

Family Council
Minutes of 56th Meeting held on 17 April 2024

Date: 17 April 2024 (Wednesday)

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Venue: Conference Room 6, G/F., Central Government Offices, Tamar

Attendance

Chairman

Ms PANG, Melissa Kaye

Ex-officio Members

Dr CHAN Ching-har, Eliza, Chairperson of the Women's Commission

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

Non-official Members

Mr FONG Yick-jin, Eugene, Convenor, Sub-committee on the Promotion
of Family Core Values and Family Education

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

Mr LAM Sum-lim, Sam

Ms LAU Oi-sze, Alice

Mr LAW Fai, Felix, Deputy Convenor, Sub-committee on the Promotion
of Family Core Values and Family Education

Mr LOU Yiu-tong, Perry

Ms PUN Siu-fung, Cindy

Mr WONG Bing-kin, Solomon

Miss WONG Lok-yin, Koby, Deputy Convenor, Sub-committee on Family
Support

Mr YAU Siu-hung, Kelvin

Mr YOUNG Chi-on, Jeremy

Official Members

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

(attending on behalf of Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs)

Ms Jeanne CHENG, Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Children)

(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

Ms Adia LAM, Acting Commissioner for Women Affairs / Chief Executive Officer (Family Council)

In Attendance

Miss Mary KWOK, Chief Executive Officer (Family Council)(Designate)

(For agenda item 3)

Mr Derek LEE, Principal Assistant Secretary for Health 3, Health Bureau (HHB)

Prof. HUNG Se-fong, Honorary Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CHUK)

Prof. Sandra CHAN, Professor (Clinical), Department of Psychiatry, CUHK

(For agenda item 4)

Ms Grace LAW, Principal Education Officer (Curriculum Development)², Education Bureau (EDB)

Ms Isabella SO, Chief Curriculum Development Officer (Moral, Civic and National Education)¹, EDB

Absent with apologies

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

Dr HSIN PANG Che-kwan, Gigi

Prof. Albert LEE

Mr LUK Hua, Warren

Welcome Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all to the 56th meeting of the Family Council (the Council), in particular Dr Eliza CHAN, the new Chairperson of the Women's Commission (WoC), and Miss Mary KWOK, Chief Executive Officer (Family Council)[CEO(FC)](Designate) who attended the Council meeting for the first time.

2. The Chairman informed Members that Dr Eliza Chan was appointed as the Chairperson of the WoC following the retirement of Ms CHAN Yuen-han from the chairmanship of the WoC on 15 January 2024. Besides, Miss Mary Kwok would take up the post of CEO(FC) on 25 April 2024 following the transfer of Ms Adia LAM. Together with Prof. Eric CHEN who resigned from the Council in January 2024, the Chairman suggested and Members agreed to record a vote of thanks to Ms Chan Yuen-han, Prof. Eric Chen and Ms Adia Lam for their contributions to the Council.

Item 1 – Confirmation of Minutes of the 55th Meeting of the Family Council

3. The minutes of the 55th 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 CEO(FC) to brief Members on the report. In respect of the application of the Family Impact Assessment (FIA) checklist, CEO(FC) reported that the FIA had been applied to 1 091 Legislative Council briefs as at 31 March 2024. Besides, a research company was engaged through a quotation exercise in mid-March 2024 to carry out the Family Survey.

5. As regards the Scheme on Thematic Sponsorship to Support Family-related Initiatives, CEO(FC) reported that all sponsored organisations had briefed the Sub-committee on Family Support (Support Sub-committee) on their respective projects at the Sub-committee meetings held in November 2023 or February 2024. CEO(FC) also informed the meeting that as at 31 March 2024, the Council’s Facebook page had attracted over 35 900 followers and the average number of “Reaction”, “Comments” and “Sharing” per post was over 340. Besides, seven episodes of the family education videos entitled “Ingredients of Marriage” were launched between September 2023 and March 2024 with good responses. The final episode would be released in April 2024.

Item 3 – Results of the Hong Kong Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Epidemiologic Survey: Age 6 to 17 (Paper FC 2/2024)

6. The Chairman invited Mr Derek LEE, Principal Assistant Secretary for Health 3 of HHB, Prof. HUNG Se-fong, Honorary Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry of CUHK, and Prof. Sandra CHAN, Professor (Clinical), Department of Psychiatry of CUHK to brief Members on the results of the “Hong Kong Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Epidemiologic Survey: Aged 6 to 17” which was conducted from September 2019 to June 2023. The salient points of the briefing were summarised as follows –

- (a) the survey was conducted between 2019 and 2023, with a total of more than 6 000 participants, including children and adolescents of the target age group who attended mainstream or special schools, some of them being members of non-ethnic Chinese groups;
- (b) more than 31 disorders and associated factors were covered in the research assessment. Priority clinical problems were identified as below –
 - (i) 24.4% of the participants had at least one or more of diagnosable disorder in the past 12 months (which was comparable with global pooled data from the past two decades);
 - (ii) priority clinical issues were attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), disruptive impulse control and conduct disorders, anxiety disorders and depressive disorders;
 - (iii) 12-month prevalence of suicidal ideation, plan and attempt (not including the non-suicidal self-injury) were 3.9%, 1.9% and 1.1% respectively;
 - (iv) overall autism spectrum disorder (ASD) prevalence was 2.9% with an even higher gender specific rate for boys at 4.6%; and
 - (v) clinically significant sleep problems were prevalent at 10.2%;
- (c) the weighed prevalence of study participants having two or more disorders was 11% which was close to 50% of participants with any diagnosis. After adjusting for other conditions, the study reaffirmed the strong comorbid pair of ADHD and Disruptive, Impulsive Control and Conduct Disorder. Youth with ADHD were also prone to high risk for developing anxiety

disorder. Separately, anxiety disorder and ASD formed a significant comorbid pair. Depressive disorder co-occurred with suicide ideation / plan / attempt, sleep disorders as well as eating and feeding disorders;

- (d) parental emotional distress, sleep disorder and difficulties in school, such as repeating a grade, school suspension and absenteeism, were consistently significant predictors which were potentially actionable conditions. Non-ethnic Chinese participants had a higher risk of developing anxiety disorders which was attributed to the socio-cultural environment; and
- (e) a comprehensive and inclusive approach in health policy for school-aged children and adolescents should be rooted in cultural sensitivity, integrated family support, holistic education, and the understanding of sleep's role. The framework would include integration of child and adult well-being in risk detection and intervention, resilience building at family and school levels, as well as promotion of sleep hygiene.

7. Members' views were summarised as follows –

- (a) some Members enquired whether family impact, loneliness, parents' disorder, peer influence and indulgence in electronic games attributed to the children's disorders;
- (b) a Member opined that figures on suicidal attempt could be compared with the suicidal rate for analysis; a Member also suggested intervention and the taking of actionable steps to raise the parents' and schools' awareness of the indicators of disorders;

- (c) a Member enquired if the research team had identified any area of improvement in the methodology adopted for the study and whether any findings were unanticipated;
- (d) a Member expressed concern about the ethnic minorities giving less attention to the problems and enquired if different ethnic groups were covered in the study;
- (e) a Member asked whether data was collected from school principals and teachers in respect of the recognition of indicators of disorders; and
- (f) a Member observed that despite the busy work schedules, the school sector attached importance to mental health of students, and school principals and teachers should be made aware of the analysis of the study.

8. The Chairman thanked Prof. Chan and Prof. Hung for the briefing and Members' comments. In response, Prof. Chan stated that a wide range of variables accounting for the disorders, including those named by Members, had been covered in the study models. Nevertheless, without the parents' consent, the information collected from students and parents could not be shared with the schools. A more holistic study could be achieved if data from schools was also obtained. The connection between sleep and anxiety / depression was considered an insightful revelation from the study.

9. In respect of the ethnic minorities, Prof. Chan informed Members that participants of diverse nationalities were covered as far as possible. To address the problem that many ethnic minorities parents did not speak Chinese or English, a translator had been trained as an interviewer to conduct the study. The children were found to have served as a bridge between their parents and the community. They were more forthcoming than their parents and provided more accurate information in the study.

10. Prof. Hung expressed that the group of participants with suicidal ideation were clearly in distress and needed to be flagged up for attention and assistance. On what could be done to address the distress and disorders of the children and adolescents, Prof. Chan said that, as a first step, it was important to build the parents' awareness of the mental health / well-being of the children / adolescents. The parents should be empowered and equipped with skills to help their children appreciate their own ability and develop their tenacity. The introduction of family-friendly employment practices would also facilitate working parents to better address their children's needs. To arouse the community's attention to the relevant findings of the study, publicity activities would be launched after publication of the final report of the study.

11. Ms Louise SO, Deputy Secretary for Education (4), informed Members that EDB had planned to share the study findings with the school sponsoring bodies and Incorporated Management Committees of schools to enhance the awareness on students' mental health at the senior management level of the school sector. In addition, "Promotion of Healthy, Happy and Balanced Development of Children" and "Promotion of Parents' Physical and Psychological Well-being" were two of the four pillars under the Curriculum Framework for Parent Education. EDB had implemented a series of measures including granting a One-off Grant on Parent Education of \$200,000 to each publicly-funded school to help schools embark on parent education programmes or activities with reference to the Curriculum Framework. EDB also recently launched the 4Rs Mental Health Charter which was a cross-departmental and cross-sectoral initiative to promote mental health in schools in a more comprehensive and systematic manner. "Rest" and "Relaxation" were among the four "R"s which helped students cultivate healthy habits from an early age including having enough rest, adequate sleep and leisure activities. In such connection, non-governmental organisations had been engaged as partner organisations of the Charter to provide students, teachers and parents with additional services to enhance their mental health, including the Mental Health First Aid programme.

Item 4 – Report on Values Education in Primary and Secondary Schools (Paper FC 3/2024)

12. The Chairman invited Ms Grace LAW, Principal Education Officer (Curriculum Development)² and Ms Isabella SO, Chief Curriculum Development Officer (Moral, Civic and National Education)¹ of EDB to brief Members on the details of the development of the values education curriculum. The salient points of the briefing were summarised as follows –

- (a) values education covered various cross-curricular domains, such as national education (including Constitution, Basic Law and national security education), anti-drug education, life education and sex education, so as to provide students with all-round learning experience conducive to their whole-person development;
- (b) following the publishing of the Values Education Curriculum Framework (Pilot Version) in 2021, EDB continued to suitably update the curriculum framework and the priority values and attitudes (PVAs). With the announcement of the roll-out of patriotic education in the 2023 Policy Address, EDB enriched the curriculum framework in December 2023 to emphasise further the role of Chinese culture as the backbone of values education and optimise the PVAs by extending “Care for Others” to “Benevolence” and adding “Filial Piety” and “Unity”¹;
- (c) each PVA should not be implemented independently as their essences were interrelated. Schools were recommended to develop school-based values education curriculum through “organic integration”, “natural connection”, “diversified

¹ The other nine PVAs were “Perseverance”, “Respect for Others”, “Responsibility”, “National Identity”, “Commitment”, “Integrity”, “Law-abidingness”, “Empathy” and “Diligence”.

strategies”, “mutual co-ordination”, “learning within and beyond the classroom” and “whole-school participation” approaches in accordance with their respective visions and missions, school characteristics, students’ developmental needs, etc.; and

- (d) continued efforts were made to provide / update diversified learning and teaching resources to support schools in implementing values education.

13. Members’ views were summarised as follows –

- (a) a Member considered that the incorporation of the new PVA “Benevolence” into the Council’s work of promoting a culture of loving families could be explored;
- (b) a Member asked how values education could be integrated into subjects like Science, whether learning objectives were set, and about the execution of patriotic education;
- (c) some Members expressed concern about the evaluation of the effectiveness of values education and its impact on students;
- (d) a Member viewed that teachers’ proficiency in teaching values education should be enhanced and more resources could be provided to schools as incentive to encourage schools to put more emphasis on values education;
- (e) a Member opined that students should be taught how to judge the authenticity of news and information on social media; and
- (f) a Member reflected that implementing values education was a key mission in the school sector and schools had been striving for enhancement in such work.

14. The Chairman thanked Ms Law and Ms So for the briefing as well as Members for their comments. In response to Members' questions, Ms Law said that the 12 PVAs were targeted at school level while the Council promoted core values to different target participants in the community in parallel. Other than the 12 PVAs, schools could include other values and implement values education in accordance with the school mission and vision as well as the students' needs. Knowledge, skills and attitudes could be imparted in subjects through "natural connection" such as highlighting the attitudes of water saving and environmental protection while teaching about properties of water in Science classes. Moreover, values education (including patriotic education) should be implemented through the aforementioned approaches. EDB would assess the effectiveness of schools' implementation of values education through different means such as inspections, school visits and surveys. In fact, values education was regarded by the vast majority of schools as one of their major concerns and included in their school development plans.

15. Ms So supplemented that the curriculum framework had clearly set out the learning expectations of students at different key stages for schools' reference in formulating their school-based values education curriculum. The learning elements of media and information literacy education, as part of values education, were integrated in the curricula of different learning stages, with a view to enabling students to identify the authenticity of information, and equipping them with the relevant knowledge, abilities, proper values and attitudes to protect themselves in real life and virtual world, and reject inappropriate and unreasonable behaviour or invitations on social media. While some schools had designated teachers as coordinators for values education, nurturing students' proper values and attitudes should be the responsibility of all teaching and supporting staff in schools. They should also act as the role models for students.

Item 5 – Progress of Work of the Sub-committees under the Family Council (Paper FC 4/2024)

16. The Chairman invited Mr Eugene Fong, Convenor of the Sub-committee on the Promotion of Family Core Values and Family Education (Promotion Sub-committee), to report on the work progress of the Promotion Sub-committee. Mr Fong reported that the Council would continue to launch a series of publicity programmes in 2024-25 to promote the theme of “Inheritance of Good Family Traditions and Customs” (傳承優良家風) and use the Chinese title of 「傳承好家風」推廣運動 for the Council’s 2024-25 Publicity Campaign. To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the International Day of Families, the Council would launch the related publicity initiatives through various channels. In addition to the one-day special promotion at Radio 2 of Radio Television Hong Kong on 15 May 2024, a two-minute tailor-made content with the publicity messages incorporated into the plot of the TV Programme “Come Home Love: Lo and Behold” would be arranged on 15 May 2024. A series of five 20-second end-rollers would also be telecasted at the end of each episode of the TV Programme on five days in May 2024 to promote the International Day of Families, the Council and the family core values. The Council Secretariat would also continue the related promotion effort through the Council’s website, Facebook page and Instagram account, as well as various online marketing channels.

(Action: Promotion Sub-committee)

17. 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 two organisations, namely Yan Chai Hospital Social Services Department and the International Social Service Hong Kong Branch, briefed the Support Sub-committee on the progress of their projects which were sponsored under the Thematic Sponsorship Scheme to Support Family-related Initiatives 2022, at its meeting on 29 February 2024. The Support Sub-committee considered that both projects were progressing well

and reminded the two organisations to continue to review the feedback of participants so as to ensure the effectiveness of the projects.

(Action: Support Sub-committee)

Item 6 – Any Other Business

18. CEO(FC) stated that the Council Secretariat would consult the Council on the framework of the one-stop family and women information portal which was one of the new initiatives of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau as announced in the Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address, and keep the Council informed of the development.

19. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 11 July 2024 (Thursday).

**Family Council Secretariat
July 2024**