

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)216/13-14
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 10 October 2013, at 10:20 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon TANG Ka-piu

Members absent : Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon CHAN Han-pan

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

Staff in attendance : Miss Flora TAI
Assistant Secretary General 2

Ms Catherina YU
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Karen LAI
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Miss Rachel YUNG
Clerical Assistant (2) 4

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I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the 2013-2014 session

Election of Chairman

Miss CHAN Yuen-han, the incumbent Chairman, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2013-2014 session. Miss CHAN Yuen-han was nominated by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che and the nomination was seconded by Mr TANG Ka-piu. Miss CHAN accepted the nomination. As Miss CHAN was nominated for the chairmanship, the election was presided over by Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, the incumbent Deputy Chairman.

2. As there was no other nomination, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che declared Miss CHAN Yuen-han elected as Chairman of the Panel for the 2013-2014 session. Miss CHAN then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel for the 2013-2014 session. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che was nominated by Dr KWOK Ka-ki and the nomination was seconded by Dr Fernando CHEUNG, Mr Frederick FUNG, Mr Alan LEONG and Mr Gary FAN. 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

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2013-2014 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2013-2014 session

5. Members agreed that regular meetings of the Panel would be held on the second Monday of each month at 10:45 am. A schedule of meetings for the 2013-2014 session would be issued to members after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The meeting schedule was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)25/13-14 on 10 October 2013.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

Regular meeting on 11 November 2013

6. Regarding the Administration's proposal to discuss annual adjustment of the standard payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") and the Social Security Assistance Schemes at the next meeting scheduled for 11 November 2013, Mr TANG Ka-piu said that according to the Administration's reply to a Member's written question raised at the Council meeting on 9 October 2013, more than 50% of CSSA recipients living in private housing could not fully cover their actual rent by the rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme. He suggested that the Panel should look at the issues relating to rent allowance. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the rent allowance should be discussed as soon as possible with a view to addressing the imminent housing needs of street sleepers and low-income single persons. Members agreed to the Chairman's suggestion that issues relating to the rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme should be discussed under the Administration's proposed agenda item.

7. Members also agreed that the following items proposed by the Administration should be discussed at the next meeting –

- (a) setting up of rehabilitation and elderly service facilities in the development of Urban Renewal Authority at Hai Tan Street/Kwelin Street/Pei Ho Street, Sham Shui Po; and
- (b) setting up of a new contract residential care home for the elderly and a day care centre for the elderly at Tuen Mun Town Lot 499 (Ex-Kwong Choi Market, Tuen Mun).

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Issues to be discussed at future meetings

8. Noting that the Action Committee Against Narcotics had recently issued a consultation paper in September 2013 on the RESCUE Drug Testing Scheme, Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that a meeting should be held to discuss drug treatment and related support services to the youth, and deputations should be invited to give views at the meeting. Members agreed to the Deputy Chairman's suggestion that a special meeting should be held, preferably a joint meeting with the Panel on Security, to discuss drug treatment and rehabilitation services by November 2013, so that various stakeholders could have an opportunity to express their views before the end of the four-month consultation period.

(Post-meeting note: As the Panel on Security would discuss the consultation paper at its meeting to be held on 5 November 2013 but would not receive views from deputations, the Panel on Welfare Services would hold a special meeting in November 2013 for meeting with deputations and the Administration regarding drug treatment and rehabilitation services.)

9. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung suggested that after the launch of the Old Age Living Allowance Scheme for a year, the Administration should report to the Panel on its review of the scheme, in particular the imposition of means test requirements.

10. Dr Helena WONG said that the Administration should revert to the Panel on long-term social welfare planning so that welfare initiatives such as elderly care and child care services could be enhanced with holistic planning. Other items, viz. policies on handling problems relating to domestic violence, provision of child care services and after school care services, and policy on support for carers, should also be given high priority for discussion.

(Post-meeting note: Dr Helena WONG was subsequently advised that the item regarding domestic violence could be dealt with by the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Domestic Violence after it was activated, while the item regarding support for carers was under the purview of the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy.)

11. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the review on Disability Allowance ("DA") and the progress of the work of the Administration's

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inter-departmental Working Group to review DA should be discussed not later than the fourth quarter of 2013. Dr CHEUNG also proposed that the Panel should discuss with the Administration the recommendations put forward in the recently released Concluding Observations by the United Nations ("UN") Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Second Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Panel should also follow up issues relating to welfare of refugees, torture claimants and asylum seekers in Hong Kong.

12. Mr TAM Yiu-chung reminded members that the recommendations put forward by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child were under the purview of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs ("CA Panel").

13. Mr TANG Ka-piu suggested that the Panel should discuss the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Scheme in relation to extending its coverage to traffic accidents of sea transport, the amount of assistance to victims, and the processing time. In view of the great demand for subvented elderly care services in the community, he said that the Panel should also discuss the review of the Standardized Care Needs Assessment for Elderly Services, which currently only recommended services to the elderly who had been assessed as having medium level of impairment.

(Post-meeting note: Mr TANG Ka-piu was subsequently advised that the item "Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Scheme" was on the list of outstanding items for discussion by the Panel on Transport.)

14. Mr Frederick FUNG suggested that the Panel could consider discussing issues relating to social enterprises and the provision of residential care services for the elderly and persons with disabilities ("PWDs").

(Post-meeting note: Mr Frederick FUNG was subsequently advised that the provision of residential care services for the elderly and PWDs was under the purview of the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy.)

15. The Deputy Chairman said that the Administration should revert to the Panel on the implementation of the recommendations of the Lump Sum Grant Independent Review Committee.

16. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that the recommendations put forward by the UN Committee on the Rights of the

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Child would be followed up by the CA Panel. All other items suggested by members would be added to the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion as appropriate if they were under its purview.

(Post-meeting note: The item "Concluding Observations by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Second Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Rights of the Child" would be discussed at the meeting of the CA Panel scheduled for 18 November 2013.)

IV. Any other business

Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy

17. Members noted that the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy, which was jointly appointed by the Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services in November 2012, had not yet completed its work and subject to the consent of the two Panels, membership of the Joint Subcommittee would be re-opened to members of the two Panels. Members agreed to give the consent.

(Post-meeting note: As the Panel on Health Services also gave its consent at its meeting on 10 October 2013, membership of the Joint Subcommittee was re-opened to members of the two Panels vide LC Paper No. CB(2)4/13-14 dated 10 October 2013.)

18. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:47 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
5 November 2013