

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)221/06-07

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Thursday, 12 October 2006, at 11:30 am**  
**in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

**Members present** : Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP (Chairman)  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

**Members absent** : Hon Bernard CHAN, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

**Clerk in attendance** : Ms Doris CHAN  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

**Staff in attendance** : Mrs Vivian KAM  
Assistant Secretary General 2

Miss Betty MA  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 1

Mr Chris LAI  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 7

Miss Maggie CHIU  
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

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**I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the 2006-2007 session**

[Appendixes III and IV to LC Paper No. CB(2)6/06-07]

Election of Chairman

Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Chairman of the Panel in office, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel. Miss CHAN Yuen-han was nominated by Mrs Sophie LEUNG and the nomination was seconded by Ms LI Fung-ying. Miss CHAN Yuen-han accepted the nomination. As there was no other nomination, Dr CHEUNG declared Miss CHAN Yuen-han elected as Chairman of the Panel for the 2006-2007 session.

Election of Deputy Chairman

2. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel. Dr Fernando CHEUNG was nominated by Mrs Sophie LEUNG and the nomination was seconded by Ms LI Fung-ying, Mr Alan LEONG and Mr LEE Cheuk-yan. Dr Fernando CHEUNG accepted the nomination.

3. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Dr Fernando CHEUNG elected as Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2006-2007 session.

**II. Schedule of meetings for the 2006-2007 session**

4. Members agreed to hold regular meetings for the 2006-2007 session on the second Monday of each month at 10:45 am. As the second Monday of April 2007 was a public holiday, members agreed that the regular meeting of the Panel for that month would be held on 12 April 2007 at 2:30 pm.

**III. Items for discussion at the next meeting**

Regular meeting on 13 November 2006

5. Members agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting on 13 November 2006 –

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- (a) Partnership fund for the disadvantaged; and
- (b) Review of the design manual: barrier free access 1997.

(*Post-meeting note* : Discussion of item (a) was deferred with the addition of a new item on "Annual adjustment of the standard payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and Social Security Allowance Scheme".)

6. Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed concern about a newspaper report that the Social Welfare Department had terminated the contract with an information technology contractor for the development of the Client Information System (CIS) which amounted to \$240 million. He said that the Administration should be requested to give an account of the incident, the financial implications of the decision to terminate the contract and the implementation timetable for CIS.

7. Ms LI Fung-ying was concerned that there would be insufficient time to discuss all of the three items at the next regular meeting, if Dr CHEUNG's proposal was added to the agenda of the meeting. Mrs Sophie LEUNG shared the concern of Ms LI Fung-ying.

8. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that he had no strong views on whether the Panel should discuss the issue at the next regular meeting. To facilitate members' consideration as to whether the issue should be discussed by the Panel at a future meeting, he suggested that the Administration should first be requested to provide an information paper before the next regular meeting. Members agreed.

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Items for discussion at future meetings

9. Mrs Sophie LEUNG said that as quite a number of initiatives in the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2006-2007 was related to the portfolio of welfare, these initiatives should be added to the list of outstanding items for discussion by the Panel. The Chairman suggested and members agreed to defer a decision on the suggestion after receiving the briefing by the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2006-2007 to be held on 13 October 2006.

10. Dr KWOK Ka-ki proposed to include the following items in the list of outstanding items for discussion by the Panel –

- (a) Services and support for juvenile drug abusers; and
- (b) Residential care homes and private homes for the elderly and mentally disabled.

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On item (a) above, Dr KWOK suggested that deputations, particularly frontline social workers, should be invited to give views to the Panel on the severity of the problem and the difficulties faced by social workers when the item was discussed.

11. Mrs Sophie LEUNG said that while she did not object to gauging views from deputations on specific problems, she was concerned with the effective use of meeting time. The experience in the 2005-2006 session showed that the large of number of deputations invited to make oral representations to the Panel and subcommittees of the Panel had left very little time for members and the Administration to discuss the relevant subject matters. Mrs LEUNG was of the view that, as a matter of principle, the Panel should focus its discussion on the policy aspects with a view to identifying the inadequacies in and making improvements to the existing policies. Deputations would be invited to attend meetings of the Panel only when necessary. Mrs LEUNG hoped that in the 2006-2007 session, deputations should only be invited to attend Panel meetings with the endorsement of the Panel.

12. Dr Fernando CHEUNG agreed with Mrs Sophie LEUNG that the Panel should focus on policy issues. However, he held the view that Panel meetings could also provide a forum for relevant stakeholders to express their views on issues of public concern.

13. As regards the first discussion item proposed by Dr KWOK Ka-ki, the Chairman recalled that the Panel on Health Services had previously discussed issues relating to drug abuse. She considered it more appropriate to hold a joint meeting with the Panel on Health Services when the subject was discussed. The Chairman added that the Panel had discussed matters relating to residential care homes and private homes for the elderly. As deputations had been invited to give their views on the subject matter on previous occasions, the need to invite deputations again would not arise.

14. Members agreed to include the two items proposed by Dr KWOK Ka-ki in the list of items for discussion by the Panel at future meetings.

**IV. Any other business**

Subcommittee on Review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme and Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence

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15. The Chairman said that two subcommittees had been formed under the Panel, viz. the Subcommittee on Review of the CSSA Scheme and Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence. The Chairman further said that the work of the two subcommittees would continue as their work had not yet been completed.

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16. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the Subcommittee on Review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme would be able to complete its work and provide a report to the Panel after holding further discussions with the Administration on a few outstanding issues, such as the disregarded earnings arrangement under the CSSA Scheme.

17. Mrs Sophie LEUNG said that as the Administration had indicated that it would introduce the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill within the current legislative session to render better protection for victims of domestic violence, it would be an opportune time for the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence to conclude its work. The Administration should be requested to provide periodic progress reports to the Panel on the legislative timetable.

18. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence had not yet completed its work. As the Administration was working on the drafting of the amendments to the Domestic Violence Ordinance, the Subcommittee could provide input in this regard. The Chairman expressed a similar view.

19. Ms LI Fung-ying said that it would be more appropriate for the Subcommittee to consider its way forward and bear in mind the need to confine its work within a specified time frame. Dr KWOK Ka-ki shared Ms LI Fung-ying's view.

20. The Chairman said that it would be for the subcommittees to review their respective work plans in the light of members' views. The Chairman added that the membership of the subcommittees would be re-opened to Panel members and it would be for the subcommittees to decide at their respective first meetings if there should be a re-election of their Chairmen.

21. The Chairman reminded members that the next meeting of the Panel would be held on 13 October 2006 at 4:30 pm to receive a briefing by the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2006-2007.

22. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:00 pm.