

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)2360/08-09  
(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Minutes of special meeting**  
**held on Saturday, 11 July 2009, at 9:00 am**  
**in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip (Chairman)  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
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 LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP  
Hon WONG Sing-chi  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
- Member absent** : Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
- Member attending** : Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou
- Public Officers attending** : Item I  
Mrs Polly CHAN  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)4

Mr Stephen Fisher, JP  
Director of Social Welfare

Mr FUNG Pak-yan  
Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Administration)

Mr NG Wai-kuen  
Chief Social Security Officer 1  
Social Welfare Department

Item II

Mrs Cecilia YUEN  
Assistant Director of Social Welfare  
(Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services)

Mr FONG Kai-leung  
Chief Social Work Officer  
(Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services)<sup>2</sup>  
Social Welfare Department

Dr HUNG Se-fong  
Hospital Chief Executive, Kwai Chung Hospital  
Hospital Authority

Ms Margaret TAY  
Chief Manager (Integrated Care Programs)  
Hospital Authority

**Deputations  
by invitation** : Item I

Oxfam Hong Kong

Ms WONG Shek-hung  
Advocacy Officer for Hong Kong Programme

Mr Joseph WOO Man-lung  
Manager for Hong Kong Programme

Office of Wong Tai Sin District Councillor, Chui Pak Tai

Ms Anna AU Yuk-lun  
Senior Executive

Social Services Committee under Kwun Tong District Council

Mr YIP Hing-kwok, MH  
Chairman

Kwai Tsing District Councillor

Mr Andrew WAN Siu-kin

Justice and Peace Commission of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese

Miss YIP Po-lam  
Organizer

Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse (Kwan Fook)

亞好  
Member

風雨同路

阿桂  
Member

爭取基層生活保障聯盟

Ms WONG Sau-ping

The Democratic Party

Mr Eric LAM Lap-chi  
Vice Chairperson, New Territories West Branch

Civic Party

Mr Sumly CHAN  
Vice Chairman, New Territories West Branch

Lion Rock Institute

Mr Andrew SHUEN Pak-man  
Research Director

Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs

Miss LAW Pui-shan  
Policy Research Officer

The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong

Mr WONG Kwai-yau  
Supervisor

Concerning Group for Women Poverty

Ms HO Foei-lin  
Member

Concerning CSSA Review Alliance

Mr LEE Tai-shing  
Community Organizer

Rights for Basic Living Security Association

Miss LEE Choi-kwan  
Chairperson

New Women Arrivals League

Miss POON Yuen-fun  
Member

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Ms Mariana CHAN  
Chief Officer, Policy Research and Advocacy

Hong Kong Women Worker Association

Miss CHAN Man-yi  
Organizer

Miss LEUNG Siu-fun  
Member

電影文化關注組

Mr CHEUNG King-wai  
Film Director

電影藝術關注組

Miss CHAN Wai-yi  
Documentary Filmer

Hong Kong Christian Institute

Dr LEE Ka-keung

Item II

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Mr KUO Chun-chuen  
Rehabilitation Chief Officer

The Democratic Party

Mr LO Kin-hei  
Member of Welfare Group

Office of Wong Tai Sin District Councillor, Chui Pak Tai

Ms Anna AU Yuk-lun  
Senior Executive

Social Services Committee under Kwun Tong District Council

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Mr YIP Hing-kwok, MH  
Chairman

Kwai Tsing District Councillor

Mr Andrew WAN Siu-kin

Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse (Kwan Fook)

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Ms LIU Ngan-fung  
Chairperson

亞花  
Member

風雨同路

阿宝  
Member

Family Dynamics Network

Mr Percy WONG  
Member

Concord Mutual-Aid Club Alliance

Miss CHAN Wai-ching  
Chairwoman

Mr HUI Wai-chun  
Executive Officer

精神病康復者同路人小組

Mr CHAN Kwok-shing  
Member

Civic Party

Mr Sumly CHAN  
Vice Chairman, New Territories West Branch

Hong Kong College of Mental Health Nursing

Professor Sally CHAN  
President

Wan Chai District Council Councillor

Mr MAK Kwok-fung

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Wong Chuk Hang Complex

Miss Eppie WAN Ho-yu  
Senior Supervisor

Alliance of Ex-mentally Ill of Hong Kong

Miss CHIU Nga-man  
Service Development Worker

自助組織發展中心

Miss TAM Yuen-yan

Circle of Friends

Ms CHAN Suk-yin

基督教愛協團契

Mr WONG Man-lip  
Delegate

Hong Kong Family Link Mental Health Advocacy Association

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Ms Lily CHAN  
Vice Chairlady

Concern Group on People with Mental Illness

Miss YUEN Suk-yan  
Community Organizer

Society for Community Organization

Mr Tim PANG

Equal Opportunities Commission

Dr Ferrick CHU Chung-man  
Head, Policy and Research

The Mental Health Association of Hong Kong

Mrs Alice FU  
Chief Officer (Service)

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

**Staff in attendance** : Miss Florence WONG  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Miss Maggie CHIU  
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

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**I. General public's perception of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1268/08-09(01), CB(2)1492/08-09(01), CB(2)2097/08-09(01) to (03) and CB(2)2185/08-09(01) to (04)]

At the invitation of the Chairman, 22 deputations presented their views on the general public's perception of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients. A summary of views is in **Appendix I**.

2. In response to the deputations' views, Director of Social Welfare (DSW) stressed that the CSSA Scheme aimed to provide a safety net for those who could not support themselves financially to meet their basic needs. DSW said that since the CSSA Scheme was a non-contributory social security scheme funded entirely by general revenue, the frontline staff of Social Security Field Units (SSFUs) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) on the one hand should act with prudence to ensure the proper use of public funds, while on the other hand should provide appropriate assistance to those with genuine needs.

3. DSW further said that in the light of the public concern about the fraud and abuse cases which were widely reported by the media, SWD had commissioned a consultant team of a university in September 2006 to conduct a public opinion survey to better grasp the focus of publicity. In line with the findings of the survey, SWD produced two television announcements in the public interest (APIs) in 2007 with the themes of encouraging self-reliance and combating CSSA frauds. Having regard to the achieved effects of the two APIs, SWD decided to broadcast the APIs the last time in October 2007 and March 2008 respectively.

Action

4. DSW added that SWD had explained to the public on different occasions about the purposes of the two APIs and that only a small proportion of CSSA cases was fraud cases. The situation was not particularly serious as compared with other countries. In general, the public viewed the provision of social security benefits for elders and persons with disabilities, who accounted for 70% of the total CSSA recipients, in a positive light, although some people might have concerns about employable able-bodied adults on CSSA. SWD had all along been actively disseminating to the general public the positive message that CSSA should be rendered to those with genuine need while at the same time encouraging able-bodied CSSA recipients to move from welfare to self-reliance.

5. In view of the limited time and the grave concerns made by the deputations, the Chairman said that the Panel would hold a further meeting on 29 July 2009 to continue discussion on the matter. Members agreed. To facilitate further discussion, the Chairman requested the Administration to provide a written response to the deputations' views.

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**II. Community support services for ex-mentally ill persons**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1711/08-09(03), CB(2)2097/08-09(04) and (05) and CB(2)2185/08-09(05) and (06)]

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, 22 deputations presented their views on the community support services for ex-mentally ill persons. A summary of views is in **Appendix II**.

7. Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services) (AD/SW(RMSS)) said that a range of community support services had been provided to cater for the different needs of ex-mentally ill persons and their families and carers. In response to the views expressed by the deputations, AD/SW(RMSS) made the following points –

- (a) the Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) at Tin Shui Wai (TSW) provided one-stop community support and social rehabilitation services for the persons with suspected mental health problem, discharged mental patients and their families and carers. As it had just commenced service since March 2009, the Administration would review this new service mode of ICCMW at TSW and in the light of experience gained, considered its possible extension to other districts;
- (b) the Administration was fully aware of the importance of providing support for family members of ex-mentally ill persons. The existing community support services as well as residential services

Action

for ex-mentally ill persons operated by subvented NGOs had been incessantly providing various parents/carers support groups and resource corners for family members of ex-mentally ill persons with a view to strengthening their caring capabilities. Besides, SWD had also been providing financial support to self-help organisations for mutual support and experience sharing among family members and carers of ex-mentally ill persons;

- (c) coordination and communication mechanisms between the Hospital Authority (HA) and SWD were put in place at the headquarters, cluster and district levels to ensure effective delivery of rehabilitation services to ex-mentally ill persons;
- (d) the Administration had attached importance to step up public education on mental health. With the collaborative efforts of the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, HA, relevant Government departments, NGOs and District Councils, public education and promotion efforts had been launched with a view to enhancing public awareness and understanding of mental health in the community, and eliminating the labelling effect on ex-mentally ill persons; and
- (e) apart from hotline services for ex-mentally ill persons and their carers provided by NGOs, SWD was operating a 24-hour hotline service at 2343 2255 for the public.

8. The Chairman said that the views and concerns expressed by deputations were related to both medical and social rehabilitation services, which was beyond the purview of the Panel. In view of the limited time, the Chairman suggested that the Panel should further discuss the community support services for ex-mentally ill persons at the special meeting to be held on 29 July 2009, if necessary. Mr WONG Sing-chi, Mr Albert HO and Mr Frederick FUNG took the view that the Panel should hold a joint meeting with the Panel on Health Services to discuss the medical and social rehabilitation services for ex-mentally ill persons. Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou said that he was a member of the Panel on Health Services and agreed with the proposal of holding a joint Panels meeting. Mr Frederick FUNG and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed dissatisfaction that no senior officers from the relevant bureaux had attended the meeting. Members requested the attendance of representatives of the policy bureaux at the joint Panels meeting.

9. Members agreed that a joint meeting of two Panels should be held, and deputations would be invited to give views on the subject. The Chairman said that members would be informed of the meeting date in due course. To facilitate further discussion, the Chairman requested the Administration to provide a

Action

written response to the issues of concerns raised by the deputations.

10. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:08 pm.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
7 August 2009

## Panel on Welfare Services

Special meeting on Saturday, 11 July 2009

General public's perception of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients

## Summary of views of deputations

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
1.	Oxfam Hong Kong (Oxfam) [LC Paper No. CB(2)1268/08-09(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the findings of the survey report conducted by Oxfam revealed that there was a general misconception among the public that most recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme were unemployed and new arrivals and they were perceived to be lack of motivation to work. 30% of respondents expressed that they would not apply for CSSA even if they were eligible because they did not want to be perceived as relying on the Government and being looked down upon by others</li> <li>• urged the Administration to disseminate positive messages and comprehensive information about CSSA recipients to the general public through broadcasting that it was the right of low-income persons who satisfied the eligibility criteria to apply for CSSA</li> </ul>
2.	Office of Wong Tai Sin District Councillor, Chui Pak Tai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expressed concern that many CSSA recipients felt being discriminated and were stereotyped as parasites in the society</li> <li>• many CSSA recipients wanted to work towards self-reliance but could not do so due to various reasons</li> <li>• the Administration should convey a positive message on CSSA and take care of the developmental needs of children on CSSA</li> </ul>
3.	Social Services Committee under Kwun Tong District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supported the concept of the CSSA Scheme under which a safety net was provided to the needy. To address the concern about abuse cases, the Administration should consider reimbursing certain recurrent expenses directly to the debtors</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suggested that more support services could be provided for children coming from CSSA households such that their able-bodied adult carers could not be excused from finding jobs</li> <li>• the alleviation measures for the needy including additional CSSA standard rates to CSSA recipients amidst of financial tsunami might have aroused discontent among the public who were also suffered from the financial crisis</li> </ul>
4.	Justice and Peace Commission of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expressed concern that the two television announcements of public interests (APIs) on CSSA and fraud cases had indirectly given rise to discrimination against CSSA recipients</li> <li>• urged the Administration to - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) convey a message via the media that it was the welfare rights of people who had genuine financial hardship to apply for CSSA, and include such message in the school curriculum; and</li> <li>(b) announce the number of CSSA cases concurrently with the unemployment rate in view of the direct correlation between the two figures</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5.	Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse (Kwan Fook) [LC Paper No. CB(2)2185/08-09(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• opined that the Administration had never encouraged those people who were in need to apply for CSSA. On the contrary, it promoted the message of encouraging people to work toward self-reliance, which gave rise to a misconception that CSSA recipients were lazy and did not want to work toward self-reliance</li> <li>• expressed particular concern about the difficulties faced by newly arrived women who were not eligible for CSSA due to not satisfying the seven-year residence requirement. Although the Director of Social Welfare (DSW) could exercise discretion to waive the residence requirement to those with genuine hardship, having regard to the individual circumstances, the unhelpful attitude of the frontline staff of Social Security Field Units (SSFUs) deterred the potential CSSA applicants from seeking appropriate help</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
6.	Kwai Tsing District Councillor Mr Andrew WAN Siu-kin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● although the Administration claimed that CSSA was a safety net for those who were in genuine financial difficulties, it conveyed a negative message to the public that people who relied on CSSA were inertia to work</li> <li>● citing an experience of an applicant who suffered from liver cancer as an example, he expressed dissatisfaction at the attitude of SSFUs' staff who did not demonstrate a helpful manner to those who were in genuine hardship</li> </ul>
7.	風雨同路	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● expressed concern that the Administration was taking the lead to discriminate against CSSA recipients</li> <li>● told the meeting about her personal experience and difficulties faced as a victim of domestic violence. However, the frontline social worker of an integrated family service centre advised that she was not eligible for CSSA due to not satisfying the seven-year residence requirement and persuaded her to return to the Mainland with her daughter and did not render proper assistance to them</li> </ul>
8.	爭取基層生活保障聯盟	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● opined that the Administration had taken the lead to discriminate against people who received CSSA as its APIs on fraud cases had given rise to misconception among the public that CSSA recipients were lazy</li> <li>● expressed concern that while many CSSA recipients had low self-esteem, some people who were in genuine need would not apply for CSSA</li> </ul>
9.	The Democratic Party [LC Paper No. CB(2)2185/08-09(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● pointed out that many CSSA recipients were needy elders and unemployed, i.e. those in financial hardship</li> <li>● noted with concern that 70% of respondents of the survey conducted by Oxfam had the perception that CSSA recipients were inertia to work. To provide more incentive for able-bodied adult CSSA recipients to work, it urged the Administration to review the disregarded earning (DE) arrangements under the CSSA Scheme. For instance, the maximum level of DE at \$2,500 should be raised. It also suggested that consideration be given to opening a savings account for each CSSA recipient who was eligible for DE to save up the portion of savings exceeded the maximum level of</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		DE. The savings would be given to the CSSA recipient concerned for pursuing specific purposes when the savings were accumulated to a specified level
10.	Civic Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● expressed concern about the misconception of the public that CSSA recipients were unwilling to work and the attitude of frontline staff of SSFUs who always attached more importance to preventing fraud cases in vetting and approving applications than rendering assistance to the applicants. Some needy who were in genuine hardship simply chose not to apply for CSSA for the fear that they would be stereotyped</li> </ul>
11.	Hong Kong Catholic Commission for Labour Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● opined that the APIs about encouraging CSSA recipients to work towards reliance had further amplified the misconception of the public that CSSA recipients were inertia to work</li> <li>● considered that the Government lacked of concrete measures to assist the low-income group and the unemployed</li> <li>● suggested that the Administration - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) should convey a positive message that it was a welfare right for those who were in need to apply for CSSA;</li> <li>(b) should not require CSSA recipients to present working proof from employers for the provision of DE; and</li> <li>(c) should provide more assistance to the low-income group and unemployed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12.	The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)2185/08-09(03)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● expressed concern that the negative perception of the public on CSSA recipients had affected the self-image and social integration of children on CSSA who felt inferior and being socially excluded</li> <li>● urged the Administration to convey a positive message that it was the welfare right to receive CSSA and streamline the application procedures</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
13.	Concerning Group for Women Poverty [LC Paper No. CB(2)2185/08-09(04)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● expressed concern that the development of children on CSSA was hampered due to lack of financial means and thereby had resulted in intergenerational poverty</li> <li>● considered that the public had the misconception that CSSA recipients were unwilling to work. In fact, many of them were unable to enter the labour market simply because they were low-skilled and low-educated</li> <li>● urged the Administration to lift the requirement of producing income statement certified by employers for applying for DE arrangements</li> </ul>
14.	Lion Rock Institute [LC Paper No. CB(2)2097/08-09(01)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● opined that CSSA could provide a safety net to those who were in need, especially the elders and persons with disabilities (PWDs)</li> <li>● considered that the Administration had set undue high threshold for CSSA application because of the financial implications if the number of recipients were too many</li> <li>● the Institute suggested that the Administration should improve the CSSA Scheme and consider imposing a time limit of 250 weeks or five years for CSSA payments for each able-bodied adult and at the same time relaxing the eligibility criteria. This would help remove the threat to CSSA becoming a dependency model, promote the notion and attitude of self-reliance, and change the general perception of CSSA recipients</li> </ul>
15.	Concerning CSSA Review Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● expressed concern about some 20 tragedies relating to those needy families who had not applied for CSSA for various reasons. The Alliance was of the view that CSSA recipients were unable to become self-reliant because of the limited suitable job opportunities in the labour market. They felt humiliated because of the insulting words and discrimination from the community</li> <li>● it urged the Administration to streamline the administration procedures for vetting the CSSA applications, waive the requirement of production of income proof certified by employers, and enhance public education by conveying a positive message on CSSA</li> </ul>
16.	Rights for Basic Living Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● expressed concern about the public's misconception that the CSSA Scheme served as</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
	Association	<p>a disincentive for able-bodied adult to work. In the light of the labelling effect, some needy chose not to apply for CSSA and therefore could not receive timely assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the Association considered that CSSA payments were only adequate for survival, but not for a dignified living</li> <li>● some able-bodied adult CSSA recipients, especially those of single-parent families, could not go to work because of the need to take care of their families. The Administration would enhance public education in this respect</li> </ul>
17.	New Women Arrivals League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the Government was taking the lead to discriminate against new arrivals by imposing the seven-year residence requirement under the CSSA Scheme. The Government should abolish the seven-year residence requirement and stop discrimination against the new arrivals</li> <li>● new arrivals had been misconceived from being inertia to work and relied on CSSA. They could not work due to various reasons, such as family problems or adjustment problems</li> </ul>
18.	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service [LC Paper No. CB(2)2242/08-09(02)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the following suggestions as detailed in its submission were highlighted - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) reviewing the DE arrangements and introducing the concept of asset building by establishing a savings account for CSSA households to retain the earnings disregarded for special purposes, such as personal development of family members;</li> <li>(b) reviewing the definition of work under the New Dawn Project to include voluntary and community work; and</li> <li>(c) expanding the Intensive Employment Assistance Scheme in the light of the huge demand</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
19.	Hong Kong Women Worker Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● expressed concern that many people had difficulties to find work amidst of the</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
	[LC Paper No. CB(2)2242/08-09(03)]	<p>financial tsunami. However, they felt ashamed to apply for CSSA even though there were in genuine hardship due to the labelling of CSSA recipients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the publicity on the abuse and fraud cases had disseminated to the public that CSSA recipients were lazy. In fact, many of the CSSA recipients were elders and only a small portion of CSSA recipients were unemployed and low-income group</li> <li>• urged the Administration to introduce a universal protection scheme or unemployment assistance to assist the needy, and rectify the incorrect perception of CSSA recipients through public education</li> </ul>
20.	電影文化關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the theme of the two APIs on discouraging fraud and abuse cases had disseminated misleading messages that CSSA recipients were unwilling to work. It was unfair to CSSA recipients as most of them were in genuine hardship. The APIs concerned only emphasized that people should not rely on CSSA but they had not provided the full picture such as inadequate job opportunities in the market</li> </ul>
21.	電影藝術關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the two APIs relating to CSSA cases produced by the Government had exaggerated the occurrence of fraud cases since the number of fraud cases only represented 1% of the total CSSA cases. Given that the two APIs had been broadcasted for nine months, the public was misconceived from the message disseminated that able-bodied adult CSSA recipients did not want to work. Taking into account that over 70% of CSSA recipients were elders and PWDs, it was unfair to them</li> </ul>
22.	Hong Kong Christian Institute [LC Paper No. CB(2)2242/08-09(04)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expressed concern about the difficulties faced by CSSA recipients who were in genuine hardship and were discriminated by the community. They had low self-esteem as reflected in the study findings of Oxfam and the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong</li> <li>• appealed to the public not to discriminate against the CSSA recipients</li> </ul>

## Panel on Welfare Services

Special meeting on Saturday, 11 July 2009

Community support services for ex-mentally ill persons

## Summary of views of deputations

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
1.	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the rehabilitation services for ex-mentally ill persons in the community were currently provided by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the Hospital Authority (HA), which lacked coordination in facilitating the recovery and reintegration of the discharged patients into society</li> <li>• the Administration should consider the following recommendations -               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) adopting a case management approach for providing a full range of assessment and support services in areas such as counselling, housing, financial assistance to individual discharged psychiatric patients;</li> <li>(b) rationalizing the services of the Community Rehabilitation Day Services (CRDS), Community Mental Health Link (CMHL) and Community Mental Health Care (CMHC) and providing one-stop community support and rehabilitation services supported by a professional team of psychiatrists and social workers; and</li> <li>(c) the Working Group on Mental Health Services chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health (SFH) in 2006 should expedite its work in formulating long-term policies on mental health</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.	Democratic Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the public expenditure on mental health services accounted for 0.2% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of Hong Kong, which was far lagged behind the 1% expenditure of other developed countries</li> <li>• lacked of coordination between the Food and Health Bureau and Labour and</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<p>Welfare Bureau in providing rehabilitation services to ex-mentally ill persons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the side effect of the drugs for ex-mentally ill persons prevented them from seeking jobs and reintegrating into the society</li> <li>● the Administration should re-open evening consultation sessions for ex-mentally ill persons who had to work during daytime</li> <li>● the Administration should introduce measures to facilitate employment of ex-mentally ill persons, e.g. specifying a quota of employment for certain organisations</li> </ul>
3.	Office of Wong Tai Sin District Councillor, Chui Pak Tai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● in view of the increasing number of ex-mentally ill persons in the past years, the Administration should deploy more resources for the provision of medical social workers and develop long-term community support programmes</li> <li>● the Administration should review the medical and social rehabilitation services in the community for the discharged mentally ill persons and enhance the outreaching services to facilitate reintegration into society</li> </ul>
4.	Social Services Committee under Kwun Tong District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● concerned that psychiatric patients were discharged prematurely due to lack of resources in public hospitals. Mechanism should be put in place to ensure that the psychiatric patients were ready for discharge</li> <li>● the Administration should strengthen residential care services for ex-mentally ill persons, such as arranging discharged patients to stay at half-way houses for one to two months to adapt to the new environment before returning home</li> </ul>
5.	Mr Andrew WAN Siu-kin, Kwai Tsing District Councillor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● to adopt a case management approach to ensure that the discharged mentally ill persons would be provided with a comprehensive medical and social rehabilitation services by SWD and HA</li> <li>● the services provided by the existing psychiatrists and medical social workers were insufficient to support the increasing number of mentally ill patients. In</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<p>2007-2008, some 300 psychiatrists and 200 social workers were serving 150 000 mentally ill patients. The Administration should increase allocation for the provision of psychiatrists, nurses, and social workers in this respect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the public expenditure on mental health services accounted for 0.2% of GDP of Hong Kong, which was far lagged behind the 1% expenditure in other developed countries</li> </ul>
6.	<p>Hong Kong Association for the Survivors of Women Abuse (Kwan Fook) [LC Paper No. CB(2)2185/08-09(05)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● many mentally ill persons refrained from consulting psychiatrists due to worry of being discriminated</li> <li>● the Administration should review the mental health services and the community support services for ex-mentally ill persons</li> <li>● the Administration should review the eligibility criteria for applying for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) so as to provide financial assistance to the needy ex-mentally ill persons</li> </ul>
7.	<p>Family Dynamics Network [LC Paper No. CB(2)2185/08-09(06)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the three key community support programmes offered by SWD to ex-mentally ill persons should be reviewed to improve its services to the discharged psychiatric patients as follows - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) CRDS – social workers stationed at schools could also refer suspected mentally ill persons for treatment;</li> <li>(b) CMHC – the services should not limit to newly discharged patients but also all ex-mentally ill persons in need; and</li> <li>(c) CMHL – more staff should be employed to provide care and support services, counselling services, outreaching visits and educational activities, for psychiatric patients and their family members and carers</li> </ul> </li> <li>● as revealed from a survey findings, family members of ex-mentally ill persons had indicated that they would take care of the discharged patients at home if they</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<p>were provided with adequate support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● as a result of the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System, subvented organizations had reduced the number of frontline staff and thereby affected the rehabilitation services for ex-mentally ill persons</li> </ul>
8.	Concord Mutual-Aid Club Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a case management approach should be adopted for providing follow-up visits and community support services for discharged mentally ill patients</li> <li>● the Administration should allocate additional resources for rehabilitation, strengthen staffing provision for psychiatrists and medical social workers, and enhance closer collaboration among different bureaux/departments for medical and community support services to the discharged patients</li> <li>● the Administration should review the existing policy and formulate a long-term policy on mental health</li> </ul>
9.	精神病康復者同路人小組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the Administration should give due recognition to the role played by self-help organisations in rehabilitation services and provide more support for such organisations</li> <li>● a case management approach should be adopted for providing follow-up visits and community support services for discharged mentally ill patients, many of whom had difficulties in seeking jobs and reintegration into the society. Additional resources should be allocated for rehabilitation, strengthening staffing for psychiatrists and medical social workers, and enhancing closer collaboration among different bureaux/departments for medical and community support services to the discharged patients</li> <li>● the requirement of applying CSSA on a household basis had forced some ex-mentally ill persons to move out of their families in order to meet the eligibility criteria for CSSA</li> </ul>
10.	Civic Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the medical and social rehabilitation services and support for ex-mentally ill</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<p>persons in the community were inadequate to facilitate social integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the discharge plan for psychiatric patients should be worked out by a team of professional staff including psychiatrists and social workers</li> <li>● the increase in the numbers of hospital bed spaces and psychiatrists were far from adequate to meet the rising demand for psychiatric treatment</li> <li>● the Working Group on Mental Health Services chaired by SHF had yet to report its work progress in reviewing the existing mental health services</li> <li>● it urged that representatives from patient groups and professionals should be invited to join the Working Group</li> </ul>
11.	Hong Kong College of Mental Health Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a case management approach should be adopted for acute or high-risk mentally ill patients in order to monitor closely their recovery and prevent relapse. The case management approach should provide one-stop community support and social rehabilitation services for the discharged mentally ill patients. In addition, round-the-clock crisis management support services and home care team should be provided for the discharged patients and their family members or residential care homes</li> <li>● the Administration should set up clinics in charge of by nurses in the community to monitor the medication intake of ex-mentally ill patients and the progress of adjustment and reintegration into the community so as to relieve the workload of the psychiatric specialist out-patient clinics</li> <li>● financial assistance should be provided to first-year undergraduates of mental health nursing programmes organised by UGC-funded institutions</li> </ul>
12.	Mr MAK Kwok-fung, Wan Chai District Council Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● more half-way houses should be provided for discharged mentally ill patients to provide transitional rehabilitation service in preparation for their reintegration into the community</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more resources should be deployed for strengthening staffing of psychiatric nurses including community psychiatric nurses to enhance support services for high-risk ex-mentally ill persons</li> <li>• the Administration should step up educational publicity to reduce stigma and discrimination against ex-mentally ill persons</li> </ul>
13.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Wong Chuk Hang Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• it had commissioned the Hong Kong Baptist University for a two and a half years study on CMHC, and the findings were encouraging as showed from improvements in the patients' life skills and interpersonal relationship</li> <li>• it suggested that the following improvements be further made to CMHC - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) to develop long-term policies for mental health care;</li> <li>(b) to widely implement CMHC across the territory;</li> <li>(c) to extend the services to all ex-mentally ill persons;</li> <li>(d) to extend the duration of outreaching visits to two years;</li> <li>(e) to allocate more resources for strengthening of staffing provision, in particular medical social workers; and</li> <li>(f) to enhance coordination between the government departments and NGOs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
14.	Alliance of Ex-mentally Ill of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the consultation session for each ex-mentally ill person, which was currently about 3 to 5 minutes, should be lengthened for more thorough diagnosis</li> <li>• courses and seminars on taking medication and compliance with treatment should be organized for ex-mentally ill persons and their family members</li> </ul>
15.	自助組織發展中心	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) at Tin Shui Wai, which commenced service in March 2009, should be extended to other</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<p>districts. Views from patients' associations should be gauged for the future development of ICCMW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the Administration should review the roles of CRDS, CMHL and CMHC after the launch of ICCMW</li> <li>● The Working Group on Mental Health Services had yet to make progress in its work. Representatives from patients' associations should be included as members of the Working Group</li> </ul>
16.	Circle of Friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HA's psychiatric SOPCs should provide evening consultation services to facilitate those ex-mentally ill persons who worked during daytime to attend follow-up consultation</li> <li>● the Administration should encourage public and private organisations to employ persons with disabilities (PWDs), including ex-mentally ill persons, by specifying a specified number of such posts in the organisations</li> </ul>
17.	基督教愛協團契	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the rehabilitation services in the community were not adequate and not much improvement was made the past two decades</li> <li>● 3% of employment of PWDs, including ex-mentally ill persons, for public organisations should be specified to facilitate their entry into the labour market</li> <li>● the requirement for ex-mentally ill persons to apply for CSSA on a household basis might have affected the eligibility of some needy ex-mentally ill persons</li> </ul>
18.	Hong Kong Family Link Mental Health Advocacy Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● as shown from the findings of a survey conducted by the Association, most carers of ex-mentally ill persons considered that more support to family members and carers was needed, such as educational programmes on compliance with medication and information on the rehabilitation and community services available for ex-mentally ill persons</li> <li>● case management approach and one-stop rehabilitation services should be</li> </ul>

No.	Name of deputation	Major views and concerns
		<p>adopted for following up on the discharged patients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the Administration should take into account views from the stakeholders and formulate a comprehensive policy on mental health</li> </ul>
19.	Concern Group on People with Mental Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● medical and social rehabilitation services in the community for ex-mentally ill persons currently provided by SWD and HA should be better coordinated</li> <li>● discharge plans of individual mentally ill patients should be drawn up having regard to their medical and welfare needs</li> <li>● additional resources should be allocated for training community psychiatric nurses. In 2008-2009, although 15 830 psychiatric patients were discharged, their rehabilitation needs were looked after by 131 community psychiatric nurses only</li> <li>● more support should be provided for family carers of ex-mentally ill persons</li> </ul>
20.	Society for Community Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the rehabilitation services for discharged psychiatric patients in the community were fragmented. Therefore, HA and SWD should enhance coordination and communication in the delivery of medical and social rehabilitation services in the community</li> <li>● the service mode of ICCMW at Tin Shui Wai should be extended to other districts</li> <li>● the Working Group on Mental Health Services should speed up its work in reviewing the existing mental health services. Representatives from patients' groups should be invited to attend meetings of the Working Group</li> <li>● in view that the occurrence of a few tragedies involved discharged mentally ill patients in the past two years, the Administration should review the mental health services and strengthen support for ex-mentally ill persons, their families and carers</li> </ul>

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21.	Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) [LC Paper No. CB(2)2097/08-09(04)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● in addition to the views presented in its paper, EOC highlighted the following observations - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a lack of accurate and reliable statistics on the number of mentally ill patients in Hong Kong for the Administration to formulate policies on mental health and rehabilitation programmes;</li> <li>(b) a lack of public education on the symptoms of depression, which would be top of the list of health problems worldwide in the year 2020 as shown from a study conducted by the World Health Organization; and</li> <li>(c) more resources should be allocated for psychiatric patients with symptom of depression to prevent them from committing suicide</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
22.	The Mental Health Association of Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● to extend flexibly the service hours of CRDS, CMHL and CMHC, and extend the follow-up visits to discharged psychiatric patients from a duration of one year to two years</li> <li>● to strengthen support for family carers, such as counselling services</li> <li>● to set up a hotline to provide urgent professional advice for ex-mentally ill persons and their carers</li> <li>● to enhance training and vocational rehabilitation programmes for teenage psychiatric patients</li> <li>● to step up public education on mental health to enhance the awareness of mental health in the community</li> </ul>