

**Minutes of the
Social Welfare Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting**

**5 March 2013 (Tuesday) at 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 2, G/F, Central Government Offices**

Present

Mr Vincent LO Wing-sang	(Chairman)
Ms Anna May CHAN Mei-lan	
Dr Dorothy CHAN YUEN Tak-fai	
Dr Crystal CHENG Lai-ling	
Dr Roy CHUNG Chi-ping	
Mr Laurence HO Wing-him	
Dr IP Yan-ming	
Mr Christopher LAW Kin-chung	
Mr Hansen LEE Hong-kong	
Mr Edmond LEE Man-bun	
Mr Laurence LI Lu-jen	
Mr Joseph MAN Hung-yee	
Mr Jovy SUEN Leung-kwong	
Ms Theresa TAO Chee-ying	
Mrs Teresa TSIEN WONG Bik-kwan	
Mr Michael WONG Yick-kam	
Miss Helen KWAN	(Secretary)

In Attendance

Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)

Miss Annie TAM	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (PSLW)
Ms Doris CHEUNG	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (DS(W)1)
Mr Donald CHEN	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)2 (DS(W)2)
Ms Wendy LEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (PAS(W)1)

Mrs Elina CHAN Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour
and Welfare (Welfare)3 (PAS(W)3)

Mr Stephen SUI Commissioner for Rehabilitation (C for R)

Social Welfare Department (SWD)

Mr Patrick NIP Director of Social Welfare (DSW)

Absent with apologies

Ms Maggie CHAN Mei-kit
Mr David FONG Man-hung
Ms LAM Shuk-yee
Mrs Agnes MAK TANG Pik-yee
Dr Sandra TSANG Kit-man
Mr Charles YANG Chuen-liang
Ms Sania YAU Sau-wai

**Discussion Item: Briefing on the welfare-related initiatives in the
2013-14 Budget
[SWAC Paper No. 02/2013]**

Members were invited to provide comments on the paper on welfare-related initiatives in the 2013-14 Budget.

2. Members asked the following questions/ offered the following comments –

- (a) The Administration should consider upgrading the service standards of private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and increasing the number of bought places from private RCHEs under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS);
- (b) The shortage of manpower, particularly enrolled nurses, was a concern for the welfare sector, and the high turnover rate and average age of personal care workers would need to be addressed by attracting more people to join this sector;

- (c) The Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service (CCS) Voucher for the Elderly was an innovative measure for elderly services. More forward-looking measures should be introduced to prepare for the ageing population; and
- (d) Barrier-free access in public transport system and public transport interchange should be enhanced to facilitate community living of persons with disabilities. The Administration should also formulate a clear mental health policy.

3. The Administration gave the following response –

- (a) In line with the policy objective of “ageing in place as the core, institutional care as back-up”, the Administration would strengthen subsidised CCS and continue to increase the supply of subsidised residential care places through the construction of new contract RCHEs and purchase of places from private RCHEs under EBPS in parallel;
- (b) SWD had, since 2006, commissioned the Hospital Authority to organise enrolled nurses training programmes for the social welfare sector. The Administration would continue to liaise with the welfare sector on issues relating to manpower and welfare premises;
- (c) The Administration would look into the population policies and explore ways to make more comprehensive planning for our public finance to cope the ageing population and the Government’s other long-term commitments; and
- (d) The Administration strived to enhance the barrier-free facilities in public transport system in collaboration with public transport operators. The Administration had also been taking forward a comprehensive retrofitting programme under which the barrier-free facilities of over 3 500 government venues and facilities as well as 240 Housing Authority properties would be upgraded by mid-2014, and works at 90% of these venues had been completed in mid-2012. The Administration would set up a committee, to be chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health, to review the mental health policy and existing mental health initiatives in prevention,

medical care, community support and public education with a view to promoting mental health and strengthening support for persons with mental problems.

SWAC Secretariat
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