

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Service Development (Family & Community)

Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service (2023-24) held on May 22, 2024 (Wednesday) at Room 201, 2/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present

Ms Agnes LEUNG (Chairperson)	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong
Ms Monica CHEUNG (Vice-chairperson)	Caritas – Hong Kong
Ms Cecily MA (Vice-chairperson)	Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Ms Judy CHAN	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Mr Jonathan CHAN	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre
Mr Kerin CHAM	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
Dr Anna CHOI	The University of Hong Kong
Ms May LAU	Chow Tai Fook
Ms May Lee	Sidebyside
Ms Phoebe WAN	Wofoo Social Enterprises Limited
Ms Irene SO	ZeShan Foundation
Ms Terry TSUI	Hong Kong Children & Youth Services
Mr Mike CHEUNG	Hong Kong Christian Service
Ms Angela CHENG	Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers
Ms Carmen LIAU	Breakthrough Limited
Ms Doris LEE	Harmony House Limited
Mr Peace WONG	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Jobe HSU	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Mr Jim HOE	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Qubie TANG	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Kylie WONG (recorder)	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Apologies

Mr Yip Kin Chung	Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited
Ms Joyce TSE	Christian Family Service Centre
Ms Cindy YIU	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
Ms Lincole CHAN	Salvation Army, The
Ms Carrie CHUNG	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Dr Janet LEUNG	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on March 13, 2024, was circulated by email on May 16, 2024, and was confirmed.

2. For Discussion

2.1 Strategic Repositioning under the New Arrangement of WAPS

Mr. Peace WONG confirmed this year's Social Welfare Department will not collaborate with the Council on the Welfare Agenda & Priorities Setting (WAPS), but Council will still submit the WAPS position paper to the government. He had previously circulated the WAPS paper via email last week to members without receiving any feedback before submitting it to the EXCO. It will subsequently to the government after endorsed by the EXCO.

Ms. Agnes LEUNG noted that although WAPS will not be held this year, the three prepared topics could be presented on different platforms to consistently address and reflect these issues to the government, enhancing understanding of social sector concerns.

Under the changes in tradition channel for advocacy, members proposed Council could consider the following alternative to effect changes:

- Actively engage district officers of the SWD for the advocacy of specific agenda.
- Establish service models by pioneer projects and encourage the government to follow suit. The experience in social housing can be followed hereafter.
- Research-driven approach should be adopted for advocacy by collecting and analyzing data to reflect community and NGO voices.
- Incorporate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles more prominently to enhance the Council's involvement in social services and investments.

- Initiate discussions with major institutions for strategic alignment and collaboration.

Mr. Wong emphasized Council was actively responding to the changing environment and finding new strategy to effect changes. The ongoing development of platforms like S+ for bringing social welfare issues to different stakeholders and share insights is one of Council's recent initiative. The Council's management expressed a keen interest in understanding committee members' thoughts and feedback to assist in rethinking the Council's positioning.

2.2 Follow up issues of Mandatory Reporting System & 4.1 Working Group on Mandatory Reporting System content update

Mr. Peace WONG reported on a meeting with legislators discussing challenges faced by the social sectors, observations, and concrete suggestions before the Legislative Council meeting on Mandatory Reporting System.

After collecting feedback, in the Legislative Council's "Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Ordinance Draft" committee meeting on April 29, 2024, several amendments were suggested by the government:

(一) 在《條例草案》新增附表，列明甚麼傷害會構成「嚴重傷害」以增加舉報門檻的確定性，該附表可透過附屬法例修訂。

(二) 刪除第 4 (4) (a) 條，並清楚列明政府提出檢控時須證明指明專業人員確實產生懷疑。

(三) 加入新的免責辯護條款，容許指明專業人員以合理辯解為理由不作出舉報。確實懷疑兒童遭受嚴重傷害或正面對遭受嚴重傷害，又未能符合任何豁免情況及提出任何合理辯解下仍不作舉報，才會被檢控。

Ms. Judy CHAN and Mr. Kerin CHAM reported progress on the guidebook. Some major concern of the Social Welfare sector (e.g. more details definition of child abuse) will be addressed in the guidebook.

Mr. Jonathan Chan updated that the Legislative Council is scheduled to reconvene on June 1, 2024, when the Guidebook will be presented.

Additionally, Mr. Jim Hoe has provided an update regarding the children's residential center. It has been confirmed that this facility, located in Tsui Ping, Kwun Tong, will focus on serving children aged 3-6 and is expected to start operations in the year 2025-2026.

3. For Information

3.1 Progress update (March to May 2024) (Paper1)

The Progress Report from Mar to May 2024 of Family and Community Service was sent to members for information on May 16, 2024. Ms Qubie TSANG & Mr Joe HOE highlighted the gist in the meeting.

Mr. Jim Hoe has announced an upcoming series of online seminars organized by the Red Cross focused on disaster prevention. Another seminar will address the topic on supporting infant of mothers with substance abuse behavior during pregnancy. The final seminar about supporting substance abuse parents will have its information shared via WhatsApp after the session.

Additionally, Mr. Peace Wong has called on members to invite members to participate in the CD network's working groups. These groups include the Community Living Room, CD resources book, primary health, and community market working group.

4. Matters Arising

4.2 Follow up issues of S+

Mr. Peace Wong has invited members to make a quick evaluation on S+. Below is the comment of the members:

➤ Summit Content and Diversity

The lectures offered at the summit were highly engaging and diverse, receiving positive feedback from attendees.

- Exhibition Layout and Participation

This year's exhibition space was notably larger, accommodating a variety of new, innovative NGOs which brought added vibrancy to the event.
- Clarification on S+ and Caring Company

There was some confusion among members about the equivalence of S+ and Caring Company, leading to missed opportunities for booth applications. Increased promotional efforts are suggested to clarify this relationship.
- Visibility of Caring Company Booths

The location of Caring Company booths was found to be distant and not prominent, potentially affecting visitor engagement.
- Understanding of Exhibition Impact

A lack of clarity to explain the potential impact of participating in the exhibition deterred some members from setting up booths.
- Physical Certificates for Caring Companies

Offering physical certificates could attract more Caring Companies to the summit and enhance networking opportunities.
- Increase Seminar Capacity

There is a need to increase sitting quota for seminars to allow greater participation.
- Bilingual

To enhance inclusivity and boost participation among non-Chinese speakers, it is recommended that invitations be issued in both languages and simultaneous interpretation (SI) services be provided.
- Fee Waivers for Small Organizations

Given the limited budget of smaller organizations, providing

opportunities for fee waivers is recommended.

4 Any Other Business

5.1 Updated SC-FC 2324 Meeting Schedule (Paper2)

The sixth meeting date has been rescheduled from September 11, 2024, to September 10, 2024. Members have been notified via email on May 16, 2024.

5.2 Promotion

Ms. Monica CHEUNG, Dr. Anna CHOI, Ms. Terry TSUI, Ms. May Lee, Ms. Doris LEE, and Ms. Carmen LIAU promoted various activities, encouraging participation, and sharing among colleagues.

5.3 Site Visit

Following the meeting, members visited the 《雪櫃暖說話 - 打開家庭心底話》 interactive workshop organized by the Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong.

5 Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on **Jul 10, 2024 (Wednesday) at 2:30 pm in Room 202**, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Adopted by

Chairperson

on the _____ day of _____ 2024