

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Executive Committee 2023/24

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Executive Committee for 2023/24 held on Monday, 27 May 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in Rm 201, 2/F., Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present : The Hon. Bernard Chan (Chairperson)
Ms. Queenie Chan Ms. Chan Siu Lai
Ms. Susan Chan Mr. Benny Cheung
Mr. Cooke Cheung Mrs. Angela Chiu
Mr. Raymond Chiu Mr. Thomas Chu
Dr. Fung Cheung Tim Mr. Larry Kwok
Dr. Hon. Lam Ching Choi Mr. Billie Lau
Ms. Elizabeth Law Mr. Kennedy Liu
Ms. Anthea Lee Ms. Carmen Lee
Ms. Rachel Leung Dr. CC Luk
Ms. Wong Sau Wa

In-Attendance : Mr. Chua Hoi Wai, Chief Executive
Ms. Angie Chan, Business Director
Ms. Grace Chan, Business Director
Dr. Jessica Tam, Business Director
Mr. Anthony Wong, Business Director

Apologies : Ms. Yvonne Chak Revd Canon Hon. Peter Koon
Mrs. Patricia Lau Ms. Ivy Leung
Ms. Melissa Pang Ms. Bonnie So
Dr. Hon. Tik Chi Yuen Ms. Yvonne Yeung

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1. Minutes of the last meeting dated 25 March were confirmed with no amendment.

MATTERS ARISING

To note and approve Membership Suspension of Non-compliant Agency Members

2. Mr. Chua updated that following the resolution made at the previous meeting, 10 agency members were temporarily suspended due to their failure to submit the required annual reports, financial reports, and/or membership fees. After follow-up efforts from the membership unit, 7 of these suspended members were able to submit the overdue items, and their memberships had been reinstated. One agency member would apply for withdrawing their membership, and the membership unit would continue supporting the remaining 2 suspended members to help them fulfill the outstanding requirements.

To note and approve the Report on Settlement Case with Chun Wo Construction Holdings Company Limited (Chun Wo) regarding the Transitional Housing Project of Yip Shing Street (Yip Shing 6)

3. Mr. Chua provided an update on the progress of discussions between HKCSS, the contractor, and the consultant regarding the proposed settlement. Mr. Chua stated that Members would be kept informed of any updates regarding this matter going forward.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND APPROVAL

To note the Chief Executive's Progress Report

4. Mr. Chua highlighted and provided supplementary information to Members on the progress report.

4.1 S+ Summit cum Expo 2024

Ms. Jessica Tam, Business Director, updated on the S+Summit cum Expo 2024 held successfully on May 2-3, 2024 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The two-day event was themed around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and featured over 80 prominent speakers and approximately 140 exhibitors. The event attracted 9,500 attendees, including 5,647 visitors, who came to exchange ideas for addressing social problems and promoting sustainable development in the community.

On the final day of the Expo on May 3rd, exhibitors from social welfare organizations, social enterprises, and impact businesses showcased their innovative solutions to tackle social issues. This highlighted the synergies and partnerships emerging across different domains to drive social progress and impact. A feedback had indicated that the Expo had a refreshing vibe with diversified elements surrounding social services, along with connections to other disciplines for cross-sectoral collaboration. However, some comments noted that the Expo duration might have been a bit too short, which could have affected networking and sustaining momentum, this was one of the points that would be considered by the management.

Mr. Chua thanked Members for their comments and support. Looking ahead, the S+Summit cum Expo 2025 would be further enhanced with new innovative elements to expand the effectiveness of the Council's role as a joint platform in supporting the sector. Additional views and feedback were welcomed as preparations for 2025 move forward.

To note the Position of Funds

5. Ms. Elizabeth Law, Honorary Treasurer, presented an update to the Members on the Council's financial positions as of March and April 2024. This included the status of the reserves and fund balances, as well as the budgets and updated positions of ongoing projects.

It was noted that the profits reported, for example under the S+project, were only due to the deferral of the project from the original date of March to be held in May. The expenses for this project would be realistically reflected later. Similarly, there were a few other adjustments made due to timing differences in the reporting.

The status of the HKCSS Development Fund and the Investment Fund were also presented. Ms. Law explained that the 4 batches of stock sales and switching to the Tracker Fund had resulted in realized losses. As reported at the last meeting, if the situation allowed, a portion of the funding might be allocated to a time-deposit fund, which would be considered a more stable investment than the stock market. It was emphasized that the stock selling decision was made after consulting the relevant fund committee members, as an optimal action to take due to the volatility of the stock market.

Members noted and endorsed the financial report without any further questions.

To note and approve Agency Membership Application

6. Members noted and endorsed the membership applications of the following agencies:
 - Generation: You Employed (HK) Limited
 - Justice Centre Hong Kong Limited
 - One Sky Foundation Limited
 - The Hong Kong Liver Transplant Patients' Association 香港肝臟移植協康會

The membership unit would follow the established procedures and notify the agencies whose applications had been rejected accordingly.

To note and approve the Termination / Withdrawal of Agency Membership

7. Members noted and endorsed the withdrawal application of a member agency.

To note and approve the Agency's Change of Legal Status

8. Members noted the management's report that the change in legal status of a member agency did not deviate from the Council's membership requirements regarding mission and service provision. Therefore, Members noted and endorsed the proposed change in legal status, while the agency's membership status under the Council remained unchanged.

To note and approve the Annual Election Procedure and Schedule for HKCSS AGM 2024

9. Mr. Chua reported that the HKCSS Annual General Meeting 2024 was scheduled for 12 November 2024, Tuesday, at the Auditorium of the Council. The election of the new governance for the terms of 2024-2026 would commence on 31 May 2024 according to the prescribed schedule as presented to Members for comments and endorsement.

In response to a Member's comment regarding the need to bring in technical support for automated counting and tallying of votes in order to avoid human mistakes in the vote counting procedure, Mr. Chua confirmed that the membership unit would study the feasibility of implementing such a system.

With no further questions, Members noted and endorsed the appointment of the Election Committee, with Mr. Kennedy Liu and Mr. Larry Kwok to serve as the Chairperson and member respectively. The election arrangement and schedule for nomination and election of the new governance for 2024-2026 were also endorsed by Members.

Mr. Chua thanked Members for their support, and the membership unit would proceed to start the preparation work.

To note and approve to Open New Bank Accounts

10. Members noted and approved the opening of a new set of bank accounts for the HKCSS programmes concerned as presented.

It was also noted that the signing authority of these new bank accounts would follow those of the Council's existing bank accounts.

To note and approve WAPS 2024

11. Ms. Grace Chan, Business Director, reported that after thorough discussions with the Standing Committee and at the Agency Heads meeting, the proposed welfare priorities for 2024 had been finalized. Subject to the approval by Members of ExCo, the finalized report would be directly submitted to the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, and copied to the Director of Social Welfare, for their perusal. Members noted and approved the WAPS 2024 report with no further questions.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

12. Caring Company Revamp Consultancy Study's Findings and Recommendations (by PPT presentation)

Mr. Chua briefly introduced the objective of the Caring Company Scheme (CCS) revamp consultancy study. He noted that the Council's CCS had successfully reached a milestone, and it was time to consider a new direction for the next decade.

A questionnaire survey was conducted with responses from over 2,000 participants, and the findings had been deliberated at the Strategy Committee on Co-creation. It was commonly agreed that the CCS was an important asset of the Council, and improvements to the Scheme were deemed necessary and critical at this stage.

As such, the management felt it was essential to seek further views and insights from Members of the ExCo. The consultants were therefore invited to present the details of the Caring Company revamp, the findings, as well as the observations and insights provided to Members of ExCo, in order to solicit more proactive suggestions for improving the CCS.

The Members provided the following summary of their views:

- It was an opportunity to review and support the alignment, e.g., S+ with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to foster collaboration between the social welfare sector and the business sector.
- Another view emphasized the importance of collaboration by leveraging the support of NGOs. The rapport with NGOs would facilitate the effective development of shared social agendas with aligned values and objectives, in order to strengthen the sustainability of support from the business sector, the public and different stakeholders.
- Members also shared the opinion that the revamp should continue in order to enhance the Scheme and further promote the contribution of the sector and the role of the Council as a joint platform to facilitate an effective response to addressing social needs and problems. However, Members did not support the adjournment or delaying of the upcoming CCS nomination. They also had reservations, particularly if the award to 5-year and 10-year consecutive year awardees was withheld, as the award was seen as a good way to boost the business sector's continuous support for good deeds.
- There was a view that the Council should continue to strive for agenda setting and promote social agendas, such as support for caregivers and mental wellness, driving an impact or a movement in the community. A sharing platform to showcase the NGOs' good performance could induce a learning atmosphere and demonstrate exemplary practices. This would also continue to encourage the partnering companies and organizations to proactively engage and enhance their caring initiatives.
- Another Member advised that the Council should not rush for a change, as the CCS has a significant impact on a large group of stakeholders. However, the change was still supported because it would be beneficial for all parties, with an enhanced Scheme leading to increased credibility of the whole Scheme, as well as the branding of the Council, which in the process, NGOs, the business sector, and other stakeholders would be upgraded together towards a next level of caring society.

Ms. Jessica Tam, Business Director, reported that the consultants would continue to present Part II of the CCS stage 2 revamp at the next ExCo meeting.

Mr. Chua thanked Members again for their valuable views and support provided for the Caring Company Scheme.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13. No additional matters were reported.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14. The next meeting was scheduled for 29 July 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.