

Family Council
Minutes of 58th Meeting held on 20 December 2024

Date: 20 December 2024 (Friday)
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Venue: Conference Room 4, G/F., Central Government Offices, Tamar

Attendance

Chairman

Ms PANG, Melissa Kaye

Ex-officio Member

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

Non-official Members

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 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

Mr WONG Bing-kin, Solomon

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

Mr YAU Siu-hung, Kelvin

Mr YOUNG Chit-on, Jeremy

Official Members

Ms Shirley LAM, Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs
(attending on behalf of Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs)

Ms Alice LAU, Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
(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 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)

Mr Alex WONG, Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services), Social
Welfare Department (SWD)

(For agenda item 4)

1. Dr SK CHUANG, Consultant Community Medicine (Family and
Student Health), Department of Health (DH)
2. Dr LI Wang-kit, Senior Medical and Health Officer (Health
Promotion)², DH
3. Dr Esther YU, Chief Manager (Primary Healthcare Commission)^{1B},
Health Bureau (HHB)

Absent with apologies

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

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

Mr LAM Sam-lim, Sam

Ms LAU Oi-sze, Alice

Prof. Albert LEE

Ms PUN Siu-fung, Cindy

Welcome Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all to the 58th meeting of the Family Council (the Council).

Item 1 – Confirmation of Minutes of the 57th Meeting of the Family Council

2. The minutes of the 57th 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 1 172 Legislative Council briefs as at 30 November 2024. Besides, the fieldwork for the General Survey was completed in October 2024 while that for the Thematic Survey was expected to be completed in December 2024.

4. CEO(FC) informed the meeting that as at 30 November 2024, the Council's Facebook page had attracted over 38 700 followers and the average number of "Reaction", "Comments" and "Sharing" per post was about 340. Separately, the first three episodes of the new series of family education videos entitled "Time Machines for Virtuous Family Values" were launched in October 2024 and publicised at the Council's Facebook page. The remaining four episodes would be launched by phases between January and March 2025.

Item 3 – The Chief Executive's 2024 Policy Address: Family-Related Policy Initiatives of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (Paper FC 10/2024)

5. The Chairman invited Mr Alex WONG, Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) of SWD to brief Members on the new family-related initiatives under the Labour and Welfare Bureau as announced by the Chief Executive in the 2024 Policy Address. The salient points of the briefing were summarised as follows –

- (a) measures on targeted poverty alleviation included expanding the Strive and Rise Programme; extending the Pilot Programme on Community Living Rooms (CLRs) by setting up three additional CLRs in 2025 in areas clustered with subdivided units; enhancing the School-based After-School Care Service Scheme; and subsidising, on a three-year pilot scheme, up to 1 000 elderly recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance to reside in designated Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (RCHEs) in Guangdong with a monthly subsidy of HK\$5,000;
- (b) to offer more choices for cross-boundary elderly care, the Government increased the number of RCHEs participating in the Residential Care Services Scheme in Guangdong (GDRCS Scheme) to 11 as at November 2024. The Government would, on a two-year trial basis, share part of the medical expenses

incurred by participants of the GDRCS Scheme in Guangdong, subject to an annual ceiling of RMB10,000 for outpatient services and RMB30,000 for inpatient services per person. The initiative would be launched in the second half of 2025. The Government would also provide additional caring services for elderly participants to help them adapt to living in the concerned RCHEs in Guangdong;

- (c) to benefit more elderly persons, the Government would raise the total number of Residential Care Service Vouchers;
- (d) on child welfare, SWD would set up four Community Parents and Children Centres on a pilot basis to promote parent-child interaction through play-based services and instill positive parenting skills in parents. These centres would commence operation progressively starting from 2026. Besides, one additional aided standalone child care centre would be set up and the service places under the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project would be increased;
- (e) on support for carers, the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) – Pilot Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers would be extended to across the territory. Furthermore, SWD would develop an inter-disciplinary and inter-organisation database of carers of elderly persons and carers of persons with disabilities to facilitate the detection of high-risk cases and enable early intervention and support;
- (f) enhanced initiatives to cater for persons in mental recovery, with mental health needs and disabilities comprised regularising the Pilot Project on Transitional Support Service for Persons in Mental Recovery; setting up an additional Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness and an online support platform for the emotional wellness of young

people; setting up 14 Integrated Community Rehabilitation Centres across the territory by phases and an additional District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities; and providing additional places for rehabilitation and home care services; and

- (g) support for employment of persons with disabilities would be strengthened through regularising the Pilot Project on Enhancing Vocational Rehabilitation Services in Sheltered Workshops and Integrated Vocational Rehabilitation Services Centres; promoting the establishment of more social enterprises engaging persons with disabilities; and introducing the “Caring Employer” medal to commend employers who actively engaged persons with disabilities.

6. Members’ views were summarised as follows –

- (a) a Member enquired whether the subsidy for medical costs incurred by elderly persons in Guangdong could be used concurrently with the Health Care Voucher;
- (b) some Members would like to know whether there was a target and an increasing trend for the elderly persons to reside in RCHEs in Guangdong;
- (c) a Member asked about the needs of the elderly and the interpretation of the referral rate for social welfare services under the Pilot Scheme on Supporting Elderly and Carers;
- (d) a Member enquired about the location of the additional CLRs and the future work of the Care Teams after expiry of the existing two-year service agreements; and

- (e) a Member was concerned whether the online support platform for the emotional wellness of young people would directly refer the youth in need to existing support services.

7. In response, Mr WONG stated that the Health Care Voucher was more commonly used in the local context whereas the subsidy for medical costs was targeted at those elderly persons already residing in Guangdong. The latter would provide more options for elderly care outside Hong Kong. While no target number was set for elderly persons residing in RCHEs in Guangdong, the number of elderly persons who opted to reside in Guangdong had increased with more RCHEs joining the GDRCS Scheme. Separately, two additional CLRs would be located at Eastern District and Kowloon City District. As regards the households reached out by the Care Teams, the needs of the elderly were mainly about application for financial assistance and care services. The referral rate for services was comparable to that through other channels, reflecting similar ratio of those in need who did not actively seek services. Mr WONG assured Members that the Care Teams would continue to work with the District Social Welfare Offices to provide support for the elderly and carers. Besides, the new online platform for the youth would be manned by social workers or voluntary workers with the support of social workers, directing the users to suitable services.

8. Ms Alice LAU supplemented that elderly persons from Hong Kong would be eligible for enrolling under the National Basic Medical Insurance Policy after residing in the Mainland for at least six months. However, participants of the Policy would need to co-pay part of the medical expenses. The proposal to subsidise the co-payment of medical costs (subject to caps) would ease the mind of the Hong Kong elderly persons when they considered the option of joining GDRCS. If these elderly persons opted to stay in Hong Kong to receive subsidised residential care, a comparable amount of resources would be required. The initiative therefore would not increase the financial burden of the Government but would offer more choices to eligible elderly persons in Hong Kong.

9. On the operation of Care Teams, Ms Shirley LAM advised the meeting that, as announced in the 2024 Policy Address, the establishment of 452 Care Teams across 18 districts would be regularised and the funding would be increased by 50% in the next term of service. The scope and key performance indicators were being reviewed with a view to better addressing the community's needs. To commend the exemplary contributions of Care Teams and their members, volunteers and partnering organisations, the Care Team Outstanding Service Award Scheme would also be launched.

[Post-meeting note: The Care Team Outstanding Service Award Scheme has been renamed as "Care Team Commendation Scheme".]

Item 4 – The Chief Executive's 2024 Policy Address: Primary Healthcare Policy Initiatives of the Health Bureau (Paper FC 11/2024)

10. The Chairman invited Dr SK CHUANG, Consultant Community Medicine (Family and Student Health) of DH, Dr LI Wang-kit, Senior Medical and Health Officer (Health Promotion)² of DH, and Dr Esther YU, Chief Manager (Primary Healthcare Commission)^{1B} of HHB to brief Members on the new primary healthcare policy initiatives of HHB as announced in the Chief Executive's 2024 Policy Address. The salient points of the briefing were summarised as follows –

- (a) the Government would devise health promotion strategy adopting a life-course framework (the Strategy) to formulate health management plans for the public according to age and health conditions. DH had established a dedicated task force for development of the Strategy which was aimed to be available within 2025;
- (b) the Government would re-orientate the maternal and child healthcare and family planning services to strengthen pre-pregnancy counselling and parental education in order to

promote healthy fertility. The new pre-pregnancy health services in the Maternal and Child Health Centres would be launched by phases in 2025;

- (c) the “Whole School Health Programme” (WSHP) would be strengthened and extended to cover all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong. The four themes of WSHP included physical activity, healthy eating, mental health and social well-being. As of mid-November 2024, over 700 schools had joined WSHP in the 2024/25 school year, covering about 60% of all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong;
- (d) the Primary Healthcare Commission (PHCC) would gradually upgrade the District Health Centre (DHC) Expresses into DHCs in phases. The PHCC would also strengthen the multi-disciplinary primary healthcare service network, with priority given to integrating the services of the DH’s Woman Health Centres into DHCs;
- (e) the Chronic Disease Co-Care (CDCC) Pilot Scheme would be expanded in 2025 to cover blood lipid testing in order to enable more comprehensive assessment and proper management of cardiovascular disease risk factors, including the three “highs” (i.e. high blood pressure, high blood sugar and high cholesterol); and
- (f) the Government would formulate risk-based screening programmes for prevalent cancers on a gradual basis. In particular, to prevent liver cancer, a new programme would be launched by the end of 2025 to subsidise hepatitis B screening, enabling early detection and treatment of chronic hepatitis B to reduce the risk of complications.

11. Members’ views were summarised as follows –

- (a) a Member would like to know the number and qualification requirement of family doctors participated in the Government-subsidised primary healthcare programmes;
- (b) some Members asked about the follow-up services provided by DHCs, use of the services by younger generations and evaluation of the effectiveness of the services provided;
- (c) a Member enquired about the participation of students under WSHP; and
- (d) a Member observed that WSHP did not impose a significant workload on schools but set out a more holistic approach in promoting student health.

12. In response, Dr YU indicated that about 4 000 doctors had been enlisted on the Primary Care Directory. Not necessarily registered as family medicine specialists, the doctors should be committed to providing accessible, comprehensive, person-centred, continuing and coordinated care, and they received relevant training upon their enrolment to different programmes. In respect of DHCs' work, rehabilitation services were provided for patients who suffered from hip fracture, stroke and heart attack, and were discharged from government hospitals after treatment. With the introduction of screening services targeting at people aged 45 or above and new service model of women's health services, younger members would be recruited from the community. Separately, a university had been commissioned to conduct a three-year evaluation study on the effectiveness of the CDCC Pilot Scheme.

13. Dr CHUANG clarified that, instead of organising activities for students directly, DH provided guidelines and a checklist under WSHP for the schools to include health promotion in their school policies, physical and social environments, etc.

14. Ms Louise SO reflected that the “4Rs Mental Health Charter” launched by the Education Bureau (schools signing the Charter would also be signing WSHP) did not incur such a substantial workload as the schools initially expected. The schools’ acceptance was evidenced by the notable increase in the number of schools signing up from some 300 in July 2024 to some 600 at present. Schools benefited from cross-disciplinary support, and courses on mental health for teachers were well-received.

Item 5 – The Chief Executive’s 2024 Policy Address: Family and Women-related Policy Initiatives of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (Paper FC 12/2024)

15. The Chairman invited Ms Joyce CHAN, Commissioner for Women Affairs of HYAB to brief Members on the new family and women-related initiatives under HYAB as announced by the Chief Executive in the 2024 Policy Address. The salient points of the briefing were summarised as follows –

- (a) HYAB would co-operate with the Family Council to launch the Hong Kong Excellent Family Awards in late April 2025 to promote good family values to the general public. The Awards aimed to recognise families that cultivated positive and supportive relationship for passage of good family traditions and virtues. Participating families would be required to submit a written narrative on their real-life family stories and experiences, together with a family photo. Shortlisted families would be invited to an interview. Two categories of awards, namely, Excellent Families and Passage of Good Family Values and Virtues, would be given out. A presentation ceremony would be organised to present the awards;

- (b) On the women's front, HYAB would establish a network run by women leaders from all sectors and launch the "She Inspires" Mentorship Programme in the first half of 2025. Under the Programme, local female university students would be matched with senior management mentors, and would be provided with relevant training and activities, to empower them to build the necessary skills, confidence and network to thrive in their future career. Each cohort of the Programme should last for one year. The Programme would run on a pilot basis for two years and would be reviewed afterwards; and
- (c) HYAB would continue to support the work of the Council, and assist Government bureaux and departments (B/Ds) on the application of family perspectives in the policy formulation process. In particular, HYAB and the Family Council would continue to implement the Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education for the period from 2024-25 to 2028-29 to enhance the work in relation to family building, family education and family values. Besides, HYAB would continue to put forward measures to support family and women's development in Hong Kong including organising the Family and Women Development Summit, enriching the content of the one-stop family and women information portal, and implementing the three-year Maintenance Mediation pilot Scheme.

16. Members' views were summarised as follows –

- (a) a Member suggested inviting women leaders from the Greater Bay Area to broaden the university students' horizon under "She Inspires" Mentorship Programme;

- (b) a Member, having noted the large number of applications under the Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education, expressed concern about the allocation of resources; and
- (c) a Member suggested inviting guests from abroad and the Greater Bay Area to share experience on work-family balance at the Summit.

17. The Chairman thanked Ms CHAN for the briefing and Members' comments. In response, Ms CHAN stated that it was intended to subsidise as many projects as possible under the Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education and the projects would be assessed on their own merits. In respect of "She Inspires" Mentorship Programme, Mr Nick AU YEUNG advised that local women leaders would be invited to serve as mentors for the first launch of the programme, and training for the mentees could cover visits to the Greater Bay Area to enhance their exposure. Invitation of mentors in the Greater Bay Area could be explored in future.

Item 6 – Progress of Work of the Sub-committees under the Family Council (Paper FC 13/2024)

18. The Chairman invited Mr Eugene FONG to report on the work progress of the Sub-committee on the Promotion of Family Core Values and Family Education (Promotion Sub-committee). Mr FONG reported that the short video competition for senior primary students and junior secondary students received a total of 187 entries by the closing date on 31 August 2024. 20 entries with the highest marks in each category were shortlisted. While the Adjudication Panel would select the award winners based on the merits of the entries, the "Most Liked Award Online" and "Most Actively Participating School Award" would be determined by public voting among the shortlisted entries and by the highest number of entries submitted by the same school respectively. The results would be announced in February 2025 tentatively. Separately, the Promotion Sub-committee agreed to adopt the theme of "Love Across Generations" (家 •

承傳愛) for the Council’s 2025-26 publicity campaign, with the focus on “Fostering Stable Family Relationships for Building Good Family Virtues and Cultures”. The Sub-committee also endorsed the plan to organise different forms of promotional programmes and activities.

(Action: Promotion Sub-committee)

19. The Chairman invited Dr Kay LAM, Convenor of the Subcommittee on Family Support (Support Sub-committee) to report on the work progress of the Sub-committee. Dr LAM reported that the four sponsored organisations under the Thematic Sponsorship Scheme to Support Family-related Initiatives (Sponsorship Scheme) presented their project outcomes at the Support Sub-committee meeting held on 25 November 2024. Having noted that the organisations completed their projects successfully with favourable responses and encouraging feedback, the Support Sub-committee conveyed its suggestions including sustaining the impact of the projects as well as making use of the projects as reference for schools to develop curriculum and for non-governmental organisations to adjust their service contents, etc. The Support Sub-committee noted that the Sponsorship Scheme had been consolidated into the Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education, covering a wider scope of themes and with increased funding, which was launched in October 2024.

(Action: Support Sub-committee)

Item 7 – Any Other Business

20. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 2025.

Family Council Secretariat
May 2025