



香港家庭福利會 Hong Kong Family Welfare Society

Submission to Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services
Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence

Meeting on 20 June 05 to discuss
Centralized Mechanism to Handle Family Violence

We perceive the 'Centralized Mechanism' should be in a position to coordinate, enhance, and advise governmental departments as well as multi-disciplinary sector to tackle family violence in Hong Kong.

The pursuit of this submission is for a review of the present modality.

1. Review on the Modality of Centralized Mechanism needed

- 1.1 We are in favor of the three bodies (committee on child abuse, combating violence, elderly abuse) to remain separate from each other, as they have different functions and focuses. However, common issues identified in the three bodies should be tackled by a joint meeting with members coming from the three bodies. The joint meeting could generate synergy and avoid overlapping of manpower. Should any issues discussed in the joint meeting require further inputs and indepth discussion, special task force could set up to provide further views and suggest to joint meeting for follow up. Common issues handled by the joint meeting could be law reform, fatality review, public education, research, training etc ...
- 1.2 We urge for a review in the membership of the bodies so as to have a well balance of coverage of representatives e.g. in Working Group of Elderly Abuse, members from NGO are not balanced.

2. Format of the Centralized Mechanism should be looked into

- 2.1 Meetings should be held regularly with pre-set agenda discussed among members beforehand

3. Agenda proposed for Centralized Mechanism

- 3.1 Advocate for a review on the present allocation of resources, service

modality, its effectiveness and future direction in tackling family violence. As the community is aware of the negative effects and severity of problem related to violence, including family violence, child abuse, elderly abuse and sexual violence, the demand for special services to cater the concerned victims and their family members is prominent. Apart from the existing services rendered by Integrated Family Services Centres (IFSCs), specialized assistance are essential to provide intensive service and professional support to the victims and their family members. Hence, providing additional resources in sustaining the specialized services or developing expertise in mainstreaming service is necessary.

3.2 Demand for the establishment of a Fatality Review Committee

- To improve adequate and timely services for family and children having threats of being abused or violent acts, regular review on service is essential. Apart from regular case review, fatality review on cases on fatal cases caused by child abuse act and family violence should be established. All the cases of the aforementioned nature should be looked into despite whether the case has received service from welfare sector or not.
- The scope and implementation schedule should be looked into. It can start with small scale to look into children's death both from family violence and also neglect cases. Then it should be further extended to fatal case of adult (including elderly cases) resulted from family violence, and also to survivors from serious injury whenever possible.
- The review would enhance the understanding and formulation of strategy to tackle family violence by improvement of service and risk management, elimination of service gaps and enhancement of cross-sectoral collaboration, etc.

3.3 Follow up on Hong Kong University's research report on child abuse and spouse abuse

3.4 Discuss and implement treatment to abusers

3.5 Review on the cooperation of Governmental Departments and NGOs in the use of multidisciplinary guidelines. Views from frontline staff and clients should be included

3.6 Review on Immigration policy to enable battered spouse who came from mainland has the choice of returning to homeland as an alternative