

Family Council
Minutes of 57th Meeting held on 23 July 2024

Date: 23 July 2024 (Tuesday)
Time: 3:30 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room 4, G/F., Central Government Offices, Tamar

Attendance

Chairman

Ms PANG, Melissa Kaye

Ex-officio Members

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

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

Non-official Members

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

Mr LOU Yiu-tong, Perry

Mr LUK Hua, Warren

Ms PUN Siu-fung, Cindy

Mr WONG Bing-kin, Solomon

Official Members

Ms Shirley LAM, Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth 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 Candy CHAN, Acting Principal Assistant Secretary (Special Education) /
Principal Education Officer (Special Education)2

(attending on behalf of Secretary for Education)

Secretary

Ms Joyce CHAN, Commissioner for Women Affairs

In Attendance

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

Miss Mary KWOK, Chief Executive Officer (Family Council)

(For agenda item 3)

Ms Tina LAM, Senior Education Officer (Home-School Co-operation and
Parent Education Section)2, Education Bureau (EDB)

Ms Karen YUEN, Education Officer (Home-School Co-operation and
Parent Education Section)2, EDB

(For agenda item 4)

Mr Ryan WONG, Sales and Marketing Director, CP Jobs

Ms Crystal LEUNG, Senior Project Manager, CP Jobs

Absent with apologies

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

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

Dr HSIN PANG Che-kwan, Gigi

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

Mr LAM Sam-lim, Sam

Ms LAU Oi-sze, Alice

Prof. Albert LEE

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

Mr YAU Siu-hung, Kelvin

Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy

Welcome Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all to the 57th meeting of the Family Council (the Council).

Item 1 – Confirmation of Minutes of the 56th Meeting of the Family Council

2. The minutes of the 56th meeting were confirmed without amendment.

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 Chief Executive Officer (Family Council) [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 1 128 Legislative Council briefs as at 30 June 2024. Besides, the Sub-committee on Family Support (Support Sub-committee) had been consulted on the draft questionnaire of the Thematic Survey of the Family Survey 2024. The fieldwork for the General Survey was kick-started in late June 2024 which would be followed by the Thematic Survey.

4. As regards the Thematic Sponsorship Scheme to Support Family-related Initiatives, CEO(FC) reported that all sponsored organisations had completed their projects in June 2024 and would submit the final reports for their projects by August 2024. CEO(FC) also informed the meeting that as at 30 June 2024, the Council’s Facebook page had attracted over 36 860 followers and the average number of “Reaction”, “Comments” and “Sharing” per post was about 341. Separately, radio and television programmes to commemorate the 2024 International Day of Families were successfully rolled out in May 2024.

Item 3 – Parent Education in Kindergartens, Primary and Secondary Schools (Paper FC 6/2024)

5. The Chairman invited Ms Candy CHAN, Acting Principal Assistant Secretary (Special Education), Ms Tina LAM, Senior Education Officer (Home-School Co-operation and Parent Education Section)², and Ms Karen YUEN, Education Officer (Home-School Co-operation and Parent Education Section)² of EDB to brief Members on the latest progress of implementing the relevant measures concerning the Task Force on Home-School Co-operation and Parent Education’s recommendations on further promoting home-school co-operation and parent education. The salient points of the briefing were summarised as follows –

- (a) the Curriculum Frameworks on Parent Education for kindergartens (KGs), primary schools and secondary schools (Curriculum Frameworks) had been developed and published. Comprising four core strands, namely, “Understanding of Child/Adolescent Development”, “Promotion of Healthy, Happy and Balanced Development of Children/Adolescents”, “Promotion of Parents’ Physical and Psychological Well-being” and “Fostering Home-school Co-operation and Communication”, the Curriculum Frameworks provided a common basis for schools, relevant organisations or groups for organising territory-wide, community-based, school-based as

well as e-learning parent education courses for parents in different stages;

- (b) a one-off grant on parent education had been provided to KGs joining the Kindergarten Education Scheme and publicly-funded primary and secondary schools to support them to embark on structured school-based parent education programmes or activities with reference to the Curriculum Frameworks in recent years. EDB had also doubled the subsidy amount for the ceilings of Subsidy for Home-School Co-operation Activities and Subsidy for Joint Home-School Co-operation Project to encourage schools to utilise the additional resources to organise more activities for enhancing parent education;
- (c) post-secondary institutions and non-governmental organisations had been commissioned to provide territory-wide or district-based parent education courses and talks with reference to the Curriculum Frameworks for parents and grandparents of KG and primary students;
- (d) resource packages on parent education for primary and secondary schools based on the respective Curriculum Frameworks had been developed in phase for teachers, school social workers and guidance personnel starting from the 2023/24 school year;
- (e) important messages to parents were disseminated through the one-stop parent education website “Smart Parent Net” and its social media;
- (f) the Committee on Home-School Co-operation organised various activities on home-school co-operation and parent education every year at the territory level;
- (g) the territory-wide Positive Parent Campaign had been implemented to promote parent education through extensive

and diversified channels with a view to fostering positive thinking, strategies and attitudes in parenting; and

- (h) the 4Rs Mental Health Charter (4Rs Charter), covering the four indispensable elements in fostering students' mental health, namely Rest, Relaxation, Relationship and Resilience, would be implemented in the 2024/25 school year. Participating schools were required to step up promotion of positive parent education including organising programmes or activities for parents to promote positive parent education. They should also explain the school-based assignment policies clearly to parents and students, and convey the importance of sleep for learning, physical and psychological well-being.

6. Members' views were summarised as follows –

- (a) a Member enquired about the evaluation of the impact of parent education and suggested the use of the core strands of the Curriculum Frameworks to measure the effectiveness;
- (b) a Member expressed appreciation towards EDB's efforts in promoting the mental health of parents and students, and asked how the schools made use of the grant to achieve the objectives of parent education and how they responded to the 4Rs Charter; and
- (c) a Member would like to know the benchmarks for the hours of sleep of students of different ages.

7. The Chairman thanked Ms LAM for the briefing and Members' comments. In response, Ms LAM stated that the schools' parent education work plans would be subject to the endorsement of school management committees / incorporated management committees and review, and the implementation plan on the use of the one-off grant should be posted on the schools' websites for monitoring purposes. For activities on home-school co-operation and parent education, schools were required to submit review

reports. EDB also collected schools and parents' feedback through different channels according to the nature of the activities. Separately, the requirement for schools to implement the programmes and activities based on the Curriculum Frameworks and recommendation for schools to conduct a needs analysis had facilitated the systematic planning and provision of parent education in schools.

8. Ms CHAN supplemented that, as at mid-July 2024, a total of 388 schools had enrolled in the 4Rs Charter. EDB would continue to promote the 4Rs Charter in the school sector with a view to encouraging more schools to join the 4Rs Charter. While there were individual differences, according to some studies, children aged between 6 and 13 needed 9-11 hours of sleep and adolescents aged between 14 and 17 needed 8-10 hours of sleep to maintain good physical and psychological well-being and perform daily functioning properly. Schools and parents were encouraged to help students develop good sleep hygiene.

Item 4 – Report on Progress of the Family and Women-Related Policy Initiatives of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau Announced in the Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address (Paper FC 7/2024)

9. The Chairman invited Ms Joyce CHAN, Commissioner for Women Affairs, to brief Members on the latest progress of the family and women-related policy initiatives of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) as announced in the Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address. The salient points of the briefing were summarised as follows –

- (a) HYAB and the Council would launch the new Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education in Q4 of 2024. The existing Thematic Sponsorship Scheme to Support Familyrelated Initiatives would be consolidated with the new Scheme, with funding increased from \$4 million in each round previously to \$8 million per year. The scope of funding would cover various family-related topics, such as education for new parents, parent-child education, maintenance of family relationship and other marriage-related subjects, etc. to meet the

needs of different families. Support Sub-committee was consulted in June 2024 on the framework of the new Funding Scheme;

- (b) the first ever Family and Women Development Summit was scheduled for 9 October 2024 with the theme “Women’s Strengths in Action, Family Values Across Generations”. The Summit was expected to bring together some 500 representatives from local women’s organisations, the business sector and service organisations. HYAB hoped to exchange views with those who were concerned about the family and women’s development in Hong Kong, establish close partnerships with them and publicise the continuous progress made for the family and women’s development in Hong Kong;
- (c) the one-stop family and women information portal (the portal) to be launched in Q4 of 2024 would cover six major areas and relevant legal information, namely, (i) women’s employment and entrepreneurship, (ii) women’s health, (iii) women’s interests and relevant statutory rights, (iv) family education and family services, (v) information on marriage, and (vi) activities related to women’s development and family education. The portal would also consolidate relevant links to websites of relevant government departments. A briefing on the portal’s framework was organised for Women’s Commission and the Council on 25 April 2024. An editorial group would further be set up under the Women’s Commission and the Council to provide editorial advice on the thematic content related to women’s affairs and family education respectively; and
- (d) the Maintenance Mediation Pilot Scheme (Pilot Scheme) would be launched through the Community Care Fund to subsidise a non-governmental organisation (NGO) to provide mediation services on maintenance to people in need. The three-year Pilot Scheme, to be launched in the second half of 2024, was expected to handle a total of 1 200 cases, benefiting 2 400 separating or divorcing persons.

10. In respect of the portal, Mr Ryan WONG, Sales and Marketing Director of CP Jobs, supplemented that the portal was tentatively entitled “Family and Women Portal”. To cater for users of different profiles, hashtags would be used to categorise the articles and provide dedicated search functions.

11. Members’ views were summarised as follows –

- (a) a Member asked about the selection of mediators for the Pilot Scheme;
- (b) some Members would like to know how the effectiveness of the mediation would be evaluated;
- (c) a Member opined that the model of mediation could be applied to meet other family needs;
- (d) a Member considered that apart from face-to-face mediation, the provision of online mediation service in the evenings could flexibly cater for the needs of clients;
- (e) some Members suggested better use of push customisation based on the users’ demographics and provision of incentives to attract the users to keep browsing the portal; and
- (f) a Member observed that synergy of parent education could be achieved with EDB’s strengthened initiatives and the support of relevant projects under the Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education.

12. In response to Members’ questions on the Pilot Scheme, Mr Nick AU YEUNG, Deputy Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Home Affairs), advised that family mediators with relevant experience would be arranged / engaged by the NGO to provide the service. Both qualitative and

quantitative evaluation would be deployed to assess the effectiveness of the mediation. In reviewing the Pilot Scheme, apart from assessing whether agreement could be reached after mediation, other intangible benefits that could be brought by mediation, such as alleviating the tension between couples, would also be taken into account. Depending on the experience gathered from the Pilot Scheme, online mediation and extension of the mediation service to cover other family issues might be explored in future.

13. On Members' views regarding the portal, Mr AU YEUNG responded that the portal would enable users to view the content based on their profiles. HYAB would consider incentives that could be provided, such as giving out small prizes, to attract subscription for the quarterly e-newsletter. Mr WONG supplemented that publicity would be launched through the social media, Search Engine Marketing and Search Engine Optimisation to draw the first batch of users and attract followers.

Item 5 – Progress of Work of the Sub-committees under the Family Council (Paper FC 8/2024)

14. The Chairman invited CEO(FC) to report on the work progress of the Sub-committees of the Council. CEO(FC) reported that, under the 2024-25 Publicity Campaign themed “Family Values: Our Cherished Legacy”, the Council launched a short video competition for senior primary students and junior secondary students in June 2024 to promote family values and traditions in the Chinese society after consultation with the Subcommittee on the Promotion of Family Core Values and Family Education (Promotion Subcommittee). To better gear up and support potential entrants, three online workshops on story creation, video shooting, editing, etc. were provided at the Council's website for free viewing by interested entrants. All local primary and secondary schools had been approached to encourage their students to submit entries. Separately, a service agency had been engaged to produce a new series of family education videos about the Chinese family virtues, including an introductory video on family culture.

(Action: Promotion Sub-committee)

15. CEO(FC) continued to brief Members that following the completion of the fieldwork of the Family Survey 2024 in October 2024, the research company would collect qualitative views through focus group discussions and in-depth interviews in November and December 2024 in order to enable the triangulation of the quantitative and qualitative data. Besides, the sponsored organisations which completed their projects under the current round of the Thematic Sponsorship Scheme to Support Family-related Initiatives in June 2024 would be invited to brief the Support Subcommittee on the outcomes of the projects.

(Action: Support Sub-committee)

Item 6 – Any Other Business

16. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 2024.

Family Council Secretariat
November 2024