interview session and the final adjudication will be conducted in early Dec 2019 and early Jan 2020 respectively. Moreover, the Partnership Expo 2020 will be held on May 19, 2020 (Tue), taking place at Hall 3FG, Old Wing of HKCEC.

4.2 WiseGiving

4.2.1 Christine reported that the interview day of Link University Scholarship 2019 was held on September 21, 2019, with over 300 students joined interview in this year. The award presentation ceremony will be conducted on November 27, 2019. Principals of the eight institutions funded by the University Grants Committee will be invited to join the ceremony.

4.2.2 The Chater Road activities under HSBC Hong Kong Community Festival 2019 have been cancelled after discussion with HSBC. All grantees are being informed that the district activities under Festival 2019 could be remain unchanged, re-scheduled or canceled due to the recent social unrest. .

4.3 Corporate Communications

4.3.1 Cliff reported that two event projects will be held in November as scheduled, i.e. Social Housing Festival 2019 and 3rd Gerontech and Innovation Expo cum Summit GIES. The emergency plan and contingency plan will be worked out, especially the GIES will take place at HKCEC and the main participants are elderly and people with disabilities. The team will keep close communications with different parties.

5 Any other business

5.1 Kevin raised that the granted programme under SIE Fund got difficulties on public engagement and mentorship management. Cliff agreed to connect Kevin with team who take care SIE fund for further discussion the solution.

5.2 Chairperson Kitty mentioned it was the last PEP Standing Committee meeting in the year 2018/19 and she thanked all committee members for their invaluable input in the past year.

There being no further matters arising, the meeting was adjourned at 5.40pm