

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)155/08-09
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 14 October 2008, at 12:00 noon
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip (Chairman)
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
- Members absent** : Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
- Member attending** : Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
- Clerk in attendance** : Miss Betty MA
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in attendance : Mr Chris LAI
Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Ms Maisie LAM
Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

[Appendixes II and III to LC Paper No. CB(2)12/08-09]

Election of Chairman

Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, member present who had the highest precedence in the Panel, presided over the election of Chairman. Mr LEE called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2008-2009 session. Mr Albert CHAN was nominated by Ms LI Fung-ying and the nomination was seconded by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, Mr WONG Sing-chi and Mr WONG Kwok-kin. Mr CHAN accepted the nomination.

2. As there was no other nomination, Mr LEE declared Mr Albert CHAN elected as Chairman of the Panel for the 2008-2009 session. Mr CHAN then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel for the 2008-2009 session. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che was nominated by Mr WONG Sing-chi and the nomination was seconded by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, Ms LI Fung-ying and Mr WONG Kwok-kin. Mr CHEUNG accepted the nomination.

4. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che elected as Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2008-2009 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2008-2009 session

5. Members agreed that regular meetings of the Panel would be held on the second Monday of each month at 10:45 am. As 13 April 2009 was a public

Action

holiday, members agreed that the meeting in April 2009 would be rescheduled to 16 April 2009 at 10:45 am. A schedule of meetings for the 2008-2009 session would be issued to members after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note : The meeting schedule was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)13/08-09 on 15 October 2008).

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)45/08-09(01) and (02)]

Regular meeting on 10 November 2008

6. Members agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting on 10 November 2008 –

(a) Annual adjustment of standard payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme and supplementary provision for the social security schemes; and

(b) Short-term food assistance.

7. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che referred to item 2 on the "List of issues suggested to be considered", which was table at the meeting, and said that the Panel should accord priority to discuss issues concerning the subsidy arrangements for residential care services for frail elders. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan proposed to discuss the long-term planning of residential care services for the elderly in November 2008. The Panel could also take the opportunity to follow up with the Administration on the relevant recommendations in the report of the Subcommittee on Elderly Services.

8. Ms LI Fung-ying proposed to discuss the implementation progress of the recommendations in various reports of the Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty. Expressing support for Ms LI Fung-ying's proposal, Mr Frederick FUNG said that the Panel should also discuss the implementation progress of the recommendations made by the former Commission on Poverty (CoP) as early as possible.

9. Members agreed that one of the following items would be discussed at the regular meeting on 10 November 2008 –

(a) Residential care services for the elderly; and

(b) Poverty alleviation measures.

Action

10. Members agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the Administration to ascertain which of the above items was ready for discussion and consult the Chairman on the agenda for the next meeting.

(Post-meeting note : At the suggestion of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, the items referred to in paragraph 9(a) and (b) above would be discussed at future meetings.)

Items for discussion at future meetings

11. Referring to their letters submitted to the Chairman at the meeting, Mr WONG Kwok-hing and Mr WONG Kwok-kin proposed to discuss financial assistance and support for poor elders, including increasing the monthly rates of the Old Age Allowance to \$1,000, providing income supplement for poor elders and implementing a universal retirement protection scheme; the implementation of Home Environment Improvement Scheme for the Elderly; and the system for processing applications for Disability Allowance under the SSA Scheme.

(Post-meeting note : Letters dated 14 October 2008 from Mr WONG Kwok-hing and Mr WONG Kwok-kin to the Chairman were issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)50/08-09.)

12. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan proposed to discuss the findings of the review of the Lump Sum Grant Independent Review Committee of which was expected to be completed by the end of the third quarter of 2008.

13. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung proposed to discuss the Administration's plan to re-open single parent centres.

14. The Chairman said that the above issues proposed by members would be incorporated in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

Proposals for appointment of subcommittees by the Panel

15. Mr WONG Kwok-kin suggested that a subcommittee should be appointed by the Panel to study issues relating to elderly services.

16. Mr WONG Kwok-hing suggested that the Panel should appoint a subcommittee to follow up with the Administration on the implementation of recommendations put forth by the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence.

17. Mr Frederick FUNG said that notwithstanding that members agreed earlier to discuss poverty alleviation measures at the forthcoming meeting, he

Action

considered it more appropriate for the Panel to appoint a subcommittee on poverty to follow up the implementation of numerous recommendations made by CoP and the Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty.

18. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan recalled that in-depth discussions had been held by the Subcommittee on Elderly Services, the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence and the Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty on the issues of concern raised by members. Mr LEE suggested that members might wish to revisit the deliberations and recommendations of the respective subcommittees and then propose specific issues for discussion by the Panel at future meetings, if deemed necessary. The Chairman said that the proposals for appointment of subcommittees might be revisited by the Panel later should any member so proposed. Members agreed.

19. The Chairman added that reports of the Subcommittee on Elderly Services, the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Family Violence and the Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty would be reissued to members for reference after the meeting.

IV. Any other business

20. The Chairman reminded members that the Panel would hold a special meeting on 23 October 2008 at 2:30 pm to receive a briefing by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare and the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2008-2009.

21. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:24 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
28 October 2008