

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

**19 July 2011 (Tuesday) at 3:00 p.m.  
Room 215, Main Wing, Central Government Offices**

**Present**

Professor CHAN Yuk-shee	(Chairman)
Ms Maggie CHAN Mei-kit	
Ms Anna May CHAN Mei-lan	
Dr Dorothy CHAN YUEN Tak-fai	
Mr David FONG Man-hung	
Dr IP Yan-ming	
Ms LAM Shuk-yee	
Mr Christopher LAW Kin-chung	
Dr LEUNG Wing-tai	
Mr Timothy MA Kam-wah	
Mr Joseph MAN Hung-yee	
Mr Jovy SUEN Leung-kwong	
Dr Sandra TSANG Kit-man	
Mrs Teresa TSIEN WONG Bik-kwan	
Dr Jimmy WONG Chi-ho	
Mr Ben WONG Chung-mat	
Mr Michael WONG Yick-kam	
Mr Charles YANG Chuen-liang	
Miss Helen KWAN	(Secretary)

**In Attendance**

**Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)**

Mr Paul TANG	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (PSLW)
Mr Roy TANG	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (DS(W)1)
Ms Irene YOUNG	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)2 (DS(W)2)

Ms Karyn CHAN Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (PAS(W)1)

Ms Wendy LEUNG PAS(W)1 (Designate)

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)3 (PAS(W)3)

Miss Neve LEUNG Commissioner for Rehabilitation (C for R) (Acting)

Social Welfare Department (SWD)

Mr Patrick NIP Director of Social Welfare (DSW)

**Absent with apologies**

Mr Bunny CHAN Chung-bun  
Dr LAM Ching-choi  
Mrs Agnes MAK Tang Pik-yee  
Ms Theresa TAO Chee-ying

**Discussion Item: 2012-13 Welfare Services Suggestions and Priorities  
[SWAC Paper No. 02/2011]**

Members were briefed on the paper on 2012-13 Welfare Services Suggestions and Priorities.

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

- (a) Ageing population, shortage of residential care places for elderly and the opposition against welfare premises in local community were causes for concern in Hong Kong;
- (b) The Administration should consider increasing residential care places in nursing homes in the short term and reviewing the Dementia Supplement (DS) and Infirmary Care Supplement (ICS) in the long term. Extending DS and ICS to nursing

homes in addition to subvented and Enhanced Bought Place Scheme homes providing care-and-attention places was also suggested;

- (c) The Administration should take into account the Consultancy Study on Community Care Services for the Elderly conducted by the Elderly Commission in planning ahead for the elderly services;
- (d) A review should be conducted on the Pilot Scheme on Home Care Services for Frail Elders before the end of the pilot period in order to evaluate whether the scheme could be regularised earlier so as to promote ageing in place;
- (e) Whether the formulation of welfare initiatives and the deployment of manpower would be planned in collaboration with the Hospital Authority (HA). The Administration should also consider providing more training opportunities and incentives to encourage employment in the welfare sector; and
- (f) Whether the Administration had any statistics on the ageing profile of persons with disabilities as such statistics might be useful reference for the planning of future welfare initiatives. Tax exemptions could be introduced to companies to encourage employment of persons with disabilities.

3. The Administration gave the following response –

- (a) As there were other advisory bodies responsible for individual welfare programme areas, SWAC should consider welfare priorities and proposals from a macro perspective instead of scrutinising individual programme areas. The Administration would take into account advice from SWAC and consider the views of stakeholders collected through the multi-tier consultation mechanism in drawing up initiatives for the coming year;
- (b) While the Labour Department (LD) had measures to assist persons with disabilities in securing employment, the Administration would review the assessment mechanism under the Minimum Wage Ordinance for persons with disabilities within two years. The Administration also had

the relevant statistics on the age profile of persons with disabilities and would take into account HA's plan in forecasting manpower need and allocating resources for the welfare programme. In addition, the Census and Statistics Department regularly conducted surveys on persons with disabilities and chronic diseases which included their age profiles, and the next survey was scheduled for 2013; and

- (c) SWD had been working closely with the Food and Health Bureau on manpower provision of allied healthcare professionals and resource allocation, and the training arrangement made for enrolled nurses would provide a good reference for developing new grade of allied healthcare professionals. More discussion with the welfare sector would be necessary to see if such training arrangement could be reviewed and whether there are any substitutes for Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists so as to alleviate the manpower shortage in the short run.

**SWAC Secretariat**  
**November 2011**