

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)627/07-08

(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PS/1/07

Panel on Welfare Services

Subcommittee on Elderly Services

**Minutes of the first meeting
held on Friday, 30 November 2007, at 2:00 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

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

Members absent : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, 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

I. Election of Chairman

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

2. Mr Frederick FUNG was elected Chairman of the Subcommittee for the 2007-2008 session. Members also agreed that election of a deputy chairman of the Subcommittee was not necessary.

II. Work plan

[LC Paper No. CB(2)436/07-08(01)]

3. Members agreed to adopt the terms of reference and work plan of the Subcommittee as endorsed by the Panel on Welfare Services (the Panel).

4. The Chairman said that as agreed by the Panel at the meeting on 12 November 2007, the Subcommittee would also follow up on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty in its Report on Elderly in Poverty, which had been forwarded to the Administration for consideration in the last session. Dr Fernando CHEUNG, who was Chairman of the Panel, added that while the Subcommittee would follow up issues relating to elderly services, the Panel would discuss the legislative and funding proposals regarding such issues in accordance with the established practice.

5. Members noted that the Administration proposed to brief members at the next Subcommittee meeting about the pilot scheme on carers' training and care services, which was one of the welfare initiatives relating to elderly care and elderly services announced in the 2007-2008 Policy Address. Members held the view that as the Subcommittee would have to complete its work and report to the Panel by June 2008, the Subcommittee should focus its study on specific areas. Given that members were supportive of the pilot scheme, it would not be necessary to discuss the subject at the moment and the implementation of the pilot scheme could be followed up by the Panel.

6. Members agreed that the Subcommittee would focus its study on three major areas –

- (a) provision of financial assistance for the needy elderly, including the eligibility criteria for and the allowances payable under the Social Security Assistance Schemes, and the setting up of a universal old age pension scheme;
- (b) the provision of elderly day care places and residential care places for the elderly and purpose-built housing units for middle-class elderly, as well as the regulation of the service standards of residential care homes for the elderly; and

- (c) medical services and care for the poor elderly, such as the provision of integrated support for elderly hospital dischargees who had difficulty in taking care of themselves.

Members further agreed that members of other relevant Panels should be invited to join the discussion on matters of common interest if necessary.

7. The Subcommittee agreed to discuss with the Administration the provision of support and assistance for the poor elderly at the next meeting.

III. Date of next meeting

8. Members agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 18 December 2007, at 10:45 am.

9. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:30 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
17 December 2007

**Proceedings of the first meeting of the
Subcommittee on Elderly Services
on Friday, 30 November 2007, at 2:00 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
000000 - 000310	Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Dr Fernando CHEUNG Mr Alan LEONG Mr Frederick FUNG	Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman	
000311 - 000416	Chairman	The terms of reference and work plan of the Subcommittee	
000417 - 000443	Dr Fernando CHEUNG	Delineation of work between the Subcommittee and the Panel on Welfare Services, i.e. the Subcommittee would follow up issues relating to elderly services, and the Panel would discuss the legislative and funding proposals regarding such issues in accordance with the established practice	
000444 - 000657	Chairman Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Dr Fernando CHEUNG	The Administration's proposal to brief members on the pilot scheme on carers' training and care services at the next Subcommittee meeting	
000658 - 000911	Chairman Mr LEE Cheuk-yan	Views of Mr LEE Cheuk-yan that the Subcommittee should address the following issues - (a) review of the Old Age Allowance if necessary; (b) the stringent eligibility criteria for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme which had deterred some needy elders from applying for CSSA, notably the assets limit and the requirement for applying on a household basis; and (c) the conditions of the residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS) as well as measures to improve the service standards of the non-EBPS places in private RCHEs	
000912 - 001221	Chairman Miss CHAN Yuen-han	Views of Miss CHAN Yuen-han that the Subcommittee should focus its discussion on the following areas - (a) financial assistance for needy elders including the setting up of a universal old age pension scheme; and (b) medical needs of the elders, particularly those elders having little or no financial means and elderly hospital dischargees who had difficulty in taking care of themselves	
001222 - 001513	Chairman Mr Alan LEONG Miss CHAN Yuen-han	Mr Alan LEONG's concern about the eligibility criteria for and the provision of housing units under the Hong Kong Housing Society's Senior Citizen Residence Scheme	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		Mr LEONG's suggestion that the Subcommittee should also address the demand for purpose-built housing units by middle-class elders	
001514 - 001611	Chairman Miss CHAN Yuen-han	Suggested approach for dealing with areas of study of the Subcommittee	
001612 - 002021	Dr Fernando CHEUNG Miss CHAN Yuen-han Chairman	Views of Dr Fernando CHEUNG that the Subcommittee should monitor the Administration in implementing the initiatives as set out in the Policy Address and the Policy Agenda on the one hand, and review the adequacy of the existing provision of elderly services, such as the private RCHEs, dental care services, telephone booking system for public general out-patient services and long waiting time for public specialist out-patient services, on the other	
002022 - 002044	Chairman	The major study areas of the Subcommittee - (a) the provision of financial assistance for the needy elders; (b) the provision of housing and residential care services for the elders; and (c) the provision of medical services and care for the elders	
002045 - 002107	Ms LI Fung-ying	Views of Ms LI Fung-ying that the discussion on the provision of residential care places for the elderly should cover the long waiting time for subsidised RCHEs	
002108 - 002444	Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Chairman Dr Fernando CHEUNG Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung	Mr LEE Cheuk-yan's view that the Subcommittee should confine its study on issues relating to the adequacy of the existing provision of support and assistance for the elders, and the Panel could follow up with the Administration on the implementation of the new initiatives as announced in the 2007-2008 Policy Address Views of the Chairman that the Subcommittee should accord priority to the provision of financial assistance for the needy elders Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's view that the Administration should be requested to provide the timetable and budget for implementing the recommendations of the Subcommittee	
002445 - 002600	Miss CHAN Yuen-han	Miss CHAN Yuen-han's concern about the medical needs of poor elders not on CSSA	
002601 - 002718	Miss CHAN Yuen-han Chairman Mr LEE Cheuk-yan	Discussion item for the next meeting	
002719 - 002813	Chairman Miss CHAN Yuen-han Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Mr LEE Cheuk-yan	The Chairman's view that it would not be necessary to invite deputations to make oral representations to the Subcommittee	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		Date of next meeting	

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