

立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2)179/15-16
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 15 October 2015, at 4:00 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP

Members absent : Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon CHUNG Kwok-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 Kay CHU
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Ms Ada TANG
Clerical Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the 2015-2016 session

[Appendices III and IV to LC Paper No. CB(2)8/15-16]

Election of Chairman

Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, the incumbent Chairman, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2015-2016 session. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che was nominated by Miss CHAN Yuen-han and the nomination was seconded by Mr LEUNG Che-cheung. Mr CHEUNG accepted the nomination. As Mr CHEUNG was nominated for the chairmanship, the election was presided over by Miss CHAN Yuen-han, the incumbent Deputy Chairman.

2. As there was no other nomination, Miss CHAN Yuen-han declared Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che elected as Chairman of the Panel for the 2015-2016 session. Mr CHEUNG then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel for the 2015-2016 session. Miss CHAN Yuen-han was nominated by Mr LEUNG Che-cheung and the nomination was seconded by Mr TANG Ka-piu. Miss CHAN accepted the nomination.

4. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Miss CHAN Yuen-han elected as Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2015-2016 session.

Action

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2015-2016 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 8 February 2016 was a public holiday, members agreed that the meeting in February be rescheduled for 15 February 2016 at 10:45 am. A schedule of meetings for the 2015-2016 session would be issued to members after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The meeting schedule was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)17/15-16 on 16 October 2015.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)8/15-16]

Regular meeting on 9 November 2015

6. Members noted that the subject of "Annual adjustment of social security payment rates under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") Scheme and the Social Security Assistance Scheme, and issues relating to rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme" proposed by the Administration would be discussed at the next regular meeting to be held on 9 November 2015 at 10:45 am. The Chairman invited members to suggest other items for discussion at the next meeting.

7. Dr Helena WONG said that the Administration should brief the Panel on measures taken for child care centres and residential care homes in response to the incident of lead in drinking water. Members agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

8. The Chairman expressed concern about the salary adjustment arrangement for staff in non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") receiving Lump Sum Grant Subvention. He said that some NGOs had not yet provided backpay for serving staff as well as those who had departed organizations before the payment date of salary adjustment. He also noted that some NGOs did not adjust salaries of their serving staff in accordance with the Civil Service Pay Adjustment. In this connection, he suggested that the subject be discussed at the next meeting, and deputations would be invited to give views at the meeting. Members agreed.

Issues to be discussed at future meetings

Action

9. The Deputy Chairman said that the Administration should give an update to the Panel on the work progress of the social welfare planning. She also said that the Administration was considering proposing legislative amendments to prevent abuse of the unified screening mechanism by non-refoulement claimants, such as torture claimants. She suggested that the Panel hold a joint meeting with the Panel on Security to discuss with the Administration in this regard and issues relating to welfare of refugees, torture claimants and asylum seekers.

10. Dr Helena WONG said that according to the Administration, a consultancy study on the long-term development of child care services would be commissioned in 2015-2016. The Administration should be requested to revert to the Panel on the subject. She also expressed concern about the community care support for persons suffering from dementia and their carers.

11. Mr TANG Ka-piu said that the Administration should revert to the Panel on whether it would propose legislative amendments or take measures to improve the service quality of and the monitoring of private residential care homes.

12. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that following the Commission on Poverty ("CoP") Summit on 10 October 2015, the Administration should brief the Panel on the work plan of CoP. The Chairman said that the subject would be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the Subcommittee on Poverty scheduled for 20 October 2015.

13. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that all items suggested by members would be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion as appropriate.

IV. Any other business

Subcommittees under the Panel

14. Members noted that the Subcommittee on Retirement Protection and the Subcommittee on Strategy and Measures to Tackle Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence had not yet completed their work. Membership of the aforesaid Subcommittees would be re-opened to Panel members.

15. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:15 pm.

Action

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
2 November 2015