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Panel on Welfare Services

**Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services
for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly**

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 24 January 2011**

Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness

Purpose

This paper gives a brief account of past discussions of the Panel on Welfare Services ("the Panel") and the Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly ("the Subcommittee") on the implementation of the service mode of Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness ("ICCMW").

Background

2. According to the Administration, the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") has since 2001 launched a number of new initiatives to enhance community support services for persons with mental health problems as well as their families and carers with a view to helping them improve their social adjustment capabilities for early and better re-integration into the community. These measures include -

- (a) psychogeriatric outreach services for the elderly;
- (b) post-discharge community support to frequently re-admitted psychiatric patients;
- (c) recovery support programme for psychiatric patients in the community;

- (d) Community Rehabilitation Day Services;
- (e) Community Mental Health Link;
- (f) Community Mental Health Care; and
- (g) Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness.

At present, service users receive various community support services from different rehabilitation agencies and service units operated by non-governmental organisations ("NGOs").

3. To provide one-stop, integrated and accessible community health support services to discharged mental patients, persons with suspected mental health problems, their families and carers and residents living in the district, SWD set up the first ICCMW in Tin Shui Wai in March 2009. The integrated services of ICCMW range from early intervention to prevention of relapse through public education, counselling, outreaching visits and, where required, direct liaison with the Hospital Authority ("HA") for urgent medical consultation to meet the varying needs of service users.

4. In the 2009-2010 Policy Address, the Government announced that it would provide additional recurrent funding for expanding the service mode of ICCMW to all the 18 districts in the territory in 2010-2011.

Deliberations by members

5. At the Panel meetings on 8 June and 11 July 2009 when the subject of community care support services for ex-mentally ill persons was discussed, members were advised that ICCMW at Tin Shui Wai, which had commenced services since March 2009, was the first pilot integrated centre providing one-stop community support and social rehabilitation services for discharged mental patients, persons with suspected mental health problems and their families/carers living in the district. In response to members' enquiry about the timetable for extending the service mode of ICCMW across the territory, the Administration advised that SWD would evaluate the effectiveness of the new model in Tin Shui Wai and in the light of operational experience, consider its possible extension to other districts. ICCMW at Tin Shui Wai was expected to serve 450 cases and 1 200 families and carers in a year.

6. At the Panel meeting on 22 October 2009, members were advised that the Government would expand the integrated service model across the territory by revamping the existing community mental health support services subvented by SWD through setting up ICCMWs in all 18 districts, strengthen the manpower of these centres to provide comprehensive and accessible services to persons in need, and dovetail with HA's Case Management Programme ("CMP") to provide timely support for patients with severe mental illness living in the community.

7. Consequent upon the formation of the Subcommittee, members followed up the discussion on the provision of community care services for PWDs at the Subcommittee meetings on 31 May and 13 July 2010. Members supported in general the setting up of ICCMW to provide one-stop community health support services to discharged mental patients, persons with suspected mental health problems, their families and carers and residents living in the community, as well as the launch of the pilot CMP to provide timely support for patients with severe mental illness living in the community. Members, however, were concerned about the plan for extending the new initiatives to all the districts.

8. On the setting up of ICCMWs, the Administration advised that SWD would consolidate the existing resources of community support services at an annual funding allocation of about \$65 million, together with an additional annual provision of about \$70 million, i.e. a total of \$135 million, to revamp the existing community support services, including Community Mental Health Intervention Project, Community Mental Health Link, Community Mental Health Care Services, Community Rehabilitation Day Services and Training and Activity Centres for Ex-mentally Ill Persons, and set up ICCMWs in all the 18 districts in 2010-2011. Members were further advised that to prepare for the setting up of ICCMWs, SWD had worked together with concerned NGO operators and stakeholders on the operational logistics, including the demarcation of service boundaries, drawing up service output indicators and realignment of workflow of referrals to ICCMWs and among service units of HA and SWD. These ICCMWs were expected to commence service in October 2010.

9. With respect to the launch of the pilot CMP, members were advised that pilot projects were launched in 2010-2011 in Kwai Tsing, Kwun Tong and Yuen Long districts where relatively more patients with severe mental illness resided. The target was to serve 5 000 patients within the year. HA would recruit around 80 to 100 additional psychiatric nurses and allied health professionals with relevant experience to serve as case managers for

the programme. Members were also advised that subject to the evaluation of the pilot CMP and the recruitment of adequate professionals with experience in mental health services, HA planned to roll out CMP to other districts in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

10. While acknowledging the introduction of the case management approach for servicing persons with mental health problems residing in the community, members raised concern about the collaboration between the medical and welfare sectors. The Administration advised that each patient covered by CMP had a designated case manager who would maintain a close service relationship with the patient throughout the recovery journey, and would monitor the progress of recovery and make prompt arrangements for the patient to receive treatment if there was a sign of relapse. The case manager would work closely with a multi-disciplinary team of healthcare personnel to develop an individual care plan for each patient. At the same time, the case manager would establish linkages with ICCMWs for one-stop continuous and personalised social rehabilitation support to the patient.

11. The Administration further advised that cross-sectoral and cross-service collaboration for effective delivery of CMP and ICCMW services had been set up. At the headquarters level, a coordination group co-chaired by SWD and HA had been formed in early 2010 to oversee collaboration strategies arising from the implementation of the ICCMW services. District task groups were set up in districts with relatively more ex-mentally ill persons, such as Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing and Yuen Long, to be followed by other SWD districts later in 2010. These groups, co-chaired by District Social Welfare Officers and HA's cluster heads of psychiatric services and comprising representatives of ICCMW and concerned government departments, were tasked to develop strategies and resolve operational issues in respective districts.

12. Concern was also raised about the availability of premises for setting up ICCMWs in all the 18 districts. Members took the view that the Administration should identify suitable sites for ICCMWs across the territory. They considered that adequate resources and staffing should be provided to the service providers and that the service requirements be stipulated in the relevant funding and service agreements with the service operators.

Relevant papers

13. A list of relevant papers and documents is in the **Appendix** for members' reference. The papers and documents are available on the Legislative Council website at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/>.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
18 January 2011

Relevant Papers/Documents

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Papers</u>
Panel on Welfare Services	8 June 2009	Administration's paper LC Paper No. CB(2)1711/08-09(03) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ws/papers/ws0608cb2-1711-3-e.pdf Minutes of meeting LC Paper No. CB(2)2119/08-09 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ws/minutes/ws20090608.pdf
	11 July 2009	Administration's paper LC Paper No. CB(2)1711/08-09(03) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ws/papers/ws0608cb2-1711-3-e.pdf Minutes of meeting LC Paper No. CB(2)2360/08-09 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ws/minutes/ws20090711.pdf
	22 October 2009	Administration's paper LC Paper No. CB(2)6/09-10(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ws/papers/ws1022cb2-6-1-e.pdf Minutes of meeting LC Paper No. CB(2)379/09-10 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ws/minutes/ws20091022.pdf

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Papers</u>
Subcommittee on Residential and Community Care Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly	31 May 2010	Administration's paper LC Paper No. CB(2)1618/09-10(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ws/ws_rccs/papers/ws_rccs0531cb2-1618-1-e.pdf Minutes of meeting LC Paper No. CB(2)2088/09-10 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ws/ws_rccs/minutes/rccs20100531.pdf
	13 July 2010	Administration's paper LC Paper No. CB(2)1986/09-10(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ws/ws_rccs/papers/ws_rccs0713cb2-1986-1-e.pdf Minutes of meeting LC Paper No. CB(2)292/10-11 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ws/ws_rccs/minutes/rccs20100713.pdf

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