

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

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Executive Committee for 2023/24 held on Monday, 29 July 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in Rm 201, 2/F., Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present : Mr. Kennedy Liu (Acting-Chairperson)
Ms. Yvonne Chak Ms. Queenie Chan
Ms. Susan Chan Mr. Benny Cheung
Mr. Raymond Chiu Mr. Thomas Chu
Revd Canon Hon. Peter Koon Mr. Larry Kwok
Dr. Hon. Lam Ching Choi Mr. Billie Lau
Mrs. Patricia Lau Ms. Elizabeth Law
Ms. Ivy Leung Ms. Bonnie So
Ms. Yvonne Yeung

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 : The Hon. Bernard Chan Ms. Chan Siu Lai
Mr. Cooke Cheung Mrs. Angela Chiu
Dr. Fung Cheung Tim Ms. Anthea Lee
Ms. Carmen Lee Ms. Rachel Leung
Dr. CC Luk Ms. Melissa Pang
Dr. Hon. Tik Chi Yuen Ms. Wong Sau Wa

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1. Minutes of the last meeting dated 27 May 2024 were confirmed with no amendment.

MATTERS ARISING

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

2. Mr. Chua provided an update that, following the completion of the outstanding requirements for two suspended agency members, their memberships had been reinstated. The Council now has a total of 521 agency members.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION AND APPROVAL

To note the Chief Executive's Progress Report

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

3.1 Potential Cut of the Baseline Allocations of The Community Chest of Hong Kong

Mr. Chua reported that the Community Chest of Hong Kong had proposed reducing baseline allocations starting in the financial year 2026/27 due to its financial constraints. This decision would impact 129 Agency Members of the Council. The Council's membership unit gathered feedback during the July meeting of the Working Group on Sector Finance and engaged with agency members of various sizes to collect their perspectives and examples illustrating the potential impact on direct services to users. This feedback was effectively communicated to PricewaterhouseCoopers Hong Kong (PwC), who is serving as Chest's consultant for this initiative. Agency Members

expressed their willingness to publicly acknowledge the significant role and valuable contributions of the Chest's baseline allocations in supporting essential innovative services for users. Mr. Chua emphasized that while understanding the financial limitations faced by the Chest, it was sincerely hoped they could find an optimal solution that minimized the impact on agency service delivery.

3.2 Funding Scheme with HKEX Foundation in Q3&4 2024

Mr. Chua reported that in collaboration with the HKEX Foundation, the Council launched the Impact Funding Scheme in July for social enterprises and was set to introduce the Charity Partnership Programme in September for NGOs. Unlike the previous year, funding would not be co-supported by the Community Chest this time. As a result, the partnership with the HKEX Foundation had led to a threefold increase in total grant funding, amounting to HK\$65 million over a three-year period. The fund would be open for applications from NGOs in due course.

3.3 Gerontechnology Platform (GTP)

Mr. Chua noted that the GTP would organize a "Hong Kong Zone" at the 8th (Guangzhou) International Elderly Health Industry Expo from August 23-25, 2024. The initiative aimed to promote Gerontechnology in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and engage with new stakeholders to encourage the exchange of ideas and collaborative benefits. Ten corporations had confirmed their participation in the "Hong Kong Zone." The Council would showcase its services, including the GIES, care food, and gerontech education and rental services. Mr. Chua also invited ExCo members to join the visit to the Guangzhou Expo.

3.4 Tele-practice Platform Pilot Project

Mr. Chua reported that the Council had finalized a partnership with DBS Hong Kong for funding of HK\$25 million in the fourth quarter of 2024. This collaboration would support a three-year project titled "Digital Healthcare Solutions for the Aging Population." The initiative aimed to expand the beneficiaries of the tele-practice platform, providing solutions to a broader segment of elderly individuals.

To note the Position of Funds

4. Ms. Elizabeth Law, Honorary Treasurer, provided an update on the Council's financial positions as of May and June 2024, including the status of reserves, fund balances, budgets, and the current standings of ongoing projects.

Regarding the performance of the HKCSS Development Fund and the Investment Fund, Ms. Law reported that the recent four batches of stock sales and the switch to the Tracker Fund had resulted in actual and realized losses. In light of the volatile market conditions, she suggested the Council to consider adopting a more cautious and conservative investment strategy. Additionally, she recommended that if circumstances permit, a transition from the Tracker Fund to a time-deposit fund should be evaluated.

After discussion, Members noted that given the current market conditions, further downturns appeared unlikely, making a switch less favourable. Mr. Chua thanked Members for their views and reiterated that an ExCo-endorsed investment policy was in place, ensuring adherence to investment guidelines and a balanced portfolio. The Council would continue to seek advice from the fund committees on future investment strategies to make optimal decisions in response to stock market volatility while maintaining a balanced portfolio.

With no further inquiries, Members acknowledged and endorsed the financial report.

To note and approve the Termination / Withdrawal of Agency Membership

5. Members noted and endorsed the membership withdrawal of the agency.

To note and approve the Recommendations on Applying the 2024-25 Civil Service Pay Adjustment to the Council

6. Members acknowledged the Council's recommendations to apply the 2024-25 Civil Service Pay Adjustment to all eligible staff members, retroactively effective from April 1, 2024. With no inquiries raised, Members approved the implementation of the pay adjustment.

To note and approve the Review of Enhancements of Provident Fund provided to HKCSS Staff

7. Members acknowledged and endorsed the proposed enhancement, deciding to extend the employer's contribution of 10% of staff salary to eligible employees in the MPF scheme with over 10 years of service for an additional year, until 2025-26.

To note and approve the Authorization of the Council's Chief Executive to sign with Common Seal, and execute the Agreement supplementary to the Tenancy Agreement No. KX3095 at Yen Chow Street West, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon

8. Members noted and endorsed that the Council's Chief Executive be authorized to sign with common seal and execute the agreement supplementary to the Tenancy Agreement No. KX3095 at Yen Chow Street West in Sham Shui Po, Kowloon.

To note and approve the membership of ITRC Advisory Committee

9. Ms. Angie Chan, Business Director, outlined the background for the proposed formation of an Advisory Committee on Digital Transformation in the Welfare Sector. This initiative aimed to integrate advanced digital solutions within the sector. The Committee would provide strategic guidance, oversight, and expert advice to the Information Technology Resource Centre (ITRC) of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS). The proposal to form the Advisory Committee was introduced at the ITRC Board meeting on June 25, 2024. Members were also presented with the Committee's Terms of Reference and the proposed membership list.

Members acknowledged and approved the formation of the Advisory Committee on Digital Transformation in the Welfare Sector, along with its Terms of Reference and proposed membership list.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Caring Company Scheme Revamp – Findings and Suggestions by PIE Strategy

10. Mr. Chua noted that this presentation followed up on the previous session regarding the Caring Company Scheme (CCS) revamp consultancy study, during which initial feedback was gathered from ExCo Members.

In this meeting, representatives from PIE Strategy, the consultants for the revamp, rejoined the ExCo. With the CCS having successfully built cross-sector support, it was time to develop a strategic roadmap to elevate the scheme into a Leadership Scheme for the sector over the next decade. They provided updates and shared recommendations based on stakeholder meetings and key survey findings, confirming a willingness to implement changes to the Scheme. As a result, they would transition from phase 1, which focused on enhancing workflows and systems, to phase 2, which would include benchmarking exercises and big data analysis to maximize the CCS's impact in fostering a caring society through collaborative efforts across various sectors.

The consultants facilitated discussions on the CCS revamp, ensuring that ExCo Members could share their insights and feedback during this meeting.

Members expressed the importance of achieving a common goal, that the CCS should enhance inner values and well-being, inspiring individuals and corporations to contribute to a better, more caring society. The partnership between NGOs and businesses had created impactful conditions for capacity building among all stakeholders. Members agreed that the Scheme should foster mutual influence and broaden its impact among all parties involved.

Finally, the Chairperson noted that the CCS revamp was progressing in the right direction, despite the need for ongoing reflection and review to ensure its success. Mr. Chua thanked Members for their valuable insights, stating that the Co-creation team would continue to guide the revamp, monitor progress, and seek advice from the relevant Strategy and Standing Committees. Members would be kept informed of developments as they arose.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. Mr. Chua reported that Ms. Angie Chan, Business Director, had resigned from her position. The Chairperson of the Meeting, on behalf of the ExCo, expressed farewell wishes to Ms. Chan and extended best wishes for her future endeavours.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12. The next meeting was scheduled for 30 September 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.