

## Family Council

### Notes of 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Date: 17 June 2010 (Thursday)

Time: 3 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room 1, 41/F, Revenue Tower, Wanchai

#### Attendance

##### Official Members

Mr Henry TANG, Chief Secretary for Administration (Chairman)

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, Secretary for Home Affairs

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

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

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

##### Ex-officio Members

Ms Kao Ching-chi, Sophia (高靜芝女士), Chairperson of the Women's  
Commission

Dr Leong Chi-hung, Edward (梁智鴻議員), Chairperson of the Elderly  
Commission

Mr Chan Chung-bun, Bunny (陳振彬先生), Chairperson of the  
Commission on Youth

##### Non-official Members

Ms CHAU Chuen-heung (周轉香女士)

Mr CHOW Yung, Robert (周融先生)

Dr KOONG May-kay, Maggie (孔美琪博士)

Mrs KWAN HO Shiu-fong, Cecilia (關何少芳女士)

Ms LAI Fung-ye, Angelina (黎鳳儀女士)

Dr LEE Wai-yung (李維榕教授)

Mr LEONG Kwok-kuen, Lincoln (梁國權先生)

Mrs Justina LEUNG NGAI Mou-yin (梁魏懋賢女士)

Dr PANG King-chee (彭敬慈博士)

Prof SHEK Tan-lei, Daniel (石丹理教授)

Dr WONG Chung-kwong (黃重光醫生)

Prof WONG Po-choi (黃寶財教授)  
Mr WONG Ying-wai, Wilfred (王英偉先生)

Absence with apologies

Ms TAO Chee-ying, Theresa (杜子瑩女士)

Secretary

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

In attendance

Mr Raymond YOUNG, Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

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

Ms Vivian SUM, Administrative Assistant to Chief Secretary for  
Administration

Ms Jessica CHENG, Chief Executive Officer (Family Council)

Mrs Lydia LEUNG, Assistant Secretary (2) (Special Duty)

By invitation for agenda item 4

Prof YIP Siu-fai, Professor of the Department of Social Work and Social  
Administration, the University of Hong Kong

Dr CHUNG Kim-wah, Assistant Professor, Centre for Social Studies,  
Department of Applied Social Sciences, the Hong Kong Polytechnic  
University

Dr CHEUNG Chau-kiu, Jacky, Associate Director, Social Capital and  
Impact Assessment Research Unit, the City University of Hong Kong

Mr CHUNG Yan-yi, Research Development Officer, Asia-Pacific  
Institute of Ageing Studies

**Welcoming Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all to the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Family  
Council.

**Item 1 – Confirmation of minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Family Council**

2. The minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were confirmed without amendments.

**Item 2 – Collaboration of the Family Council with Major Family-related Stakeholders**

3. Members noted the various examples of collaboration between the Family Council and other major stakeholders in family-related areas, and that the Council would continue to explore further opportunities to collaborate with more stakeholders in promoting family core values and a pro-family environment.

**Item 3 – Family Friendly Company Award Scheme (Paper FC 4/2010)**

4. The Chairman invited Ms Grace LUI, DSHA(1) to brief Members on the proposal to set up a “Family Friendly Company Award Scheme” (the Scheme) with a view to promoting corporate pro-family initiatives in the business sector.

5. Members supported the proposal and agreed that this should be owned and led by the Family Council on a sustainable and continuous basis. Members gave further suggestions for consideration by the Sub-committee on the Promotion of Family Core Values –

(a) As a start, the Scheme should aim to promote a happy family corporate culture, and to attract and encourage more companies and firms with different scales and sizes to participate in the Scheme;

(b) It was most important that companies and firms be motivated to embrace the Scheme in the first place, and that through the

continual improvisation of the Scheme, more and more employers could see and feel the worthiness of promoting a family-friendly culture, and employees and their families could help promulgate the positive impact of this culture;

- (c) Considering the resource and other relevant factors, it would be more appropriate to engage an agent other than a government department to implement the Scheme;
- (d) In order to achieve an optimal synergy effect, reference could be taken from other schemes (e.g. the Caring Company Award Scheme) and the work of relevant bodies in the formulation of implementation details (e.g. the types of awards, the adjudication process and criteria, etc.);
- (e) The implementation details, for example, the entrance and selection criteria, etc. could be reviewed and revised on an on-going basis, taking into account responses and feedback from the participants;
- (f) In the light of implementation experience, consideration could be given to extending the Scheme to encourage participation from other sectors, including the educational, medical and health sectors.

6. The Chairman assured Members that the Family Council would take a leading role in implementing the Scheme through the help of an implementation agent. The views expressed by Members would be further considered and developed by the Sub-committee on the Promotion of Family Core Values. Subject to the recommendations of the Sub-committee, an organizing committee with participation from relevant bodies might be formed to advise further on the implementation and publicity of the Scheme.

(Action : Secretariat)

#### **Item 4 – Presentation on Progress of Family Researches**

7. The Chairman invited the project leaders of the four research teams to present progress of the researches. Members thanked the Central Policy Unit (CPU) for helping to commission and monitor the projects, and expressed the following views and suggestions to the research teams for follow-up action.

##### Research on “Drug abuse among youths and family relationships”

8. Members suggested that –

- (a) Given the importance of family background and upbringing on youth development, the research team might consider to examine further how parent-child relationship and family dynamics, etc. would affect the tendency of drug abuse amongst youths;
- (b) On the risk factors, the research team might consider to further examine the impact of “parent passed away” and “divorced or separated parents” on the youths;
- (c) It would be desirable to obtain more empirical information on the situation of drug abuse amongst families which received Comprehensive Social Security Assistance;
- (d) The research team might consider to further study the problem of drug abuse amongst primary school students, and approach the Security Bureau for the relevant data/statistics;
- (e) The study should aim to look for practical solutions from family perspectives and come up with policy recommendations on how the family could help tackle the problem of youth drug abuse.

Research on “Parental Perspectives of Child Neglect in Hong Kong”

9. Members suggested that –
- (a) The research team might consider to identify more clearly the different causes of the problem of child neglect, and the relevance of child neglect to parents’ own upbringing history and childhood experience;
  - (b) Given the paramount importance of the interests of children, the study should aim to look for solutions to tackle the child neglect problem from different angles, including the impact of inter-generational relationship.

Research on “Family-centred prevention of adolescent girls’ and boys’ prostitution”

10. Members suggested that –
- (a) The research team might consider to define clearly the difference between compensated dating and prostitution;
  - (b) In order to have a clearer idea of the magnitude of the problem, the research team might wish to expand the sample size as far as practicable;
  - (c) Reference to overseas’ experience should be made in order to better understand the linkage amongst various risk factors, for example, whether child abuse victims might more easily fall prey to temptation of engaging in compensated dating/prostitution.

Research on “Exploratory Study of Neglect among elderly in Hong Kong :  
A Family Perspective”

11. Members suggested that –
- (a) The research team might consider to expand the net and source of interviewees in order to come up with a more comprehensive and divergent sample size;
  - (b) Although there might be a tendency for elderly neglect to happen more frequently amongst families with abuse history, we should avoid over-simplification of the risk factor, as elderly neglect in different forms might also take place amongst the apparent happy or normal families;
  - (c) Apart from the “internalizing” factors such as love and care amongst family members, the research team might also wish to consider other “external” factors which would have an impact on elderly abuse.
12. On balance, Members recognized the importance of family on the four social problems (i.e. youth drug abuse, youth prostitution, neglect of children and neglect of elderly). Nonetheless, the research teams should avoid over-simplification of the problem or putting “blame” on the families alone. Instead, we should aim to come up with new policy perspectives/solutions to the problems, with a view to tackling them in a practical manner and empowering the families.
13. The Chairman thanked the project leaders of the research teams for their presentations and the views expressed by Members. Members noted that further findings were expected to be available in the summer. Depending on progress of the researches, the CPU would help arrange workshops for Council Members on the findings in July/August.

(Action : CPU)

**Item 5 – Presentation of Findings of the Thematic Household Survey of Hong Kong Families**

14. The Thematic Household Survey Report No.44 was tabled at the meeting. Members were invited to note the content of the report, and the reference to the relationships amongst family members.

**Item 6 – Progress of Work of the 3 Sub-committees under the Family Council (Paper FC 5/2010)**

15. Members were invited to note progress of work of the three Sub-committees. The Sub-committees would continue to closely oversee and advise on the respective areas as set out in the paper.

**Item 7 – Any Other Business**

16. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 16 September 2010 (Thursday) at 3 p.m. at Room 1220, Central Government Offices, West Wing.

Family Council Secretariat  
June 2010