

Family Council
Minutes of 47th Meeting held on 23 June 2021

Date: 23 June 2021 (Wednesday)
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room 6, G/F., Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

Attendance

Chairman

Ms PANG, Melissa Kaye

Ex-officio Members

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

Non-official Members

Mr CHAN Kwan-yeung, Arnold

Prof. CHEN Yu-hai, Eric

Ms CHEUNG Lai-chu

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

Mr FONG Yick-jin, Eugene

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

Prof. Albert LEE

Mr LUK Hua, Warren

Ms PUN Siu-fung, Cindy

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

Mrs WONG NG Kit-wah, Cecilia

Mr WOO Kin-man, Clement

Ms YIP Yun-wan, Amarantha, Convenor, Sub-committee on the
Promotion of Family Core Values and Family Education

Official Members

Miss Helen TANG, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

(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)

Mr CHENG Ming-keung, Principal Assistant Secretary (School
Administration Special Support)

(attending on behalf of Secretary for Education)

Mr Sam SHEN, Project Manager (3)

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

Secretary

Mr Kenneth CHAN, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Civic Affairs)2

In attendance

Ms Adia LAM, Chief Executive Officer (Family Council)

(For agenda item 3)

Mr Albert LAM, Consultant (Health), Food and Health Bureau (FHB)

(For agenda item 4)

Ms Daisy LO, Principal Assistant Secretary for Innovation and
Technology (4), Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB)

Mr Kingsley WONG, Assistant Government Chief Information Officer
(Industry Development), Office of the Government Chief Information
Officer (OGCIO)

Absent with apologies

Dr LAM Ching-choi, Chairman of the Elderly Commission

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

Ms CHAN Suk-mei, May

Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy

Welcome Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all to the 47th meeting of the Family Council (the Council), in particular three new members, namely Mr CHAN Kwan-yeung, Arnold, Prof. CHEN Yu-hai, Eric and Mr LUK Hua, Warren who had been appointed to the Council since April 2021. The Chairman also welcomed Miss Helen TANG who took up the post of Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1) on 26 April 2021 following the transfer of Mr Patrick LI, and Mr Sam SHEN, Project Manager (3) of the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office, who attended the Council meeting for the first time.

Item 1 – Confirmation of Minutes of the 46th Meeting of the Family Council

2. The minutes of the 46th 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 progress.

In respect of the application of the Family Impact Assessment (FIA) checklist, CEO(FC) reported that the FIA had been applied to 694 Legislative Council briefs as at 31 May 2021. Besides, the Final Report of the Consolidation Exercise of the Findings of Family Surveys conducted since 2011 (the Consolidation Exercise) had been endorsed by the Sub-committee on Family Support (Support Sub-committee) and subsequently uploaded onto the website of the Council.

4. For the Scheme on Thematic Sponsorship to Support Family-related Initiatives, CEO(FC) reported that the four sponsored organisations were in the course of implementing their respective projects and would report the progress of their projects by submitting half-yearly progress report to the Council Secretariat by end of July 2021. CEO(FC) also informed the meeting that as at 31 May 2021, the Council's Facebook had attracted over 25 513 "likes" and the average number of "Reaction", "Comments" and "Sharing" per post was about 289. As regards the second storybook of the "The But's Family" and its theme song, the related publicity plan, including broadcasting of promotional videos and radio programmes, as well as placement of advertisements at various mobile applications and websites, was successfully launched from March to April 2021.

5. As regards the "Further Study on the Phenomenon of Divorce in Hong Kong" (the Divorce Study), CEO(FC) reported that the consolidated comments of relevant bureaux/departments (B/Ds) on the revised draft Final Report were forwarded to the research team in March 2021. Subject to the research team's feedbacks, relevant B/Ds might be engaged again, before the meeting of the Working Group on Further Study on the Phenomenon on Divorce in Hong Kong (WG) to discuss the draft Final Report when ready. Upon Members' deliberations on the draft Final Report and subject to the research team's responses to the views and observations of relevant B/Ds and WG, the research team would brief the Council on the findings and recommendations of the Divorce Study. In response, some Members suggested that the research team should be asked to expedite its revision of the draft Final Report and advise on the

appropriateness of applying overseas measures to Hong Kong having regard to specific local circumstances so as to facilitate deliberation by the WG and the Council in due course.

6. Upon the Council's enquiry at the last meeting about the additional measures being carried out to deal with family problems during the COVID-19 pandemic, and whether the number of families seeking help had increased in the past year, the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Social Welfare Department had prepared an information note which was circulated to Council Members on 16 June 2021 for information.

7. A Member inquired about the latest progress of taking forward the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Causing or Allowing the Death of a Child or Vulnerable Adult under the Law Reform Commission (LRC Subcommittee) of introducing a new offence of "failure to protect a child or vulnerable person where the child's or vulnerable person's death or serious harm results from an unlawful act of neglect", as set out in its 2019 consultation document, by the Government. Mr David LEUNG replied that the Government attached great importance to the well-being of children and had implemented a wide range of administrative measures in recent years for the prevention, early identification and appropriate intervention of suspected child abuse cases. While efforts would continue to be made to explore further administrative measures to enhance the protection of children, the Government would seriously consider the LRC Subcommittee's recommendations and take appropriate follow-up actions soon after LRC's publication of the final report of the consultation. The Chairman suggested that the issue could be discussed at a future Council meeting after the release of the LRC report.

[Post-meeting note: The LRC released on 10 September 2021 its report on "Causing or Allowing the Death or Serious Harm of a Child or Vulnerable Adult". The subject on "Proposed Mandatory Reporting Requirement for Suspected Child Abuse Cases" would be discussed at the next Council meeting on 24 September 2021.]

Item 3 – Consultation Report on End-of-life Care: Legislative Proposals on Advance Directives and Dying in Place – Moving Forward (Paper FC 6/2021)

8. The Chairman invited Mr Albert LAM, Consultant (Health) of FHB, to brief Members on the legislative proposals on advance directives (ADs) and dying in place that were under consideration in Hong Kong. The salient points of the presentation were summarised as follows –

- (a) to gauge public views on end-of-life care legislative proposals regarding ADs and dying in place, a public consultation was conducted between 6 September and 16 December 2019;
- (b) among the 607 submissions received, there was clear support from most respondents for the initial proposals on the use of and possible legislation on ADs and amendments to the Coroners Ordinance. Taking into account the views of the respondents, a number of refinements were made to the original proposals as detailed in the consultation report which had already been uploaded onto the website of FHB; and
- (c) the Government would proceed with drafting the relevant legislation, to be supplemented by stepped-up efforts on public education on end-of-life care, life and death issues, as well as training and development of the healthcare, elderly care and emergency rescue workforce, etc.

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

- (a) a Member opined that the legislation on ADs should be made in the best interests of the patients. As a long-term goal, considerations should be given to covering people under the age of 18 to allow them to make their own choices in this respect;

- (b) a Member suggested that a central registry be developed to enable quick and easy retrieval of the relevant AD records by medical practitioners who should also be well-trained to deal with patients with ADs;
- (c) a Member was of the view that the availability of sufficient and essential software facilities were crucial to the successful implementation of ADs; and
- (d) a Member stated that promotion and public education on ADs should be enhanced and extended to focus on particular groups of people like retirees.

10. Mr Albert Lam thanked Members for their comments and added that FHB and the Hospital Authority had been promoting Advance Care Planning which was a process of communication intended for patients to express preferences for future medical or personal care, or make an AD refusing life-sustaining treatment if they had the mental capacity. In hospitals under the Hospital Authority, patients could make an AD without any extra charges and two witnesses, one of whom must be a medical practitioner in Hong Kong, were required.

11. The Chairman invited Mr Albert Lam to take note of Members' comments for necessary action. She also commented that the Government should consider capitalising on the use of the information technology (IT) to assist in handling, managing and maintaining the ADs so as to allow a speedy access of the data by the hospitals and medical practitioners concerned.

Item 4 – Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0 (Paper FC 7/2021)

12. To facilitate discussion of this agenda item, the Chairman invited Ms Daisy LO, Principal Assistant Secretary for Innovation and Technology (4) of ITB, and Mr Kingsley WONG, Assistant Government

Chief Information Officer (Industry Development) of OGCIO, to brief Members on the latest development of the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0 (Blueprint 2.0) which was published in December 2020. The salient points of the presentation were summarised as follows –

- (a) the Government published in December 2017 the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong, setting out 76 initiatives under six smart areas (viz. “Smart Mobility”, “Smart Living”, “Smart Environment”, “Smart People”, “Smart Government” and “Smart Economy”) with a view to addressing city management challenges and improving people’s livelihood through innovation and technologies (I&T);
- (b) in respect of digital infrastructure, the Government had invested over \$900 million in the past few years in taking forward a number of projects, including the “iAM Smart” one-stop personalised digital services platform launched in December 2020;
- (c) in December 2020, the Government released the Blueprint 2.0 which set out over 130 smart city initiatives, including development of a Traffic Data Analytics System to enhance traffic management and efficiency, and implementation of the “Be the Smart Regulator” Programme to facilitate online applications for all licenses;
- (d) the Blueprint 2.0 had put forth the idea of smart village pilots which aims to explore the use of technologies to address daily life issues faced by residents living in rural and more remote areas, such as medical consultation for the elderly and traffic management; and
- (e) a new chapter “Use of I&T in combating COVID-19” was added to the Blueprint 2.0, covering work implemented, including the development of the “StayHomeSafe” home quarantine system and the “LeaveHomeSafe” mobile app.

13. Members' views and questions were summarised as follows –
- (a) a Member commented that the Government should take into account the needs of the grass-root families and consider how to support these families to get access to electronic products like computers and mobile phones, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - (b) a Member said that considerations should be given to extending the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme to primary schools. Parents should also be encouraged to support their children to take part in this programme;
 - (c) a Member considered that while it was good to have the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Programmes for the Elderly, it was more important to enhance the capability of the elderly to use digital technology during emergencies. As such, more training in this respect should be provided to the elderly under the ICT Outreach Programme for the Elderly;
 - (d) a Member opined that efforts should be made to review the effectiveness of the initiatives and programmes launched under the Blueprint 2.0, such as the “smart toilet” pilot programme; and
 - (e) a Member suggested that the Government should explore the use of IT to help people suffering from Dementia.

14. Ms Daisy Lo thanked Members for their comments and replied that the Government had been collaborating with non-governmental organisations to implement various digital inclusion initiatives, and funds such as the Smart Traffic Fund was set up to promote research and development in Hong Kong. Mr Kingsley Wong supplemented that the

Census and Statistics Department would collect and analyse data on the usage of IT in the community which would serve as a useful reference for mapping out the way forward in this respect by the Government.

Item 5 – Progress of Work of the Sub-committees under the Family Council (Paper FC 8/2021)

15. The Chairman invited Ms Amarantha YIP, the Convenor of the Sub-committee on Promotion of Family Core Values and Family Education (Promotion Sub-committee), to report on its work progress. Ms Yip reported that the service contractors for promotion of the International Day of Families, Second Storybook and Theme Song of “The But’s Family”, Story Creation-cum-Story Telling Competition and Family Core Values were invited to brief Members of the Promotion Sub-committee on the details of the related promotional activities/initiatives at its last meeting held on 25 May 2021. For the series of short videos entitled "Family: A Hub to Cheer You Up", it comprised eight episodes of around four minutes each, featuring celebrities, young people and persons of different backgrounds to share their family experiences, difficulties that they had encountered and how they overcame these hard times with their families. Practical tips on how to “bounce back” from tough times in a collective and positive way were also provided in the videos. After the launch of five videos at the Council’s website and YouTube Channel in June 2021, the remaining videos would be released by phases from July to August 2021.

(Action: Promotion Sub-committee)

16. The Chairman invited Dr Kay LAM, the Convenor of the Support Sub-committee, to report on its work progress. Dr Lam reported that at the Support Sub-committee meeting held on 4 June 2021, Members reviewed the draft project brief for the Family Survey 2021 which was prepared with reference to the recommendations of the Consolidation Exercise and included information on the objectives, scope,

methodology, questionnaire design, sampling design, etc. of the General Survey and Thematic Survey under the Family Survey 2021. Taking into account Members' comments rendered at the meeting, the Support Sub-committee agreed on the objectives, scope and questionnaire design of the Thematic Survey, as well as the provision of incentives for respondents of the Thematic Survey. With the appointment of a contractor, it was estimated that the related fieldwork of the Family Survey 2021 would commence in November 2021, and the preliminary findings would be ready in April 2022 tentatively.

(Action: Support Sub-committee)

Item 6 – Any Other Business

17. The Chairman updated Members that informal exchange with the Chairmen/Vice-chairmen of the other three advisory committees and representatives on the Council had been held to enhance communications.

18. The Chairman briefed Members that the Council was one of the Government advisory committees included in the current phase of the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth. The Council Secretariat was in the course of vetting the applications received and interviews would be arranged to select suitable candidates to join the Council in due course.

19. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 24 September 2021 (Friday) (2:30 p.m.) tentatively.

Family Council Secretariat
July 2021