

Family Council

Notes of 12th Meeting

Date: 14 March 2011(Monday)

Time: 3 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room (Room 1220), 12/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices

Attendance

Official Members

Mr Henry TANG, Chief Secretary for Administration (Chairman)

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Matthew CHEUNG, Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Ms Cherry TSE, Permanent 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

Ms CHAU Chuen-heung (周轉香女士)

Dr KOONG May-kay, Maggie (孔美琪博士)

Mrs KWAN HO Shiu-fong, Cecilia (關何少芳女士)

Ms LAI Fung-ye, Angelina (黎鳳儀女士)

Dr LEE Wai-yung (李維榕教授)

Mrs Justina LEUNG NGAI Mou-yin (梁魏懋賢女士)

Dr PANG King-chee (彭敬慈博士)

Prof SHEK Tan-lei, Daniel (石丹理教授)

Prof WONG Po-choi (黃寶財教授)

Absence with apologies

Mr CHOW Yung, Robert (周融先生)

Mr LEONG Kwok-kuen, Lincoln (梁國權先生)

Ms TAO Chee-ying, Theresa (杜子瑩女士)

Dr WONG Chung-kwong (黃重光醫生)

Secretary

Miss Christine CHOW, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Civic Affairs)²

In attendance

Mr Bruno LUK, Administrative Assistant to Chief Secretary for Administration

Ms Jessica CHENG, Chief Executive Officer (Family Council)

Ms Grace PAT, Senior Executive Officer(2), Home Affairs Bureau

Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all to the 12th meeting of the Family Council.

Item 1 – Confirmation of minutes of the 11th meeting of the Family Council

2. The minutes of the 11th meeting were confirmed without amendments.

Item 2 – Work Plan for the Family Council in 2011 (Paper FC 1/2011)

3. Members discussed the work plan of the Family Council in 2011 and expressed the following views-

- (a) On the involvement of family perspectives in policy making, Members noted that many Government policy initiatives, services and programmes had already embraced the family

perspectives and took into account the interests and well beings of families;

(b) Members supported the innovative approach of inviting different policy bureaux to present to the Family Council how they had taken into account family perspectives in their formulation of policies, programmes, measures and services under their respective purview in the coming Council meetings; and

(c) As regards the effectiveness of work of the Family Council, Members noted that opinions polls had been conducted through different channels, for example, the “Happy Family Info Hub” with a view to gauging public awareness of the importance of families as well as the promotional efforts of the Council. Members noted that the results were positive, for example, more than 80% of the respondents attached high importance to families and family life and more than 70% were aware of the work of the Family Council in respect of the promotion of family core values and the “Happy Family Campaign”. To further enhance the work of the Council, the secretariat would commission a survey to update data on public awareness of the importance of families and family core values.

4. Members appreciated the work of the Sub-committee on the Promotion of Family Core Values in regard of the “Family-friendly Employers Award Scheme”. Upon Members’ invitation, the Chairman agreed to be the officiating guest of the launching ceremony of the Scheme on 7 April.

5. The Chairman thanked Members for the views and suggestions, and their support for the work of the Council. He assured Members that the efforts of the Council, for example, on the publicity and promotion of family core values, would not be unnoticed, although given the diversity and cosmopolitan culture of the Hong Kong society, we need to be patient and allow adequate time to see the impact of our work. To sustain the

efforts of the Council in cherishing the family as a main driver for social harmony, and to advise the Government on the integration of family policies and related programmes across different bureaux, the Chairman made the following suggestions-

- (a) The Commission on Youth, the Elderly Commission and the Women's Commission 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 and to ensure a more effective coordination and support to the work on promotion of family values. The three Commissions were invited to give presentation on the new recommendation at the next Council meeting on 20 June;
- (b) In response to the Chairman's invitation for recommendation on a "亮點", Ms Kao stated that an issue of considerable concern to the Women's Commission was the need to enhance support for carers in households, who were mostly women. She quoted some statistics to illustrate the current situation of carers of young children and family members with chronic diseases and disabilities residing in households, and said that the Women's Commission would consider making a recommendation relating to this issue.
- (c) The secretariat was tasked to invite different bureaux to stock-take and provide regular returns to the Family Council to illustrate how they had taken into account family perspectives in their policies/measures/services in the past and in the future. With a view to further enhancing public awareness of how family perspectives were manifested in different policy areas, the Chairman suggested that the best practices/examples be uploaded to the Council's Happy Family Info Hub for public information.

(Action: The three Commissions,
and the secretariat)

Item 3 – Progress Report on the Family-related Work of the Women’s Commission, the Elderly Commission and the Commission on Youth (Paper FC 2/2011, Paper FC 3/2011 and Paper FC 4/2011)

6. The Chairman invited the Chairpersons of the three Commissions to brief Members on their respective family-related work, and thanked them for their presentations.

Item 4 – Presentation of Family Education Packages (Paper FC 5/2011)

7. The Chairman invited Prof Wong Po-choi and Dr Lee Wai-yung to present the progress of work on “The 18 Handy Tips for Family Education” and “The Family Therapy Packages” which were commissioned/sponsored by the Family Council.

8. Members were impressed by the presentations and the work done. In order to make good use of the family education packages, Members suggested that they should be promoted through various outlets including the Integrated Family Service Centres and Integrated Youth Centres, clinics run by the Hospital Authority and Department of Health, schools, marriage registration offices, parent-teacher resource centres and the non-Government organizations etc. The Chairman invited the secretariat to explore how television documentaries and/or radio programmes could be produced using the materials and findings in these family education packages.

(Action: secretariat)

Item 5 – Progress of Work of the Three Sub-committees (Papers FC 6/2011)

9. Members were invited to note the progress of work of the three Sub-committees.

Item 6 – Any Other Business

10. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 20 June (Monday) at 3 p.m. at Room 1220, Central Government Offices, West Wing.

(Post-meeting note: The secretariat had circulated to Members the updated meeting schedule in 2011. The meeting originally scheduled for 20 June would be postponed to 4 July. Afterwards, the Council would meet further on 29 September and 19 December 2011.)

Family Council Secretariat
April 2011