

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)124/17-18
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/WS

Panel on Welfare Services

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 12 October 2017, at 3:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon SHIU Ka-chun (Chairman)
Hon KWONG Chun-yu (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan
Hon LUK Chung-hung

Members absent : Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP

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

Mr Roger CHUNG
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Alison HUI
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the 2017-2018 session
[Appendices III and IV to LC Paper No. CB(2)9/17-18]

Election of Chairman

Mr SHIU Ka-chun, the incumbent Chairman, called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel for the 2017-2018 session. Mr SHIU Ka-chun was nominated by Dr KWOK Ka-ki and the nomination was seconded by Mr Alvin YEUNG. Mr SHIU accepted the nomination. As Mr SHIU was nominated for the chairmanship, the election was presided over by Mr KWONG Chun-yu, the incumbent Deputy Chairman.

2. As there was no other nomination, Mr KWONG Chun-yu declared Mr SHIU Ka-chun elected as Chairman of the Panel for the 2017-2018 session. Mr SHIU then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel for the 2017-2018 session. Mr KWONG Chun-yu was nominated by Dr KWOK Ka-ki and the nomination was seconded by Mr Alvin YEUNG. Mr KWONG accepted the nomination.

4. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Mr KWONG Chun-yu elected as Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2017-2018 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 session would be issued to members after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: A schedule of meetings was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)37/17-18 on 13 October 2017.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)9/17-18]

Regular meeting on 13 November 2017

6. Members agreed to discuss at the next regular meeting scheduled for 13 November 2017 the following items proposed by the Administration:

- (a) 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; and
- (b) Low-income Working Family Allowance Scheme.

(Post-meeting note: As instructed by the Chairman, an additional item "Looking into the governance issues of social welfare organizations in light of the Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council incident" would be added to the agenda for the regular meeting on 13 November 2017.)

Issues to be discussed at future meetings

7. The Chairman invited members to suggest other items to be discussed by the Panel at future meetings.

8. Dr Helena WONG suggested that the Panel should invite the Family Council to brief members on its work and the measures it had taken to promote family-friendly policies. Deputations should be invited to give views on the functions of the Family Council.

9. Dr Helena WONG also suggested that a joint meeting with the Panel on Health Services ("HS Panel") should be held to discuss issues relating to mental health and relevant community support services. The Chairman said that the Panel and the HS Panel had held a joint meeting on 24 February 2017 to discuss mental health services and relevant welfare issues. Dr Helena WONG said that policies on mental health should be formulated and organizations/individuals providing mental health services should be invited to give views on the collaboration of such policies.

10. Dr Helena WONG also suggested that policies on support for carers should be discussed. In the light of the recent tragedies involving carers, Dr KWOK Ka-ki proposed that policies on support for carers should be discussed as early as practicable. Mr LUK Chung-hung said that in view of the ageing population and shortage of residential care places for elderly persons, the Panel should discuss dedicated services for persons suffering from dementia. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that he had considered discussing issues relating to support for carers, services for persons suffering from dementia, hospice care services, etc. at meetings of the Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy ("the Joint Subcommittee") formed under the Panel and the HS Panel. Given that the Joint Subcommittee was required to cease its operation after mid-December 2017, he would discuss with the Chairman whether these items should be discussed by the Panel or the Joint Subcommittee.

11. Given that the implementation of universal retirement protection had not been covered in the 2017 Policy Address, Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that the Panel should discuss the subject matter. The Chairman said that issues relating to retirement protection were being followed up by the Subcommittee on Retirement Protection ("the Subcommittee") formed under the House Committee. In response to the Chairman's referral of Dr KWOK Ka-ki's enquiry about whether the Subcommittee would have sufficient time to follow up the matter, Mr KWOK Wai-keung who was the Chairman of the Subcommittee said that the Subcommittee would continue to operate until 30 September 2018.

12. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that given that there were several youth suicides in the past few days, it was necessary for the Panel to discuss the matter as early as possible. The Panel might consider holding a joint meeting with the HS Panel and relevant social welfare organizations should be invited to give views on the matter. The Chairman said that views of the chairman of the HS Panel on holding a joint panel meeting would be sought. He also pointed out that the Panel on Education had also discussed student suicides at its meetings.

13. Taking the view that the Administration had not reacted actively to members' call for timely provision of welfare services in new public rental housing ("PRH") estates, Mr Wilson OR said that relevant policy bureaux/government departments should be invited to brief members on the planning of social welfare services in new PRH estates.

14. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme was inadequate to cover the rental expenses of many CSSA recipients and the supplement and special grants under the CSSA Scheme needed to be improved. He suggested that the Panel should discuss and receive deputations' views on the review of the CSSA Scheme. The Chairman said that the Panel might consider discussing issues relating to the CSSA Scheme under the item mentioned in paragraph 6(a) above at the next meeting.

15. Dr Fernando CHEUNG also suggested that the Panel should discuss review of the Lump Sum Grant Subvention System.

Overseas duty visit

16. Dr Helena WONG suggested that the Panel and the Panel on Constitutional Affairs should jointly conduct a duty visit to Sweden to study women affairs, child care, elderly care, family-friendly policies and gender equality. She would write to the two Panels on the proposed duty visit.

IV. Any other business

Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy

17. Members noted that the Joint Subcommittee, which was jointly appointed by the Panel and the HS Panel in November 2016, 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 noted that the HS Panel had given its consent at its meeting on 12 October 2017. Members agreed to give the consent. Members also noted that it would be for the Joint Subcommittee to decide if the election of its Chairman and Deputy Chairman should be conducted at its first meeting in the 2017-2018 session.

(Post-meeting note: Membership of the Joint Subcommittee was re-opened to members of the two Panels vide LC Paper No. CB(2)34/17-18 dated 12 October 2017.)

18. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:50 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
23 October 2017