

## Family Council

### Notes of 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Date: 4 July 2011(Monday)

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room (Room 822), 8/F, West Wing,  
Central Government Offices

#### Attendance

##### Official Members

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, Secretary for Home Affairs (Chairman for this meeting on behalf of the Chief Secretary for the Administration)

Mr Matthew CHEUNG, Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Mrs Betty IP, Deputy Secretary for Education (attend on behalf of SED)

Prof LEE Ming-kwan, Member (2)/Central Policy Unit  
(attend on behalf of H/CPU)

##### Ex-officio Members

Mr CHAN Chun-bun, Bunny (陳振彬先生), Chairperson of the Commission on Youth

Ms KAO Ching-chi, Sophia (高靜芝女士), Chairperson of the Women's Commission

Dr LEONG Chi-hung, Edward (梁智鴻議員), Chairperson of the Elderly Commission

##### Non-official Members

Mr CHOW Yung, Robert (周融先生)

Dr KOONG May-kay, Maggie (孔美琪博士)

Ms LAI Fung-yee, Angelina (黎鳳儀女士)

Dr LI Sau-hung, Eddy (李秀恆博士)

Dr PANG King-chee (彭敬慈博士)

Prof WONG Po-choi (黃寶財教授)

Ms WONG Pik-kiu, Peggy (黃碧嬌女士)

Mr YIU Tze-leung (姚子樑先生)

Absence with apologies

Ms LAW Suk-kwan, Lilian (羅淑君女士)

Dr LEE Wai-yung (李維榕博士)

Ms LOO Shirley Marie Therese (羅乃萱女士)

Prof. SHEK Tan-lei, Daniel (石丹理教授)

Dr WONG Chung-kwong (黃重光醫生)

Ms YAU Oi-yuen, Irene (邱藹源女士)

Secretary

Ms Aubrey FUNG, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Civic Affairs)<sup>2</sup> (Acting)

In attendance

Ms Grace LUI, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Mr Roy TANG, Deputy Secretary for Labour & Welfare (Welfare)<sup>1</sup>

Mr Bruno LUK, Administrative Assistant to Chief Secretary for Administration

Ms Jessica CHENG, Chief Executive Officer (Family Council)

Ms Grace PAT, Senior Executive Officer<sup>(2)</sup>, Home Affairs Bureau

By invitation for Agenda Item 5

Ms Caran WONG, Assistant Director (Family & Child Welfare), Social Welfare Department

Mr Byron NG, Assistant Director (Labour Relations), Labour Department

**Welcoming Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all to the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Family Council. He explained that as the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) had another urgent meeting to attend, he would chair the meeting on behalf of CS.

## **Item 1 – Confirmation of minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Family Council**

2. The revised minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were confirmed.

## **Item 2 – Matters Arising from Last Meeting**

3. The Chairman reminded Members that at the last meeting, the Commission on Youth (CoY), the Elderly Commission (EC) and the Women's Commission (WoC) were invited to come up with one new recommendation (亮點) each on family-related initiatives, in order to benefit different sectors of the community. In response to the invitation by the Chairman, the Chairpersons of CoY, EC and WoC reported the following ideas towards this end -

- (a) CoY – to launch a project to assist young people in re-establishing their respect for and filial piety towards senior members of the family.
- (b) EC – to launch a new phase of the Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project to encourage family members to play a more active role in supporting their elders to age at home and with grace.
- (c) WoC – to introduce a new module in relation to gender equality at home and sharing of responsibilities under the existing Capacity Building Mileage Programme, and to launch a series of public education and publicity activities to enhance public awareness of the importance of equal sharing of family responsibilities.

The Chairpersons of the three Commissions shared the common consensus that family members played important roles in contributing to the well-being of the family and the society. To foster a more effective coordination and synergy of efforts, the three Commissions would launch and oversee the implementation of the above-said initiatives, which subscribed to the theme “Sharing family responsibilities in love and filial piety” (“人人就位 孝愛互傳”).

4. Members supported the ideas and expressed the following views-
- (a) Members agreed that the common theme (i.e. “Sharing family responsibilities in love and filial piety”) was rightly pitched in response to the needs of Hong Kong families. Members considered that the joint efforts of the three Commissions would definitely help reinforce the message of promoting the importance of filial piety across different sectors of the community;
  - (b) Noting that the target audience of the proposed filial piety campaign were the younger generations, Members opined that there was a need for an effective publicity strategy in order to encourage and mobilize the young people to accept their roles in practicing filial piety more readily;
  - (c) On promoting filial piety across the society, Members noted that it was a gradual cultural change which involved the efforts of all. To build up and sustain the momentum, the Government should accord priorities to bidding additional resources, as necessary, for implementing such projects/programmes; and
  - (d) Members noted that the Central Policy Unit (CPU) had previously commissioned the Chinese University of Hong Kong to conduct a research on the meaning and practice of filial piety in Hong Kong. Constraints on the practice of filial piety were also featured in the report. The Family Council Secretariat would request the CPU to share the findings of the research with Members.

(Post-meeting note: The Family Council Secretariat had uploaded the report on filial piety which covered the meaning and the practice of filial piety in Hong Kong, together with a review of the research literature on filial piety onto the “Happy Family Info Hub”.)

5. The Chairman thanked Members for the useful views and suggestions, and their support for the proposed common theme and relevant initiatives. To take forward the new initiatives to echo the common theme

“Sharing family responsibilities in love and filial piety” championed by the Family Council, the three Commissions would further examine and refine their initiatives. The Family Council Secretariat would co-ordinate requests for additional resource, if any.

(Action: The three Commissions,  
and the Secretariat)

**Item 3 – Policy Recommendations Arising from the Four Researches on Child Neglect, Elderly Neglect, Youth Drug Abuse and Youth Prostitution (Paper FC 7/2011)**

6. The Chairman invited the Deputy Convenor of the Sub-committee on Family Support to present the new and broad policy directions recommended by the Sub-committee which included “family engagement”, “preventive strategies and measures” and “community-based family support strategy and measures”.

7. Members noted that to support “family engagement”, the Sub-committee had recommended to adopt measures of providing both tangible (e.g. offering concessionary rates to families for public recreational and cultural venues and facilities) and intangible (e.g. providing support to families in need through mentorship programmes) incentives to families. As regards “preventive strategies and measures”, the Sub-committee recommended that they should be supported by development of assessment and management tools for family risks, strengthening of family education and providing more professional training and counseling to different stakeholders. On “community-based family support strategy”, the Sub-committee considered that it should be supported by suitable measures, including building neighborhood and friendship networks for the community, encouraging cross-sector collaboration and continuing to foster and strengthen family core values.

8. In so far as the findings of individual research reports were concerned, Members noted that they required further careful consideration in terms of their impact and implications in the long run, and that the

Sub-committee should continue to examine their implications in consultation with the relevant Government bureaux/departments. As regards the proposed new policy directions as well as the family-focused measures, Members expressed the following views -

- (a) while strengthening family education was an effective means to combat social problems, it was equally important to identify an effective point of intervention. Members noted that family education should be provided to parents from as early as possible, preferably the pre-natal stage. SLW told Members that a comprehensive package of preventive, support and remedial services including family education was being provided to parents and their children through the Comprehensive Child Development Service (CCDS) at various Maternal and Child Health Centres;
- (b) customized measures should be formulated to meet the specific needs of high-risk families. To facilitate early identification and early intervention of these families, some possible measures, including the provision of more professional support at the community level, could be considered;
- (c) the possibility of multi-level intervention and prevention should be considered. With reference to the successful experience of implementing “early education” (“早教”) in the Mainland, consideration could be given to a trial experience of similar model in Hong Kong; and
- (d) community-based family support strategy and measures should be pursued. Community resources (including efforts of retirees, supportive neighbours as well as the business sector) should be optimised.

9. In view of the comments made by Members concerning early identification and early intervention, SLW undertook to present a paper on the current scope and operation of the CCDS at the next meeting.

(Action : SLW)

10. Members endorsed the new and broad policy directions in combating the social problems as detailed in paragraph 7 of the paper. As regards the measures to support the new policy directions, Members agreed that they should be carefully considered and further deliberated by the Sub-committee on Family Support.

(Action: Sub-committee on Family Support)

#### **Item 4 – Family Perspectives in the Policies of the Home Affairs Bureau (Paper FC 8/2011)**

11. The Chairman invited Deputy Secretary (Home Affairs)<sup>1</sup> to present the paper and introduce how family perspectives had been taken into consideration in the formulation of civic/public education and youth development policies, as well as culture and sports policies under the purview of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB).

12. Members appreciated the work of HAB in taking family perspectives into account in different policy areas under its purview. To help promulgate the work of the Family Council, Members noted that HAB as Council Secretariat would continue to collaborate with various stakeholders in promulgating family core values and fostering a pro-family environment. As regards the provision of library services, Members were pleased to note that tailor-made programmes and facilities were put in place to cater for the need of different age groups and family members.

#### **Item 5 – Family Perspectives in the Policies of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (Papers FC 9/2011)**

13. The Chairman invited DS (Welfare)<sup>1</sup> of Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) to present the paper and introduced how the family perspectives had been taken into consideration in the formulation of social welfare and labour policies under the purview of the LWB. Members noted that the CCDS would be rolled out to all 18 Districts in 2011/12. In

considering the application of family perspectives in the policies of LWB, Members expressed the following views-

- (a) on the provision of elderly services, Members noted that the Government's policy was to encourage elders to "age in place" and that the underlying principle was "ageing in place as the core, institutional care as back-up". With adequate community care and support, elders with long-term care needs could continue to age at home. In this context, Members showed their concerns on the support services to the elders, especially in the event of emergency;
- (b) as regards the Integrated Family Services Centre (IFSC), Members opined that IFSC should not be regarded as the sole agent in the provision of family support services. Some Members remarked that resources should be earmarked for family life education. For example, consideration might be given to making use of the "Community Investment & Inclusion Fund" to subsidize the related programmes;
- (c) under the present arrangement, the mode of operation of IFSC and Integrated Children and Youth Service Centre focused more on downstream remedial work. This notwithstanding, strengthening of upstream preventive measures, including enhancing support to carers, was still an issue of considerable concern; and
- (d) Members appreciated the work done by LWB, and suggested that LWB could consider how to further promulgate its achievements and good work to the general public.

#### **Item 6 – Progress of Work of the Sub-committees under the Family Council (Papers FC 10/2011)**

14. The meeting noted the progress of work of the Sub-committees, in particular, that -

- (a) the Family-friendly Employers Award Scheme had been successfully launched on 7 April 2011, with application deadline on 8 August 2011. The Convenor of the Sub-committee on Promotion of Family Core Values, Mr Robert Chow, reported that with concerted efforts from the secretariat and the business sector, good progress on enrolment had been made. It was expected that around 500 companies would enroll for the Scheme; and
- (b) on family education, Members were pleased to note that the consultancy study on family education was in good progress. Following the completion of the study, the Sub-committee on Family Education would be in a better position to consider how to strengthen family education programmes at the community level and enhance related online resources.

(Post-meeting note: A total of around 1,100 applications from employers had been received for the Family-friendly Employers Award Scheme.)

### **Item 7 – Any Other Business**

15. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 29 September (Thursday) at 3 p.m. at Room 1220, Central Government Offices, West Wing.

(Post-meeting note: The meeting originally scheduled for 29 September 2011 would be postponed to 20 October 2011.)

Family Council Secretariat  
July 2011