

Family Council
Notes of 5th Meeting

Date: 18 December 2008 (Thursday)

Time: 3 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room (Room 1220), CGO, West Wing

Attendance

Official Members

Mr Henry TANG, Chief Secretary for Administration (Chairman)

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Raymond WONG, JP, Permanent Secretary for Education
(on behalf of SED)

Mr Paul TANG, JP, Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(on behalf of SLW)

Mrs Betty IP, Deputy Secretary for Education (4)

Prof LEE Ming Kwan, Member (2) /Central Policy Unit
(on behalf of H/CPU)

Non-official Members

1. Ms CHAU Chuen-heung (周轉香女士)
2. Ms KAO Ching-chi, Sophia (高靜芝女士)
3. Mrs KWAN HO Shiu-fong, Cecilia (關何少芳女士)
4. Ms LAI Fung-ye, Angelina (黎鳳儀女士)
5. Mr Joseph LEE (李宗德先生)
6. Dr LEE Wai-yung (李維榕教授)
7. Dr the Hon LEONG Che-hung, Edward (梁智鴻議員)
8. Mr LEONG Kwok-kuen, Lincoln (梁國權先生)
9. Mrs Justina LEUNG NGAI Mou-yin (梁魏懋賢女士)
10. Dr PANG King-chee (彭敬慈博士)
11. Prof SHEK Tan-lei, Daniel (石丹理教授)
12. Ms TAO Chee-ying, Theresa (杜子瑩女士)
13. Dr WONG Chung-kwong (黃重光醫生)
14. Prof WONG Po-choi (黃寶財教授)
15. Mr WONG Ying-wai, Wilfred (王英偉先生)

Absence with apologies

Mr CHOW Yung, Robert (周融先生)

Secretary

Miss Christine CHOW, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Civic Affairs)²

In attendance

Ms Grace LUI, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Ms Vivian SUM, Administrative Assistant to Chief Secretary for Administration

Mr Darryl CHAN, Press Secretary to Chief Secretary for Administration

Mr LAU Cheuk Kwan, Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (2)³

Ms Grace PAT, Senior Executive Officer (2)/ HAB

By invitation for item 3:

Dr Catherine CHAN, Deputy Secretary for Education (5), Education Bureau

Mr David WONG, Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics) SD, Security Bureau

Dr Shirley LEUNG, Principal Medical and Health Officer (Family Health Service), Department of Health

Welcoming remarks

The Chairman welcomed all to the 5th meeting of the Family Council.

Item 1 – Confirmation of minutes of the 4th meeting of the Family Council

2. The minutes of the 4th meeting of the Council were confirmed without amendments.

Item 2 – Matters Arising

(a) Appointment of Consultant

3. The Chairman informed Members that following the deliberation of the Sub-committee on the Promotion of Family Core Values, Colin/Harris was appointed as the consultant. The consultant would advise the Sub-Committee on matters pertaining to the promotion of family core values and that the Sub-committee would oversee and discharge the campaign on behalf of the Council.

(b) Opening ceremony of Family Council’s campaign to promote family core values

4. The “*Opening Ceremony of the Family Council’s Campaign to promote the Family Core Values cum Family Banquet*” was held at the Wanchai Southorn Playground in the evening of 6 December 2008. The Chairman thanked Members for their full support which accounted for the success of the event.

(c) Synergy among the Family Council, the Elderly Commission, the Women’s Commission and the Commission on Youth

5. The Chairman informed Members that the three Commissions had been consulted on the proposed synergy of work between the Family Council and the Commissions vide the recommendations made by the Family Council in paper FC 19/2008. Members noted that the Commissions were satisfied with the proposed arrangements as set out in the paper.

Item 3 – Family Life Education

Parenting Education for parents of pre-school children (Paper FC 21/2008)

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, Principal Medical and Health Officer (Family Health Service), Department of Health (PMHO/DH) briefed Members on the experience of the Family Health Service (FHS) of the Department of Health (DH) in providing Integrated Child Health and Development Programme (ICHDP) for parents and parents-to-be with children from 0 to 5 years old through the 31 Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHCs). The programme, offered free of charge, was designed to meet the developmental needs of young children.

7. PMHO/DH said that a parenting programme was launched in 2002 as a new initiative to equip parents and/or caregivers with the necessary knowledge and skills to bring up children. The programme was developed using the evidence-based intervention programme development model, and adopted a dual approach to prevention i.e. the population approach and the targeted approach.

8. The Positive Parenting Programme (“Triple P”) was provided as a targeted programme for parents with children having early signs of behaviour problems. To further encourage parents and parents-to-be to complete the entire programme, a number of measures had been introduced by DH. These included increasing the number of groups conducted outside officer hours and more flexible programme attendance arrangements.

9. Noting that the programme was targeted for children from 0 to 5 years old and their parents, some Members suggested that parenting education programmes should be extended to the elderly family members and the domestic helpers as they were also responsible for taking care of young children.

10. In response to the enquiry on the interaction between the DH and

the nursery schools, PMHO/DH responded that teachers of nursery schools were aware of the programme, and were encouraged to refer children or parents in need to MCHCs for follow-up action if necessary.

11. In response to the enquiry on the participation of fathers and male members of the families in the programmes, PMHO/DH said that there was no lack of male participants and in fact there was a growing trend of male participation in such programmes. A Member supplemented by updating Members on the work of the Women's Commission in encouraging men to assume a more active role in parenting through the parent-oriented Quality Parenting Programme (優質家長教育先導計劃).

12. Some Members suggested DH consider reviewing the programme in the light of operational experience to better suit the needs of different families.

(Action: DH)

Family Education in Schools (Paper FC 22/2008)

13. At the invitation of the Chairman, Deputy Secretary for Education (5) (DSED) briefed Members on the promotion of family education in schools. Family education was provided in Moral and Civic Education (MCE), as well as Key Learning Areas (KLAs) / subjects in schools. As schools might have different traditions and practices, MCE was implemented in a variety of forms, such as religious and ethnics lessons, MCE lessons, life education lessons, etc. Elements of family education were also covered in the KLAs and subject curricula. At primary level, it was provided in the subject General Studies. At secondary level, it was provided in the Science Education KLAs, Integrated Humanities, Home Economics, etc. Under the New Secondary School (NSS) academic structure, family education was provided in Liberal Studies in which a theme on personal development had been included.

14. DSED supplemented that elements of family education were not confined to the teaching and learning at classroom level. Schools were encouraged to provide students with other learning experience through a wide range of related activities to facilitate the teaching and learning of family education. To encourage schools to adopt a systematic planning for promoting family values, an annual school programme entitled “My Pledge to Act – A Healthy Lifestyle starts with a Harmonious Family” was launched in the 2007/08 school year. EDB had also worked with other government / non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to enhance the capacity of schools to implement family education.

15. DSED further said that to help schools better review their position on the promotion and implementation of family education, schools were encouraged to conduct self-evaluation through the Assessment Programme for Affective and Social Outcomes (APASO).

16. Some Members said that given the time constraint in a school setting, consideration could be given to better time management and proper curriculum design to deliver family education effectively and efficiently. On the APASO computer tool, a Member said that it was useful but schools might not have the necessary expertise to make the best use of the data obtained. EDB might consider providing further guidance and expert advice in the application of the APASO computer tool.

(Action: EDB)

17. On family education in the community, a Member informed the meeting that there were a total of 78 elder academies offering about 10,000 places for the elders to encourage them to continue learning, take care of their well-being, have a sense of worthiness as well as to promote inter-generational solidarity and support to their families.

18. In response to enquiries on the adequacy of training for teachers, DSED said that various training courses were offered by EDB on regular basis and teachers were encouraged to join. Permanent Secretary for

Education added that while schools offered an important platform to promote family education, teachers were not the sole stakeholder and that to have effective results, concerted efforts by all relevant parties, including parents and family members were important.

Measures undertaken by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to Further Strengthen Family Education (Paper FC 23/2008)

19. Members noted the measures undertaken by SWD as set out in the paper on family education.

Report of the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse: Preventive Education for Parents and Students (Paper FC 24/2008)

20. At the invitation of the Chairman, Principal Assistant Secretary (Narcotics) SD, Security Bureau briefed Members on the preventive education against youth drug abuse, as recommended in a Report released in November 2008 by a high level inter-departmental Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse (Task Force) led by the Secretary for Justice.. Following a holistic approach, the Narcotics Division would seek complementary support among various sectors and stakeholders to combat youth drug abuse problem. It would engage various stakeholders such as EDB, SWD, other relevant bureaux/departments (b/ds) and NGOs to strengthen their drug education programmes for students. More anti-drug talks and programmes would be co-organised with parent-teacher associations and their federations. More importantly, it would seek collaboration with relevant stakeholders to promote support for the healthy growth of young people.

21. Members noted the progress and on-going work on family education by EDB, SB, SWD and relevant departments. They discussed the scope for further improvement and expressed the following consolidated comments –

(a) In view of the changing family structure (e.g. more working parents who relied on grand-parents and/or domestic helpers to take care of

younger children), the scope and focus of parental education should be expanded and modified to encourage more grand-parents and domestic helpers to attend such courses;

- (b) As many parental/family education courses were organized by the non-governmental organizations, it would be useful if more efforts could be made to improve the quality of such courses in respect of, for example, the “train-the-trainers” programmes. Also, it would be useful if schools could be invited to take into account the participation of parents in parental programmes in their consideration of in-take of primary school students.
- (c) Given the complexity and variety of the needs and backgrounds of different families, no single course template would ever fit the needs of all families. Also, too much emphasis on desktop teaching through courses and curricular might have the counter-effect of over-burdening the course-takers and suffocating the interests of students and their family members to participate in such programmes. In sum, the teaching of technical parental skills aside, more live cases and experience-sharing sessions on self-control, emotion management, management of relationships and interactions amongst people and family members could be conducted to promote positive values of life and the family core values, and to equip family members to better discharge their roles more readily.

22. The Chairman thanked Members for their views. He concluded that family core values – “love and care”, “respect and responsibility” and “communication and harmony” were the cornerstones of happy and healthy families and should be emphasized as the key and underlying elements in the promotion of family life education. He invited relevant b/ds to take note of Members’ suggestions and to introduce measures to enhance and strengthen family life education as appropriate.

(Action: Relevant B/Ds)

Item 4 – Any Other Business

23. Members were invited to note the tentative meeting schedule for 2009.

(Post-meeting note: The June meeting would be held on 30 June 2009 instead of 23 June. An updated meeting schedule had been circulated to Members on 7 January 2009.)

24. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5 p.m..

Item 5 – Date of Next Meeting

25. The next meeting would be held on 19 March 2009 (Thursday) at 3 p.m. at the same venue.

Family Council Secretariat
January 2009