

THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE
Service Development (Family & Community)
Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Specialized Committee on Family and Community Service (2023-24) held on Sep 16, 2024 (Monday) at Council Chamber, 4/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building at Wanchai.

Present

Ms Agnes LEUNG (Chairperson)	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong
Ms Cecily MA (Vice-chairperson)	Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Ms Judy CHAN	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Ms Monica CHEUNG (Vice-chairperson)	Caritas – Hong Kong
Ms Joyce TSE	Christian Family Service Centre
Ms Irene SO	ZeShan Foundation
Ms Cindy YIU	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
Ms May LAU	Chow Tai Fook
Mr Yip Kin Chung	Hong Kong Evangelical Church Social Service Limited
Ms Carmen LIAU	Breakthrough Limited
Ms Carrie CHUNG	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Ms Doris LEE	Harmony House Limited
Ms Terry TSUI	Hong Kong Children & Youth Services
Mr Kerin CHAM	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch
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 Queenie KWOK	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Alice LAW	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Ms Sandra WONG (recorder)	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Apologies

Dr Janet LEUNG	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Mr Jonathan CHAN	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre
Mr Mike CHEUNG	Hong Kong Christian Service
Dr Anna CHOI	The University of Hong Kong
Ms Phoebe WAN	Wofoo Social Enterprises Limited
Ms Angela CHENG	Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers
Ms May Lee	SidebySide
Ms Lincole CHAN	The Salvation Army,

1. **Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting**

Members approved the minutes of the last meeting.

2. **For Discussion**

2.1 Issue of Concern on the “Mandated Reporter Guide”

Ms. Agnes Leung mentioned that the committee includes two expert panel members, Ms. Judy Chan and Mr. Kerin Cham, who are more familiar with the progress and application. Mr. Kerin Cham reported on the progress in the legislative assembly that the Mandated Reporter Guide (the Guide) was submitted by the Social Welfare Department in May and subsequently amended and approved by the Legislative Council. The expert panel will meet at the end of September to discuss its contents.

During the meeting, members shared various opinions and expected there will be difficulties for the sector in adopting the guide, such as challenges in the drug sector. As the guide is still not make available for the sector, it is still difficult for the sector to proactively response to the guide. Some members suggested that examples and definitions in the Guide should cover different areas to help frontline staff better identify and handle severe child abuse cases.

Furthermore, Ms. Agnes Leung reiterated that the Guide should only be used in severe cases and must adhere to existing child abuse guidelines. She proposed HKCSS to provide trainings and sharing platform to better understand the Guide.

Mr. Peace Wong stated that HKCSS can fill in the gap that is uncovered by the internal training provided by the Social Welfare Department. He will further discuss with colleagues in the children and youth service unit and rehabilitation service to proceed.

3. **For Information**

3.1 Progress update

3.3.1 2025 National Symposium on Drug Abuse Prevention and Control

Mr. Jim Hoe reported that he recently held a meeting with the Chinese Association of Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment and the Social Welfare Bureau of the MSAR Government. There are apprehensions regarding the session dates.

Mr. Jim Hoe reported that the symposium is scheduled to take place between July and October 2025, featuring a two-day meeting in Saint Francis University followed by a one-day study tour.

3.3.2 DBSF x HKCSS: Family-Centric Financial Literacy Education Programme

Mr. Jim Hoe introduced the program which aims as enhancing the financial resilience of underprivileged families. It focuses on

strengthening family relationships towards achieving financial goals, addressing financial difficulties, and facilitating open discussions.

Mr. Jim Hoe reported that the program consists of three levels, including Mass Program, mini lectures on basic knowledge related to financial literacy and small group workshops encouraging family communication in finance related issue.

Mr. Jim Hoe reported that recruitment of operators will be in September to October 2024.

3.3.3 PRAISE 2.0 - PProject for Adaptation, Inclusion and Social integration for Ethnic minorities 2.0

Ms. Queenie KWOK introduced PRAISE 1.0, with the HKSKH Lady MacLehose Centre and the Yuen Long Town Hall as partners, will apply for funding to launch a new phase for the next 3 years.

Ms. Queenie KWOK mentioned that this programme aims to take a long-term perspective to adopt a bottom-up, people-centered, and family-based approach to make change in the EM community and to facilitate deeper engagement with essential stake holders in society.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Follow-up on The Children Proceedings (Parental Responsibility) Bill update

Ms. Qubie TANG reported that Hon LAM San-keung, JP has raised the discussion on the “Parental Responsibility Bill” (the bill) at the Panel on Welfare Services on 17 June in 2024. The government responded that there is controversy between supporters and opponents of the bill. The government will collect feedback from user survey of the 5 Specialized Co-Parenting Support Center and IFSC from July to November for further analysis. However, some members concerned that the problems on the question design of the survey which may lead to biased result.

Besides, Ms. Qubie TANG informed that HKCSS planned to invite lawyers to discuss the bills in order to equip the sector to better understand the implication of the Bills. HKCSS will invite different stakeholders such as women’s groups and single-parent organizations for further discussions.

5. Any Other Business

Members promoted various activities to encourage committees’ participation and sharing among colleagues:

The Asian Family Summit 2024

The Asian Family Summit 2024 is scheduled to take place from December 27 to December 29. Ms. Judy Chan encouraged members to participate in this event.

The STEP

Ms. Agnes Leung invited members to join the celebration of The STEP, set for September 24, 2024, in Ngau Tam Mei.

S+ Expo 2025

Mr. Peace WONG promoted that the next S+ Summit cum Expo will be held on May 20 and 21, 2025 in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and sincerely invited interested organizations to participate in the upcoming briefing sessions (Sept 20 and Oct 8) for this event.

Other updated information

Carman Liau reported that her center has invited Dr. Lam Mei Ling to share insights on managing the withdrawal from studying and the transition back to school. Her center had planned to create support groups for parents, fostering connections and providing assistance among those facing similar situations.

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would confirm the details by email.

Adopted by

Chairperson

on the _____ day of _____ 2024