

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

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Executive Committee for 2023/24 held on Monday, 30 September 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in Rm 201, 2/F., Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

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

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

Apologies : The Hon. Bernard Chan Mr. Benny Cheung
Dr. Fung Cheung Tim Mrs. Patricia Lau
Dr. CC Luk Ms. Melissa Pang
Dr. Hon. Tik Chi Yuen Ms. Wong Sau Wa

(Ms. Yvonne Chak took chair of the Meeting in the absence of the Hon. Bernard Chan who was out of town).

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1. Minutes of the last meeting dated 29 July 2024 were confirmed with no amendment.

MATTERS ARISING

2. Potential Cut of the Baseline Allocations of The Community Chest of Hong Kong
Mr. Chua reported on the proposed cuts to the baseline allocations from the Community Chest of Hong Kong (Chest). He noted that concerns from the sector had been communicated to the Chest. It was hoped that the Chest would consider alternative options, such as implementing cuts to funding for time-limited projects instead of reducing baseline allocations, which would severely impact the core operations of NGOs.

Mr. Chua also highlighted that the Chest has been facing financial difficulties, with a significant 40% reduction in fundraising over the past few years. Despite these challenges, he affirmed that the Council would continue to advocate for the Chest to minimize the negative impact and seek an optimal solution.

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 Best Practice Award (Renamed as “Champions for Good Awards”)

Mr. Chua further informed Members that the Best Practice Award have been officially rebranded as the “Champions for Good Awards”. This rebranding aimed to elevate the Awards beyond the sector, recognizing and promoting outstanding service projects to other sectors and the general public. As a result, the Awards would no longer be presented at the annual AGM; instead, they would be featured at the S+Summit, allowing for broader visibility and showcasing exemplary services to the public.

Mr. Chua also elaborated that the categories of the Awards were designed to capture various aspects of NGO operations and their excellent service interventions. In response to member agencies' concerns, a balanced approach would be adopted to ensure that the Awards were presented fairly and to the most qualified recipients, regardless of their size or any factors that might disadvantage certain types of NGOs. Overall, Members expressed support for the Awards, recognizing its potential to enhance service professionalism and strive for service excellence.

3.2 Gerontech and Innovation Expo cum Summit (GIES)

Mr. Chua introduced the upcoming 8th Gerontech and Innovation Expo cum Summit (GIES), which was co-hosted by the Council and the HKSAR Government, and co-organized by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation. The event was set to take place from November 21 to 24, 2024 (Thursday to Sunday) at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre Hall 1ABC. Additionally, an online summit was scheduled for October 9 and 10. All Members of the Executive Committee were invited to attend.

3.3 Gerontechnology Platform (GTP)

Mr. Chua also reported that GTP organized a "Hong Kong Zone" at the 8th (Guangzhou) International Elderly Health Industry Expo, held from August 23 to 25, 2024. This initiative aimed to promote the application of gerontechnology in social services to the Greater Bay Area (GBA) audience and to engage with new and potential stakeholders for collaborative information exchange and mutual benefits. Nine gerontechnology companies participated in the Hong Kong Zone to showcase their products. Feedback from the GBA audience was positive, and the Council would continue to strengthen its presence in the GBA to advance gerontechnology and elderly care initiatives in the region.

3.4 Care Food Restaurant Incubation Scheme

Mr. Chua highlighted that the scheme aimed to facilitate restaurants in providing Care Food meals to improve the dining experience for individuals with dysphagia in the community. We had engaged restaurants such as Fairwood, Café de Coral, and Yung Kee to participate in the scheme, and we had invited LegCo members to try the food. The goal was to offer an alternative option for preparing Care Food for the elderly, particularly in residential care homes, which could be very beneficial. Additionally, this initiative aimed to test the market and attract involvement of the business sector in providing Care Food. Ultimately, the Care Food could be mass promoted to the public for their benefit.

To note the Position of Funds

4. Ms. Elizabeth Law, Honorary Treasurer, presented an update on the Council's financial position as of July and August 2024, covering the status of reserves, fund balances, budgets, and the current status of ongoing projects. Noting that there were no significant deviations from the budget, Members acknowledged and endorsed the financial report.

To note and approve the Membership Applications

5. Members noted and endorsed the membership applications from concerned agencies. Regarding the membership applications of the other agencies that were not accepted after careful consideration by the Members, the membership unit would follow the established procedures to inform these agencies of the decision accordingly.

To note and approve the Change of Legal Status of Agency Member

6. Members noted the management's report indicating that the change in legal status for the concerned agency did not conflict with the Council's membership requirements concerning mission and service provision. Therefore, Members endorsed the proposed change in legal status, while the agency's membership status within the Council remained unchanged.

To note and approve the Termination / Withdrawal of Agency Membership

7. Members noted and endorsed the membership withdrawal of the agency:

To note and approve to Open New Bank Accounts with DBS Bank Hong Kong Ltd. for Two HKCSS Programs Supported by DBS Foundation (Singapore)

8. Members were invited to note that this paper followed up on an email sent to the Executive Committee on 9 August 2024, regarding the need to open two new bank accounts with DBS Bank Hong Kong Ltd. to receive donations from DBS Foundation (Singapore). Mr. Chua then sought formal endorsement for this action, and Members were invited to approve the opening of the accounts, with signing authority consistent with that of the existing accounts. Members confirmed and officially granted their approval.

To note and approve the Authorization of the Council's Chief Executive to Sign the Tenancy Agreement with The Urban Renewal Authority (URA)

9. Members noted and endorsed that the Council's Chief Executive be authorized to sign the tenancy agreement with The Urban Renewal Authority (URA) for the 19 units at Shun Sing Mansion (7A, 7D, 11C, 12B, 18A, 18C, 19D, 20A, 21B, 21C, 22C, 23A, 23B, 23C, 24D, 25A, 25B, 25C, 25D), 466 Des Voeux Road West, Hong Kong.

To note and approve the Annual Financial Report of HKCSS for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

10. Ms. Elizabeth Law, the Honorary Treasurer, presented the Audited Financial Report of the Council as of March 31, 2024. She highlighted the consolidated financial positions, including income and expenditure, cash flow, as well as the LSG, PF reserves, and fund balances of the Council. Ms. Law noted that the Audited Financial Report accurately reflected the Council's financial position, with only minor wording amendments suggested by the auditor, which did not affect the overall financial results. In response to a Member's inquiry about the status of ILRC, which had been inactive, Ms. Law would follow up with management on this issue. With no further questions raised, Members received and endorsed the Report.

To consider the Management of Lump Sum Grant (LSG) Reserve and Provident Fund (PF) Reserve for Non-Snapshot Staff

11. Ms. Elizabeth Law, the Honorary Treasurer, reported on the status of the Lump Sum Grant (LSG) Reserve and the Provident Fund (PF) Reserve for Non-Snapshot Staff. She sought Members' advice on the utilization of these reserves. After discussion, Members expressed their agreement and supported Management's recommendation to use the LSG and PF reserves for the Council's future service and manpower development, taking into account the cost apportionment exercise and PF contributions for staff. Mr. Chua further noted that the updated status and utilization of the reserves would be communicated to all staff, agency members, and the public through appropriate channels. Members acknowledged and endorsed this decision.

To note and approve the Co-option of Members to the Executive Committee

12. Members noted the management's recommendation for the reappointment of Hon. Bernard CHAN, Revd Canon Hon Peter Douglas KOON, Dr. Hon. LAM Ching Choi, and Dr. CC LUK as co-opted members for another two-year term from 2024 to 2026. As requested, the attendance records of the current term would be provided for reference. Mr. Chua added that the decision to continue the co-option was based on their valuable contributions in guiding the Council in various capacities. With the ExCo's endorsement, Mr. Chua would proceed with extending invitations to these individuals. Members noted and supported this recommendation.

To note and approve the Extension of Signing Authority of Office-Bearers

13. Members acknowledged the need for continuity and approved the extension of signing authority for the current office-bearers of the ExCo until the completion of any transitions in office-bearing positions during the new governance term of 2024/2025.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. Members were informed that the Council's 77th Annual General Meeting was scheduled for 12 November 2024, at the Council's Auditorium. Invitations would be sent to Members of the ExCo in due course.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.