

**Family Council**  
**Minutes of 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held on 20 December 2019**

Date: 20 December 2019 (Friday)  
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:35 p.m.  
Venue: Conference Room 7, G/F., Central Government Offices,  
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

Attendance

Chairman

Prof. SHEK Tan-lei, Daniel

Ex-officio Members

Ms CHAN Yuen-han, Chairperson of the Women's Commission

Non-official Members

Ms CHEUNG Lai-chu

Mr FONG Yick-jin, Eugene

Prof. Albert LEE

Prof. LEUNG Seung-ming, Alvin, Convenor, Sub-committee on Family  
Support

Ms PUN Siu-fung, Cindy

Dr WONG Fung-ye, Margaret, Deputy Convenor, Sub-committee on  
Family Support

Mrs WONG NG Kit-wah, Cecilia

Mr WOO Kin-man, Clement

Ms YIP Lai-wa, Emily, Convenor, Sub-committee on the Promotion of  
Family Core Values and Family Education

Ms YIP Yun-wan, Amarantha

Official Members

Mrs Cherry TSE, Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

*(attending on behalf of Secretary for Home Affairs)*

Mr David LEUNG, Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1

*(attending on behalf of Secretary for Labour and Welfare)*

Ms Karen LAU, Principal Education Officer (School Administration)

*(attending on behalf of Secretary for Education)*

Miss Carren MAK, Senior Administrative Officer (3) (Designate)

*(attending on behalf of Head/Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office)*

Secretary

Ms Carmen KONG, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs  
(Civic Affairs)2

In attendance

Mr Patrick LI, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Ms Adia LAM, Chief Executive Officer (Family Council)

(For agenda item 3)

Dr Thomas CHUNG, Consultant Community Medicine (Family and  
Student Health), Department of Health (DH)

Dr Winnie LAU, Senior Medical & Health Officer (Student Health  
Service)3, DH

(For agenda item 4)

Mr LAM Ka-tai, Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services), Social  
Welfare Department (SWD)

Absent with apologies

Dr LAM Ching-choi, Chairman of the Elderly Commission

Mr LAU Ming-wai, Vice-Chairman of the Youth Development Commission

Ms CHAN Suk-mei, May

Ms CHENG Chi-man, Sonia

Ms CHEUNG Wang-yim, Lavender, Deputy Convenor, Sub-committee on  
Promotion of Family Core Values and Family Education

Dr LAM Chi-yan

Mr LEE Tsz-king, Dominic

### **Welcome Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all to the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Family Council (the Council), in particular Ms Karen LAU, Principal Education Officer (School Administration) of the Education Bureau (EDB) and Miss Carren MAK, Senior Administrative Officer (3) (Designate) of the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office who attended the Council meeting for the first time.

### **Item 1 – Confirmation of Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Family Council**

2. The minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting were confirmed without amendments.

### **Item 2 – Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**

3. The Chairman noted that the Council Secretariat had circulated a progress report to Members for information, and invited CEO(FC) to brief Members on the progress. CEO(FC) informed the meeting that the Award Presentation Ceremony for the Inter-school Colouring Competition for Kindergarten Students and Picture Composition Competition for Primary School Students was re-scheduled to be held on 4 January 2020 at the EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre. The Storybook of

“The But’s Family” of which its printing was in progress, would also be launched at the Presentation Ceremony.

4. In respect of the Study on Family Impact Assessment (FIA), CEO(FC) reported that the FIA checklist had been applied to 463 papers as at 30 November 2019.

5. As regards the progress of the “Further Study on the Phenomenon of Divorce in Hong Kong” (the Divorce Study), CEO(FC) reported that the research team submitted the revised draft Interim Report to the Council Secretariat on 14 October 2019 and briefed the Working Group (WG) on the latest progress at the WG meeting on 28 October 2019. Based on the consolidated comments from the WG and the Council Secretariat, the research team was refining the draft Interim Report and was in parallel preparing the draft Final Report. The research team would brief the WG on the latest progress of the Divorce Study at the next WG meeting scheduled to be held in mid/late January 2020.

6. For the Consolidation Exercise of the findings of Family Surveys conducted since 2011, invitation for submission of quotations was issued on 21 November 2019 with the quotation deadline fell on 19 December 2019. The Council Secretariat would continue to follow up on this quotation exercise according to the prevailing government guidelines and regulations.

7. CEO(FC) updated Members that as at 30 November 2019, the Council’s Facebook had attracted over 18 275 likes and the average number of “Reaction”, “Comments” and “Sharing” per post was about 252.

8. CEO(FC) informed that the production of this year’s souvenirs of the Council, i.e. colouring book, drawing pencils, ball pen, pre-ink stamps and stickers of “The But’s Family” had completed. These souvenirs would be given out to participants of the activities organised by the Council, including those who would attend the Presentation Ceremony of the Inter-school Colouring Competition for Kindergarten Students and

the Picture Composition Competition for Primary School Students on 4 January 2020.

**Item 3 – Health Promoting School Programme of the Department of Health (Paper FC 13/2019)**

9. The Chairman invited Dr Thomas CHUNG, Consultant Community Medicine (Family and Student Health) and Dr Winnie LAU, Senior Medical & Health Officer (Student Health Service)<sup>3</sup> of the DH to brief Members on the two-year pilot Health Promoting School (HPS) Programme. The salient points of the presentation were summarised as follows –

- (a) in May 2018, the DH set up a Working Group on the HPS comprising representatives from the DH, the EDB and the Centre for Health Education and Health Promotion of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, as well as school principals and parents to explore the feasibility of extending the HPS framework in Hong Kong. In June 2019, the two-year pilot HPS Programme was launched which involved participation of 30 schools (i.e. 18 primary, 11 secondary and one secondary-cum-primary schools) in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 school years;
- (b) the DH had made reference to the analysis of the questionnaires completed by primary and secondary students who attended the Student Health Service Centres in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. For instance, over 65% of the secondary students spent two or more hours on the Internet or electronic screen products for purposes not related to school a day; no more than 47% of both secondary and primary students ate two or more servings of fruits on days they ate fruit; and over 92% of both primary and secondary students thought that both their family

and school life was enjoyable/very enjoyable;

- (c) the DH developed a checklist to assist the participating schools of the HPS Programme to conduct school based assessments and review their health promotion measures in a systematic manner. The assessments would also help the schools to set priorities according to their specific circumstances and students' health needs, and develop school-based strategies and action plans on health development. The DH would provide professional support, including workshops and sharing sessions for teachers and school visits to help these schools to become HPSs; and
- (d) upon completion of the two-year pilot HPS Programme, the DH would evaluate the feasibility of extending the HPS framework in Hong Kong.

10. Members' views and questions were summarised as follows –

- (a) a Member considered that family health was an important factor of maintaining a healthy lifestyle of students. She also stressed the importance of continuing the HPS Programme after its completion in 2021;
- (b) a Member said it would be useful to understand the reasons for the analysis which showed that over 92% of the students were enjoying their family and school life. Such information, if available would be helpful for following up on the various needs of students;
- (c) a Member stated that Hong Kong ranked first for its number of students with short-sightedness (myopia) and the DH should take this into account when working out the way forward to deal with the issue; and

- (d) a Member suggested that the analysis of the questionnaires could be passed to the EDB for reference and revision of their guidelines to schools such as raising the number of hours of physical activities to be done by students in a school day, and increasing the amount of fruits/vegetables to be included in the lunch for students.

11. Dr Chung thanked Members for their comments and responded that upon completion of the pilot HPS Programme, the DH would assess its effectiveness before working out the details of how the programme would be extended to other schools. The DH would also continue with their role of coordinating the HPS Programme so as to provide the required information and support to schools. Dr Chung added that the Student Health Service Centres would refer students who required special medical needs or attention, for follow-up examination and treatment.

12. Mrs Cherry TSE mentioned that apart from surveys, it would be useful to organise activities like talks to raise people's awareness and training programmes for teachers and principals to deliver the essential messages. She also added that for the desirability of greater synergy and synchronisation, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB)/Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), EDB and DH which were doing separate surveys, could consider synchronising their surveys in the next cycle to allow better sharing of the results and analysis of the surveys. Mrs Tse proposed that the three bureaux/departments could brief the Council on their respective surveys at a future meeting and invite Members' views on whether, and if so, how the three surveys could be better coordinated and synchronised.

13. The Chairman thanked Dr Chung for his presentation and Members' comments on this item. He remarked that the DH could consider ways of dealing with family disputes for the sake of the good health and well-being of families. He also welcomed the proposal of

inviting HAB/LCSD, EDB and DH to brief the Council on the surveys done by them.

**Item 4 – Chief Executive’s 2019 Policy Address – Family-related Policy Initiatives of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (Paper FC 14/2019)**

14. The Chairman invited Mr LAM Ka-tai, Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) of the SWD, to brief Members on various new family-related policy initiatives as announced by the Chief Executive in her 2019 Policy Address and Policy Address Supplement.

15. Mr Lam briefed Members on the salient points of the paper as summarised below –

- (a) in respect of support for children and families, the new initiatives included the provision of an additional 2 500 full fee-waiving quota to strengthen the after school care programme; an increase in the number of service places under On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services to 7 000 in October 2019 and provision of an additional 1 000 places in each of the school years from 2020/21 to 2022/23; and the launch in 2020-21 of a three-year Ethnic Minority (EM) District Ambassador pilot scheme in nine districts with higher EM population;
- (b) on care for the elderly, the Government would provide (i) an additional 1 000 service vouchers, bringing the total to 8 000 under the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly; and (ii) an additional 3 000 service quota for frail elderly persons under the Integrated Home Care Services; and
- (c) as regards support for the disadvantaged, the Government would set up two new rehabilitation service centres to



implement a two-year pilot scheme on community care services; and provide a total of about 3 800 additional places in day rehabilitation service units and residential rehabilitation service units from 2019-20 to 2021-22.

16. Deliberations of the meeting after the presentation were summarised as follows –

- (a) a Member reckoned that the Government should align the policy objectives of different bureaux/departments (B/Ds) on the EM and coordinate the efforts and resources to enhance the development of the EM and their opportunities for upward mobility;
- (b) having regard to the lack of frontline supporting manpower, a Member considered that more training should be arranged so that better collaboration between social workers and other professional/supporting staff could be achieved;
- (c) a Member was of the view that the SWD should review the existing mode of day care services for children and take into account the needs of those young parents; and
- (d) a Member commented that the Government should take note of the impacts on children as a result of insufficient day care services and recreational facilities for children in districts. The Government should also liaise with private land developers for inclusion of day care services and facilities for children when drawing up their development plans.

17. Mr Lam thanked Members for their comments and responded that SWD would review the effectiveness of the EM District Ambassador pilot scheme for necessary refinements. Consideration was being given to incorporating a planning ratio for subsidised child care centres into the

Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines.

18. In response to some Members' suggestions that the Government should act jointly to render support for EM, Mr David LEUNG said that apart from the support rendered by the SWD, other B/Ds, including the EDB and the Civil Service Bureau, had been making effort to help the EM integrate into the society.

19. The Chairman thanked Mr Lam for his presentation and response to Members' views. He stated that the demand for social workers was high and the provision of continuous professional education for social workers would be beneficial to keep them abreast of the latest developments in the field.

#### **Item 5 – Progress of Work of the Sub-committees under the Family Council (Paper FC 15/2019)**

20. The Chairman invited Ms Emily YIP, the Convenor of the Promotion Sub-committee to report on work progress. Ms Yip informed that the Promotion Sub-committee had discussed at its meeting on 28 November 2019 the progress of the production of the new Family Education Package (the Package) and the Storybook of "The But's Family". Comments were offered by the Sub-committee Members on the rough cut of two episodes of the Package as well as the proposed publicity activities for the Storybook. The Chairman remarked that consideration could be given to include the idea of resolving family disputes in the Package.

(Action : Promotion Sub-committee)

21. The Chairman invited Prof. Alvin LEUNG to report on work progress. Prof. Leung reported that the Support Sub-committee meeting which was originally scheduled to meet on 20 November 2019 was cancelled due to chaotic traffic situation and the discussion paper on the

Final Review of the Pilot Scheme on Thematic Sponsorship to Support Family-related Initiatives had been circulated to the Sub-committee Members for comments. Subject to Members' views and comments, the Council Secretariat would follow up on the proposed way forward accordingly.

(Action : Support Sub-committee)

### **Item 6 – Any Other Business**

22. The Chairman proposed to invite representatives of the Security Bureau, the Education Bureau and the Department of Justice to attend the next Council meeting to facilitate discussion of the family-related matters arising from the recent social incidents. The Council Secretariat would follow up on the arrangements accordingly.

(Action : the Council Secretariat)

23. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting would be held in March 2020.

**Family Council Secretariat**  
**February 2020**