

Family Council
Minutes of 53rd Meeting held on 25 April 2023

Date: 25 April 2023 (Tuesday)
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room 6, G/F., Central Government Offices, Tamar

Attendance

Chairman

Ms PANG, Melissa Kaye

Ex-officio Members

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

Non-official Members

Mr FONG Yick-jin, Eugene

Dr LAM Chi-yan, Kay, Convenor, Sub-committee on Family Support

Mr LAM Sum-lim, Sam

Mr LAW Fai, Felix

Mr LOU Yiu-tong, Perry

Ms PUN Siu-fung, Cindy

Mr WONG Bing-kin, Solomon

Miss WONG Lok-yin, Koby

Mr YAU Siu-hung, Kelvin

Mr YOUNG Chi-on, Jeremy

Official Members

Ms Shirley LAM, Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs
(attending on behalf of Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs)

Ms Alice LAU, Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(attending on behalf of Secretary for Labour and Welfare)

Ms Louise SO, Deputy Secretary for Education (4)
(attending on behalf of Secretary for Education)

Secretary

Miss Mandy WONG, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home and Youth
Affairs (Home Affairs)1

In Attendance

Mr Nick AU YEUNG, Deputy Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs
(Home Affairs)

Ms Adia LAM, Chief Executive Officer (Home Affairs)(1)1

(For agenda item 3)

Mr Wallace LAU, Commissioner for Youth

Miss Tori CHAN, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs
(Youth Affairs)1

Absent with apologies

Dr LI Kwok-tung, Donald, Chairperson of the Elderly Commission

Mr LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth, Vice-Chairman of the Youth Development
Commission

Prof. CHEN Yu-hai, Eric

Dr HSIN PANG Che-kwan, Gigi

Ms LAU Oi-sze, Alice

Prof. Albert LEE

Mr LUK Hua, Warren

Welcome Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all to the 53rd meeting of the Family Council (the Council), in particular five new Members, namely Mr LAM Sum-lim, Sam, Mr LAW Fai, Felix, Mr LOU Yiu-tong, Perry, Miss WONG Lok-yin, Koby and Mr YAU Siu-hung, Kelvin who were appointed to the Council in April 2023 and attended the Council meeting for the first time.

2. The Chairman also welcomed Ms Louise SO who succeeded Ms Teresa CHAN as Deputy Secretary for Education (4) of the Education Bureau. A vote of thanks to Ms Chan for her contributions to the Council was recorded.

Item 1 – Confirmation of Minutes of the 52nd Meeting of the Family Council

3. The minutes of the 52nd meeting were confirmed without amendment.

Item 2 – Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

4. The Chairman noted that the Council Secretariat had circulated a progress report to Members for information, and invited Chief Executive Officer (Home Affairs)(1)1 (CEO(HA)(1)1) to brief Members on the report. In respect of the application of the Family Impact Assessment (FIA) checklist, CEO(HA)(1)1 reported that the FIA had been applied to 972 Legislative Council briefs as at 31 March 2023. Besides, with the agreement of the Sub-committee on Family Support (Support Sub-committee) to accept the finalised survey reports of the Family Survey 2021 on 6 March 2023, the reports were uploaded to the Council's website and shared with relevant government bureaux/departments (B/Ds).

5. As regards the Scheme on Thematic Sponsorship to Support Family-related Initiatives (the Scheme), CEO(HA)(1)1 reported that all the five successful applicant organisations were informed of the results in March 2023. CEO(HA)(1)1 also informed the meeting that as at 31 March 2023, the Council’s Facebook page had attracted over 31 600 “likes” and the average number of “Reaction”, “Comments” and “Sharing” per post was over 300. For the roving drama entitled “愛畢氏家庭”, it was premiered on 18 February 2023 while the school tour, with 52 secondary schools involving 14 000 students enrolled tentatively, has started in end February 2023. More secondary schools would be recruited to join the school tour as far as possible. Furthermore, the first episode of the new series of promotional videos entitled “家庭友善在職場” was launched through the Council’s website and Facebook page on 31 March 2023. The remaining episodes would be launched by phases from June 2023 to February 2024.

6. In respect of the “Further Study on the Phenomenon of Divorce in Hong Kong” (the Divorce Study), CEO(HA)(1)1 reported that upon deliberation by the Council at the meeting held on 20 December 2022, the final report of the Divorce Study was released and uploaded to the Council’s website on 30 December 2022 for perusal by members of the public. Besides, the Council Secretariat had shared the final report with relevant B/Ds in January 2023.

Item 3 – Youth Development Blueprint (Paper FC 5/2023)

7. The Chairman invited Mr Wallace LAU, Commissioner for Youth to brief Members on the Youth Development Blueprint (Blueprint) released by the Government on 20 December 2022. The salient points of the briefing were summarised as follows –

- (a) the Blueprint outlined the overall vision and guiding principles for the Government’s youth development work in the future. It also signified that the Government would strive to draw the

community together to attach importance to the development of and care for young people;

- (b) with reference to the development stages of youths, the Blueprint proposed corresponding actions and measures and organised them into four chapters, namely “Exploration”, “Hope”, “Empowerment” and “Contribution”;
 - (c) at this initial stage, more than 160 concrete actions and measures supporting youth development were put forward which included launching more positive thinking and outdoor adventure projects, organising annual Youth Festival, increasing youth hostel places, and opening up government advisory committees for youth’s self-nomination; and
 - (d) the Government would foster family values in youth and advocate for cherishing the family through organising different programmes and activities, and enhance its support in the role of family in advancing positive youth development.
8. Members’ views and questions were summarised as follows –
- (a) a Member appreciated the Government’s effort to broaden the horizons of young people and considered it very useful for young people to see by themselves the latest development of the Mainland. He suggested that additional resources could be deployed to organise more exchange and internship programmes in the Mainland for young people;
 - (b) a Member inquired how the Government could (i) change the social norm of expecting youngsters to select the “right” subject streams in schools by their parents; (ii) attract young people who did not have any particular feeling towards the Mainland, to join the exchange programmes; and (iii) help resolve the

housing problems being faced by young people such as providing more places in youth hostels or assisting young people to make a down payment on a property;

- (c) a Member commented that the mental health of young people was of great importance and suggested including the element of volunteer work which had proved to be effective in enhancing one's mental resilience, in the exchange programmes to the Mainland;
- (d) a Member considered those 160 measures covered by the Blueprint useful and that the Government should work out the ways of putting them into action. She reckoned that collaboration among B/Ds was important for handling the housing problems being faced by the younger generations. She also said that the Government should address the issues of youngsters with special needs and take into account data relating to the employment situation of young people which would serve as useful reference for the Government;
- (e) a Member suggested providing more opportunities for young people to voice out their opinions and views on projects being carried out in the community which would in turn help enhance the development of these young people;
- (f) a Member was of the view that the Government should consider giving more support to young couples as many of them were facing different challenges, including the availability of services to facilitate their performance of the role as parents; and
- (g) a Member opined that the Government could make reference to the housing policy in Singapore when formulating the one for Hong Kong.

9. The Chairman thanked Mr Lau for the briefing, and suggested making use of technologies to reach out to more Hong Kong young people, including those who had moved to live overseas. Mr Lau also thanked Members for their comments and said that the Government would continue to explore more channels to promote youth development and nurture a new generation of young people with an affection for our country and Hong Kong, and equipped with global perspective and positive thinking.

10. Ms Shirley LAM supplemented that one of the focuses of the Chapter “Empowerment” of the Blueprint was promotion of family values. As the Council had been playing an important role in promoting the family core values in the society, she suggested that the Council might take into account this focus of the Blueprint when organising its future publicity programmes and activities so as to create synergy.

Item 4 – Progress of Work of the Sub-committees under the Family Council (Paper FC 6/2023)

11. The Chairman invited CEO(HA)(1)1 to report the work of the the Sub-committee on the Promotion of Family Core Values and Family Education (Promotion Sub-committee). CEO(HA)(1)1 reported that in view of the positive responses to the publicity programmes organised by the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in the past years, the Promotion Sub-committee supported that the Council should continue to collaborate with RTHK to launch the Council’s 2023-24 publicity campaign entitled “「家·信守一生」推廣運動”. The campaign would include programmes such as a family publicity event scheduled for September 2023, voice acting workshops for children, and radio drama featuring “The But’s Family” from May 2023 to February 2024.

(Action: Promotion Sub-committee)

12. The Chairman invited Dr Kay Lam, Convenor of the Support Sub-committee to report on the work progress of the Support Sub-committee. Dr Lam reported that with the objectives to raise community awareness of family core values as well as to promote a pro-family environment and family well-being, a new round of the Scheme was launched in October 2022 to provide sponsorship to non-profit making and worth-while family-related initiatives. With the endorsement of the Support Sub-committee and the Council, five projects under the themes of “Divorce Education”, “Step and Split Families”, “Preventing and Resolving Family Conflicts/Disputes” or “Strengthening Family Cohesion and Solidarity” were supported for implementation between April 2023 and June 2024.

(Action: Support Sub-committee)

Item 5 – Any Other Business

13. With the start of the new term of service, the Chairman announced that for the Promotion Sub-committee, Mr Eugene Fong and Mr Felix Law would be the Convenor and Deputy Convenor respectively. As regards the Support Sub-committee, Dr Kay Lam and Miss Koby Wong would serve as the Convenor and Deputy Convenor respectively.

14. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 12 July 2023 (Wednesday) tentatively.

Family Council Secretariat

May 2023