

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(3) 401/08-09

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council
To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 4 March 2009

**Proposed amendments to motion on
“Comprehensively improving the effectiveness of
Integrated Family Service Centres”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 377/08-09 issued on 20 February 2009, Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che and Hon Starry LEE Wai-king have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon WONG Sing-chi's motion on “Comprehensively improving the effectiveness of Integrated Family Service Centres” scheduled for the Council meeting of 4 March 2009. As directed by the President, Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che's and Hon Starry LEE's amendments will be printed in the terms in which they were handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

2. To assist Members in debating the above motion and the two amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) Hon WONG Sing-chi moves his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon WONG Sing-chi's motion, and orders a joint debate;
- (c) the President calls on the two Members, who intend to move amendments, to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che; and
 - (ii) Hon Starry LEE;

- (d) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) to speak;
- (e) joint debate on the motion and the two amendments follows thereafter;
- (f) the President gives leave to Hon WONG Sing-chi to speak for the second time on the two amendments;
- (g) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) again to speak;
- (h) in accordance with Rule 34(5) of the Rules of Procedure, the President has decided that he will call upon the two Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on the amendment;
- (i) after Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with Hon Starry LEE's amendment to the motion; and
- (j) after Hon Starry LEE's amendment has been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon WONG Sing-chi to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon WONG Sing-chi's motion, or his motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. For Members' ease of reference, the terms of the original motion and of the motion, if amended, are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Mrs Justina LAM)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Comprehensively improving the effectiveness of
Integrated Family Service Centres”
to be held at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 4 March 2009**

1. Hon WONG Sing-chi’s original motion

That, as the financial tsunami has brought about a severe economic winter and rapidly deteriorating atmosphere in the community, the situation of the multi-stressed and potentially high-risk families is even more acute; the Integrated Family Service Centres (“IFSCs”) are the key players of the front-line social service teams which respond to family crises and prevent family tragedies, whether they can smoothly operate in responding promptly and properly to such social crises is indeed critical to alleviating people’s hardship and fostering an overall harmonious atmosphere in the community; recently there have been ample evidence and voices indicating that if IFSCs are to achieve their functions under the current service mode, the Government has to adjust their service concept and operation mode, in addition to allocating additional resources to IFSCs; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures:

- (a) setting up a central mechanism to regularly and comprehensively assess and co-ordinate the support and services provided by various departments;
- (b) assessing and studying afresh the mission and objectives of IFSCs, and ensuring that the information and data collected through the relevant study must be made public subject to consideration of privacy protection;
- (c) reviewing afresh the staff establishment of IFSCs to ensure that there is sufficient manpower to adequately meet the needs of potentially high-risk families, and providing preventive and support services;
- (d) clearly defining the respective roles of the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) and non-governmental organizations (“NGOs”) and their division of responsibilities in respect of IFSCs;
- (e) examining in depth the difficulties faced by staff of SWD and NGOs working in IFSCs (such as being required to handle non-professional clerical work, and being authorized to vet and approve requests for social resources, etc), and formulating measures for improvement;

- (f) comprehensively reviewing the performance pledge of IFSCs, and setting a service standard that can sensitively and accurately reflect the needs of potentially high-risk families; and
- (g) formulating a comprehensive policy on family service, particularly focusing on the needs of multi-stressed and potentially high-risk families, and exploring how to support and facilitate the healthy development of families in Hong Kong.

2. Motion as amended by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

~~That, as the financial tsunami has brought about a severe economic winter and rapidly deteriorating atmosphere in the community, the situation of the multi-stressed and potentially high-risk families is even more acute;~~ the Integrated Family Service Centres (“IFSCs”) are the key players of the front-line social service teams which respond to family crises and prevent family tragedies, whether they can smoothly operate in responding promptly and properly to such social crises is indeed critical to alleviating people’s hardship and fostering an overall harmonious atmosphere in the community; recently there have been ample evidence and voices indicating that if IFSCs are to achieve their functions under the current service mode, the Government has to adjust their service concept and operation mode, in addition to allocating additional resources to IFSCs; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures:

- (a) setting up a central mechanism to regularly and comprehensively assess and co-ordinate the support and services provided by various departments;
- (b) assessing and studying afresh the mission and objectives of IFSCs, and ensuring that the information and data collected through the relevant study must be made public subject to consideration of privacy protection;
- (c) ~~reviewing afresh~~ ***strictly implementing*** the staff establishment of IFSCs, ***increasing the staff ratio of both supervisory staff and senior practitioners, setting workload indicators for social workers working in IFSCs, and recruiting temporary staff to cope with the additional workload arising from social crises as necessary, so as*** to ensure that there is sufficient manpower to adequately meet the needs of potentially high-risk families, and providing preventive and support services;
- (d) ***increasing the staff establishment of frontline social workers, and monitoring non-governmental organizations (“NGOs”) so that they recruit social workers according to the salary benchmark formulated by the Government, so as to lessen their workload, boost the currently low morale among social workers and enable them to tackle family problems more effectively;***

- (e) ~~clearly defining~~ *striving to standardize* the respective roles of the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) and ~~non-governmental organizations (“NGOs”)~~ *NGOs* and their division of responsibilities in respect of IFSCs, *and giving more powers to NGOs so that they can provide practical assistance (such as housing assistance or Comprehensive Social Security Assistance) to clients in a timely manner;*
- ~~(e)~~(f) examining in depth the difficulties faced by staff of SWD and NGOs working in IFSCs (such as being required to handle non-professional clerical work, and being authorized to vet and approve requests for social resources, etc), ~~and~~ formulating measures for improvement, *strengthening clerical support to staff, and referring non-core counselling or professional services to non-IFSC units for follow-up;*
- ~~(f)~~(g) comprehensively reviewing the performance pledge of IFSCs, and setting a service standard that can sensitively and accurately reflect the needs of potentially high-risk families; ~~and~~
- ~~(g)~~(h) formulating a comprehensive policy on family service, particularly focusing on the needs of multi-stressed and potentially high-risk families, and exploring how to support and facilitate the healthy development of families in Hong Kong; *and*
- (i) *adjusting the population-to-IFSCs ratio to one IFSC serving some 80 000 to 90 000 people, and according priority to setting up IFSCs in “potentially high-risk communities”.*

Note: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon Starry LEE Wai-king

That, as the financial tsunami has brought about a *recently quite a number of families in Hong Kong are struck by the* severe economic winter and rapidly deteriorating atmosphere in the community, the situation of the multi-stressed and potentially high-risk families is even more acute; the Integrated Family Service Centres (“IFSCs”) are the key players of the front-line social service teams which respond to family crises and prevent family tragedies, whether they can smoothly operate in responding promptly and properly to such social crises is indeed critical to alleviating people’s hardship and fostering an overall harmonious atmosphere in the community; recently there have been ample evidence and voices indicating that if IFSCs are to achieve their functions under the current service mode, the Government has to adjust their service concept and operation mode, in addition to allocating additional resources to IFSCs; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures:

- (a) setting up a central mechanism to regularly and comprehensively assess and co-ordinate the support and services provided by various departments;
- (b) assessing and studying afresh the mission and objectives of IFSCs, and ensuring that the information and data collected through the relevant study must be made public subject to consideration of privacy protection;
- (c) reviewing afresh the staff establishment of IFSCs to ensure that there is sufficient manpower to adequately meet the needs of potentially high-risk families, and providing preventive and support services;
- (d) clearly defining the respective roles of the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) and non-governmental organizations (“NGOs”) and their division of responsibilities in respect of IFSCs;
- (e) examining in depth the difficulties faced by staff of SWD and NGOs working in IFSCs (such as being required to handle non-professional clerical work, and being authorized to vet and approve requests for social resources, etc), and formulating measures for improvement;
- (f) comprehensively reviewing the performance pledge of IFSCs, and setting a service standard that can sensitively and accurately reflect the needs of potentially high-risk families; and
- (g) formulating a comprehensive policy on family service, ***including further promoting family-friendly policies, introducing a family impact assessment system and creating a family-friendly environment in workplace, etc, as well as*** particularly focusing on the needs of multi-stressed and potentially high-risk families, and exploring how to support and facilitate the healthy development of families in Hong Kong.

Note: Hon Starry LEE’s amendment is marked in ***bold and italic type*** or with deletion line.