

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)718/13-14

(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PS/1/12

Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services

Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy

Minutes of the tenth meeting
held on Thursday, 28 November 2013, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members Present : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Chairman)
Hon TANG Ka-piu (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH

Members Absent : Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Public Officers Attending : Item II

Mrs Elina CHAN
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(Welfare) 3
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Ms Eureka CHEUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food & Health
(Health) 3
Food and Health Bureau

Miss Cecilla LI
Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Elderly Services)
Social Welfare Department

Dr Daisy DAI
Chief Manager (Primary & Community Services)
Hospital Authority

Dr Clive CHAN
Senior Medical & Health Officer (Elderly Health
Service)
Department of Health

**Attendance by
invitation**

Item II

Dr Gemma LAW

Carer Alliance for People with Dementia

Ms May CHEUNG Yuet-kam
Chairperson

Christian Family Service Centre

Ms TONG Choi-ying
Programme Director (Elderly Care)

Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (Centre on
Research and Advocacy)

Ms Anchor HUNG Tak-fung
Manager

Ms LEUNG Fung-ping

Ms YAN Ming-kit

爭取資助院舍聯席

Miss WONG Pui-iong

The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists

Mr LAU Ka-hin
Hon. Treasurer

Jockey Club Centre for Positive Ageing

Miss Vennus HO
Service Manager

Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association

Dr WONG Kai-shung
Carer Support Subcommittee Chairman

Hong Kong Physiotherapists' Union

Mrs Eleanor CHAN

Hong Kong Occupational Therapy Association

Miss TAM Hiu-yan
Occupational Therapist

Ms CHENG Tak-yin

Clerk in Attendance : Mr Colin CHUI
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in Attendance : Miss Karen LAI
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes
[LC Paper No. CB(2)372/13-14]

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2013 were confirmed.

Action

II. Care services for people with dementia

[LC Paper No. CB(2)352/13-14(01) to (06), CB(2)373/13-14(01) to (02)]

2. The Joint Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

3. The Joint Subcommittee requested the Administration to provide –

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(a) the number of patients suffering from dementia below the age of 60 for whom the Hospital Authority ("HA") provided treatment and care;

(b) information on the financing of drugs prescribed for patients suffering from dementia by different hospital clusters of HA;

(c) justifications for not formulating holistic policies dedicated to the special needs of demented persons; and

(d) a written reply to the Deputy Chairman's letter to the Joint Subcommittee [LC Paper No. CB(2)352/13-14(03)].

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's reply to the letter of the Deputy Chairman was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 593/13-14(01) on 31 December 2013.)

III. Item(s) for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper No. CB(2)548/12-13(07)]

[Due to time constraint, the Joint Subcommittee had not discussed this subject. As advised by the Chairman after the meeting, the agenda item for the next meeting scheduled for 16 December 2013 was "Ageing problem of persons with intellectual disabilities".]

IV. Any other business

4. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:45 am.

**Proceedings of the tenth meeting of the
Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy
on Thursday, 28 November 2013, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Confirmation of minutes</i>			
000309 - 000328	Chairman	Confirmation of minutes of the ninth meeting	
<i>Agenda item II – Care services for people with dementia</i>			
000329 - 001355	Chairman Administration	Opening remarks Briefing by the Administration on its measures to support persons with dementia and their carers [LC Paper No. CB(2) 352/13-14(01)]	
001356 - 001648	Dr Gemma LAW Chairman	Presentation of views as a consultant of the Carer Alliance for People with Dementia as follows – (a) elderly care services in Hong Kong was more advanced than other countries but there was room for improvement on the Government's policies and services regarding dementia; and (b) in support of setting up dedicated service units for demented persons.	
001649 - 001959	Carer Alliance for People with Dementia Chairman	Presentation of views that the Administration should – (a) review the existing Standardized Care Needs Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services ("SCNAMES") to enhance the detecting function of dementia symptoms; (b) improve its services for people suffering from dementia below the age of 60; (c) increase service quotas for cognitive training provided by subsidized day care centres/units for the elderly ("DEs/DCUs") in different districts; and (d) enhance its community care services for elderly persons with dementia so as to achieve the policy objective of "ageing in place".	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
002000 - 002254	Christian Family Service Centre Chairman	Urging the Administration to increase the service quotas for elderly persons with dementia and their carers, in particular services for demented elders aged below 65 for the purpose of early identification and therapy.	
002255 - 002607	Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (Centre on Research and Advocacy) Chairman	Views that the Administration should formulate holistic and long-term policy on dementia with highlights as follows – (a) SCNAMES should be reviewed with a view to enhancing its assessment of dementia symptoms and including dementia patients below the age of 60 as target recipients of subsidized services; (b) the problem of the long waiting time for subsidized residential care services should be addressed, for example, through purchasing places at private residential care homes for the elderly ("RCHEs"); (c) the service quotas offered by the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service ("CCS") Voucher for the Elderly could not meet the huge service demand in the community; (d) family-friendly policies and carers' allowance should be pursued to alleviate the pressure of carers; and (e) long-term planning should be conducted in regard to manpower and identification of sites for RCHEs.	
002608 - 002914	Ms LEUNG Fung-ping Chairman	Presentation of views and concerns that – (a) carers' allowance should be offered for carers of people with dementia regardless of age; (b) users of CCS Voucher should also be eligible for carers' allowance; (c) dementia should be developed as an academic programme in universities with a view to training more professionals in the field; and (d) the assessment tools of SCNAMES should be enhanced to detect the cognitive deterioration of elderly persons for the purpose of early identification and allowing elderly persons with dementia to have equal opportunities for subsidized long-term care services.	

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002915 - 003211	Ms YAN Ming-kit Chairman	Urging the Administration to (a) allocate more funding to support those hospital clusters of Hospital Authority ("HA") with limited resources; (b) subsidize patients suffering from dementia in the purchase of drugs; and (c) step up its publicity to raise public awareness of the early identification of, and proper attitude towards persons suffering from dementia.	
003212 - 003550	爭取資助院舍聯席 Chairman	Presentation of views that – (a) financial and psychological support for carers of elderly persons with dementia should be strengthened; and (b) support should also be enhanced to address those hidden cases of elderly persons with dementia given the growing number of elderly singleton in the community; as well as the problem of demented elderly whose children were persons with intellectual disabilities.	
003551 - 003907	The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists Chairman	Presentation of views that – (a) the waiting time for follow-up services by the psychiatric departments of HA was too long and the consultation time too short; (b) limitation of the existing mechanism for drug prescription by HA's doctors that they tended to prescribe drugs which should be purchased by the patients themselves; (c) more quotas should be provided for support services and training for carers of demented elders; and (d) in support of a dedicated mode of residential care service for elderly persons with dementia.	
003908 - 004050	Jockey Club Centre for Positive Ageing Chairman	Views that the Administration should strengthen its support services for patients with early onset of dementia through lowering the age limit of subsidized residential care services and community care services. Centre-based and home-based services for elderly persons with dementia in the community should also be strengthened.	
004051 - 004440	Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association Chairman	Presentation of views – (a) dementia was not merely a disease but having detrimental impacts on families and society;	

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		<p>(b) training on skills and knowledge regarding dementia should be offered for carers of dementia patients; and</p> <p>(c) a dedicated setting conducive to maintaining ability to perform everyday activities should be developed in RCHEs and DEs/DCUs with a view to delaying the cognitive and functional deterioration of elderly persons with dementia.</p>	
004441 - 004831	Hong Kong Physiotherapists' Union Chairman	<p>Presentation of views – [LC Paper No. CB(2)352/13-14(04)]</p> <p>(a) the Administration should have holistic planning and allocate more resources and manpower to enhance its support services for demented persons and their carers; and</p> <p>(b) according to international clinical reports, it had been proven that aerobic exercise could be an effective therapy for demented persons at the early stage. The Administration should increase the intake quota of physiotherapy programmes in universities with a view to training more talents to meet the huge demand of the community.</p>	
004832 - 005156	Hong Kong Occupational Therapy Association Chairman	<p>Views on the importance of early identification and intervention for persons suffering from dementia; and the positive impacts of non-drug treatment for demented patients; and calling on the Administration to develop a one-stop service for identification, referral and follow-up therapy for demented persons.</p> <p>Urging the Administration to provide dedicated services for demented persons.</p>	
005157 - 005405	Ms CHENG Tak-yin Chairman	<p>Concerns about the difficulties encountered by singleton, elderly couples, demented persons, and aging persons with intellectual disabilities. The Administration should inject more resources to enhance its services for elderly persons with dementia in this regard.</p>	
005406 - 011348	Chairman Administration	<p>Response of the Administration to deputations' views as follows –</p> <p>(a) the waiting time for referral for services by the psychiatric departments of HA was about 40 weeks to one year; and for urgent cases, the patients would be referred to Memory</p>	

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		<p>Clinics. Noting the importance of early identification, HA recognized the need to shorten the waiting time and would enhance follow-up therapy for patients suffering from dementia;</p> <p>(b) the figure of 11 400 patients suffering from dementia was the number of cases followed up by the psychiatric departments of HA but not including those patients with dementia treated by the Department of Medicine of HA; and the planning for provision of services was not projected on the basis of such figures;</p> <p>(c) the Administration adopted an integrated approach in its support services for elderly persons with dementia as it would be more desirable to keep the elderly persons in a familiar setting rather than transferring them to receive care service in an unfamiliar and separate dedicated service unit;</p> <p>(d) the Social Welfare Department ("SWD") had greatly increased the resources for enhancing the services for elderly persons with dementia in DEs/DCUs; in tandem, elderly service units could apply for the Dementia Supplement ("DS") to enhance care support and services for demented persons; and</p> <p>(e) training had been provided for carers of demented persons. To this end, seed grants had been offered to District Elderly Community Centres.</p>	
011349 - 012410	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Administration Chairman	<p>Enquiries/views of Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che on –</p> <p>(a) the difference between the figures of 11 400 and 5 600 patients/elderly persons suffering from dementia provided by HA and SWD respectively in the Administration's paper versus the figure of some 100 000 quoted by the Chairman;</p> <p>(b) the number of patients suffering from dementia aged below 60 for whom HA provided treatment and care;</p> <p>(c) collaboration between HA and the welfare sector in the provision of services for demented persons;</p>	

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		<p>(d) training for staff of subvented organizations was futile given the high turnover rate of staff;</p> <p>(e) whether the Administration would consider providing dedicated services for elderly persons with dementia in DEs/DCUs and RCHEs; and</p> <p>(f) how the Administration monitored the proper deployment of DS by the subvented organizations.</p> <p>Reply of the Administration that –</p> <p>(a) the figure of 11 400 patients suffering from dementia did not cover those receiving services at the Department of Medicine of HA due to the constraint of the coding system of patient registration. HA would improve the coding system to more accurately record the number of patients suffering from dementia;</p> <p>(b) subvented service providers which were granted with DS were required to submit reports to SWD to set out its service in detail in respect of dementia in accordance with the Funding and Service Agreements; and</p> <p>(c) SWD would continue to collaborate with the Department of Health, HA and universities to develop training programmes for demented persons, their carers, and service practitioners.</p> <p>At the request of Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, HA would provide the number of patients suffering from dementia below the age of 60 for whom HA provided treatment and care.</p>	<p>Admin</p>
012411 - 013402	Mr POON Siu-ping Administration Chairman	<p>Enquires of Mr POON Siu-ping on –</p> <p>(a) whether the Administration would adopt "認知障礙症", which was widely used by the rehabilitation sector, as the official Chinese name for dementia;</p> <p>(b) long-term planning for the provision of services for demented persons; and</p> <p>(c) the estimated funding allocation for DS in the 2014-2015 financial year.</p>	

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		<p>Reply of the Administration that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Administration followed the terminology "老年癡呆症" used in the International Classification of Diseases; and it was open-minded to using the term "認知障礙症", subject to consensus reached by professional medical bodies; (b) in view of the growing elderly population, HA would enhance its elderly care services in terms of manpower planning and research on medication; and (c) with the substantial increase of funding for DS in 2012, most cases of elderly persons in RCHEs and DEs/DCUs who had been assessed to be suffering from dementia were covered by the Supplement. Funding allocation for DS in the coming year would be made with reference to past experience. 	
013403 - 014024	Mr TAM Yiu-chung Administration Chairman	<p>Views/enquiries of Mr TAM Yiu-chung on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the name "老年癡呆症" carried negative connotation. A better Chinese name should be used for dementia; (b) waiting time for services in DEs/DCUs, and any places in these facilities reserved for urgent referrals; and (c) details of the psychogeriatric outreach services offered by HA. <p>Reply of the Administration that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the average waiting time for services in DEs/DCUs was about seven months; elderly persons with dementia in need of services could utilize the day respite places in DEs/DCUs; (b) an addition of some 100 respite places would be offered in the coming year, and more than 800 day care places would be offered under the Pilot Scheme on CCS Voucher for the Elderly in the eight selected districts; (c) HA's community geriatric assessment teams covered about 650 RCHEs while the psychogeriatric outreach services covered most of the subvented RCHEs and over 200 	

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		<p>private RCHEs; and other services included formulation of treatment plans and training for staff of RCHEs; and</p> <p>(d) home-based services by HA's outreach physiotherapists and occupational therapists would be provided on a need basis.</p>	
014025 - 015750	<p>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Dr Gemma LAW Chairman Administration Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association</p>	<p>Disappointment of Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung about the lack of sincerity of the Administration to address the genuine needs of dementia patients and their carers. His request that the Administration should provide in writing justifications for not formulating holistic policies dedicated to the special needs of demented persons.</p> <p>Views of Dr Gemma LAW that in view of the growing number of elderly persons with dementia in the community, the Administration should enhance its services for them and their carers, and experience could be drawn from the model of all-round service for elderly persons with dementia in England.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that dementia being a multi-faceted problem required multiple domains of services including medical intervention as well as formal and informal social care; and a Review Committee on Mental Health, chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health, was set up in May 2013 to map out the future direction of mental health services, including support for persons suffering from dementia.</p> <p>Extension of meeting for 15 minutes</p> <p>Views of the Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association that given the growing number of elderly persons suffering from dementia, the Administration should better coordinate the services which were now under the management of different bureaux and departments.</p> <p>At the request of the Chairman, the Administration would provide a written reply to Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's request.</p>	<p>Admin</p>
015751 - 020904	<p>Deputy Chairman Administration Chairman</p>	<p>Enquiries/views of the Deputy Chairman that –</p> <p>(a) "失智症" was a better Chinese name for dementia and was adopted by the World Health Organization and Taiwan;</p>	

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		<p>(b) whether representatives from carers of persons suffering from dementia be invited as members of the Review Committee on Mental Health;</p> <p>(c) whether cases diagnosed as dementia by HA would be waived from assessment under SCNAMES and entitled to the same subsidized services under the system;</p> <p>(d) whether the Administration would draw on experience from the six Recognized Service Providers participating in the Pilot Scheme on CCS Voucher for the Elderly offering specific service packages for elderly persons with dementia, and conduct an in-depth study on the setting up of dedicated service units for demented persons in the future;</p> <p>(e) there should be better coordination on the prescription of drugs for dementia by different hospital clusters of HA and the provision of subsidies for demented persons for medication prescribed by private doctors; and</p> <p>(f) no age limit should be set for recipients of carer allowance.</p> <p>Reply of the Administration that –</p> <p>(a) representatives from carers, patients and medical and rehabilitation experts in dementia had been invited as members of the Review Committee on Mental Health;</p> <p>(b) SCNAMES provided a set of objective parameters in the assessment of physical and cognitive functioning. Currently elderly persons assessed by SCNAMES as having moderate impairment or severe impairment were entitled to subsidized elderly care services;</p> <p>(c) the provision of integrated and continuum of services could meet the care needs of persons suffering from dementia at different stages, and the provision of DS could address the specific needs of elderly persons with dementia;</p> <p>(d) the Administration would touch base with the six service providers under the Pilot Scheme</p>	

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		<p>on CCS Voucher for the Elderly and consider how to conduct an in-depth study on the feasibility of setting up dedicated service units;</p> <p>(e) views on the granting of carer allowance regardless of age limit would be conveyed to the Community Care Fund Task Force under the Commission on Poverty;</p> <p>(f) the Administration would not pursue offering subsidies to persons suffering from dementia for the medication prescribed by private doctors since it would incur a huge amount of public funding in view of the ageing population; and</p> <p>(g) the Administration would provide information on the financing of drugs prescribed for patients suffering from dementia by different hospital clusters of HA.</p>	<p>Admin</p>
020905 - 021459	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Administration Chairman	<p>Views of Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che that –</p> <p>(a) there was a lack of good coordination between HA and the welfare sector in the provision of support services for demented persons;</p> <p>(b) the Administration should consider setting up dedicated service unit for elderly persons with dementia; and</p> <p>(c) the Administration should step up its measures in monitoring the proper deployment of DS by the subvented RCHEs and DEs/DCUs.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that it was not feasible to identify suitable venues for setting up new dedicated service centres in every district; and upon considering various factors, it was considered more appropriate to make use of the existing DEs/DCUs and RCHEs to provide an integrated and continuum of services for elderly persons with dementia.</p>	
021500 - 021733	Chairman Deputy Chairman	<p>Summing up by the Chairman of the views of members and deputations –</p> <p>(a) the Food and Health Bureau/HA and the Labour and Welfare Bureau should enhance their collaboration regarding the planning of</p>	

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		<p>services, assessment, and service referrals for persons with dementia. The existing assessment and referral mechanism lagged much behind regarding early identification of dementia symptoms and provision of proper medical intervention;</p> <p>(b) a long-term policy on dementia should be developed with a view to addressing the special needs of persons with dementia;</p> <p>(c) given that SCNAMES mainly tested the physical functioning of elderly persons, it should be enhanced in respect of the assessment of elderly persons' mental conditions;</p> <p>(d) the waiting time for training and community care services for persons with dementia should be shortened;</p> <p>(e) dedicated service units and day care centres/units for persons with dementia should be set up; and</p> <p>(f) carer allowance should be offered to carers of persons with dementia regardless of the patients' age.</p> <p>Request of the Deputy Chairman for the Administration to reply to his letter to the Joint Subcommittee [LC Paper No. CB(2)352/13-14(03)]</p> <p>Closing remarks</p>	<p>Admin</p>