

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)932/07-08

(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PS/1/04

Panel on Welfare Services

**Subcommittee on Review of the
Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme**

**Minutes of the 22nd meeting
held on Friday, 4 January 2008, at 3:00 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Members absent : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP

Clerk in attendance : Miss Betty MA
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in attendance : Ms Maisie LAM
Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Draft report of the Subcommittee on Review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme
[LC Paper No. CB(2)652/07-08]

The Subcommittee deliberated (Index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

2. Members considered the draft report of the Subcommittee prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat, and deliberated on the recommendations in the draft report. Members agreed to make the following amendments to the draft report –

- (a) to add "the Administration should relax the disregarded earnings (DE) arrangements under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme" to paragraph 60 (i.e. the Subcommittee's recommendations). As the Panel on Welfare Services (the Panel) had been briefed on 30 March 2007 on the outcome of the Administration's review of the scope for the DE arrangements, a new paragraph outlining the latest DE arrangements should be added to the report accordingly;
- (b) to revise paragraph 60(d) to read as "relax the residence requirement for applying for CSSA. Most members also suggest that the Administration should consider removing the seven-year residence requirement", in order to reflect different views expressed by members on the residence requirement under the CSSA Scheme; and
- (c) to add a concluding paragraph that the Subcommittee expressed regret at the Administration's reluctance to take heed of the suggestions made by the Subcommittee on the existing arrangements of the CSSA Scheme.

3. Members agreed that the revised report incorporating the amendments would be circulated to members for consideration, and the Subcommittee would submit the report to the Panel on 14 January 2008.

(Post-meeting note : The revised report of the Subcommittee was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)772/07-08 on 8 January 2008.)

4. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that a motion debate on the report should be moved at a Council meeting so as to provide an opportunity for Members to express their views on the subject and for the Administration to provide its response. Members also agreed the wording of the motion tabled at the meeting. The Chairman said that the agreement of the Panel and the House Committee would be sought for the allocation of a debate slot to him under House Rule 14A(h) for moving a motion at the Council meeting on 20 February 2008.

Action

(Post-meeting note : The Panel endorsed the Subcommittee's report at the meeting on 14 January 2008 and agreed to seek the House Committee's agreement on 25 January 2008 for allocation of a debate slot to the Chairman under House Rule 14A(h) for moving a motion on the Subcommittee's report at the Council meeting on 20 February 2008.)

5. The Chairman said that the Subcommittee would be dissolved upon presentation of its report to the Panel on 14 January 2008.

II. Any other business

6. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:32 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
28 January 2008

**Proceedings of the 22nd meeting of the
Subcommittee on Review of the
Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme
on Friday, 4 January 2008, at 3:00 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
000000 - 000258	Chairman Mr LEE Cheuk-yan	The Chairman's suggestion that the Subcommittee should seek the agreement of the Panel on Welfare Services (the Panel) and the House Committee under House Rule 14A(h) for the allocation of a debate slot to the Chairman for moving a motion on the Subcommittee's report at a Council meeting	
000259 - 000457	Chairman Mr LEE Cheuk-yan	Mr LEE Cheuk-yan's suggestion to add a concluding paragraph to the report	
000458 - 001003	Miss CHAN Yuen-han Chairman Mr TAM Yiu-chung	Miss CHAN Yuen-yan's concurrence with the suggestion of Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Discussion on Miss CHAN Yuen-han's suggestion to add "relax the Disregarded Earnings (DE) arrangements under the CSSA Scheme" to paragraph 60 (i.e. recommendations of the Subcommittee) of the draft report Views of Mr TAM Yiu-chung that the report should also provide an update of the latest DE arrangements under the CSSA Scheme	
001004 - 002959	Mr TAM Yiu-chung Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Mr Frederick FUNG Miss CHAN Yuen-han Mr Alan LEONG	Discussion on paragraph 60(d) of the draft report concerning the residence requirement under the CSSA Scheme	
003000 - 003212	Chairman Mr Frederick FUNG Miss CHAN Yuen-han Mr Alan LEONG	Discussion on the wording of the motion to be moved at the Council meeting	
003213 - 003332	Chairman Clerk CHAN Yuen-han	Arrangements for seeking the agreement of the Panel and the House Committee for allocation of a debate slot to the Chairman for moving a motion on the Subcommittee's report at the Council meeting on 20 February 2008	