

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

**25 October 2011 (Tuesday) at 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 3, G/F, Central Government Offices**

Present

Professor CHAN Yuk-shee (Chairman)
Mr Bunny CHAN Chung-bun
Ms Maggie CHAN Mei-kit
Ms Anna May CHAN Mei-lan
Dr Dorothy CHAN YUEN Tak-fai
Dr LAM Ching-choi
Ms LAM Shuk-yee
Mr Christopher LAW Kin-chung
Dr LEUNG Wing-tai
Mr Timothy MA Kam-wah
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
Miss Helen KWAN (Secretary)

In Attendance

Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)

Mr Paul TANG	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (PSLW)
Ms Doris CHEUNG	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 Wendy LEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (PAS(W)1)

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG 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

Mr David FONG Man-hung
Dr IP Yan-ming
Mrs Agnes MAK TANG Pik-yee
Mr Joseph MAN Hung-yee
Ms Theresa TAO Chee-ying
Mr Michael WONG Yick-kam
Mr Charles YANG Chuen-liang

**Discussion Item: Briefing on the welfare initiatives in the 2011-12
Policy Address and Policy Agenda
[SWAC Paper No. 04/2011]**

Members were briefed on the welfare initiatives in the 2011-12 Policy Address and Policy Agenda.

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

- (a) The Administration should continue to enhance the quality of private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) by strengthening the monitoring mechanism. While the provision of home care services should be increased to shorten the waiting time; the Administration should plan prudently to enhance sustainability of such services;
- (b) Community care service (CCS) was the right direction for provision of elderly care services. Nonetheless, the implementation of CCS voucher scheme would involve interface with community health care and manpower supply in the welfare sector. The Administration should regularly

review the pilot CCS voucher scheme, particularly its demand and manpower requirement;

- (c) The Administration should enhance support for elders' family carers such as respite services and subsidised elder sitting services to relieve their pressure;
- (d) The Administration should consider the need to enhance the support services and facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities as their ageing would pose challenges to their carers and residential care homes for the disabled in the long run;
- (e) Whether the Administration would consider providing transport subsidy directly to persons with disabilities and the elderly instead of through public transport fare concession; and
- (f) Manpower shortage in the healthcare sector was a problem that needed to be addressed. More collaboration between the healthcare and welfare sectors would be required to improve the quality of life of elders. The Administration should consider developing a Qualifications Framework for the elderly care sector to encourage the younger generation to join the healthcare profession.

3. The Administration gave the following response –

- (a) The Administration would enhance the quality of private RCHEs by increasing the provision of EA1 places under the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS), and encouraging private RCHEs under EBPS to upgrade from EA2 to EA1 level. SWD would closely monitor the operation of RCHEs, including conducting surprise inspections;
- (b) The Administration would work out the implementation details of the CCS voucher scheme such as quality standard, etc and closely monitor its implementation. Elders could choose from a range of centre-based and home-based services with the scheme;
- (c) The Administration had been supporting elders' carers through the provision of CCS, and that day and residential respite

services were available at day care centres and RCHEs respectively. Elder sitting services were provided by elderly centres and through community support networks set up under the Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project;

- (d) SWD would set up a task force to address issues concerning the provision of support services for ageing persons with disabilities;
- (e) The provision of public transport fare concession had its merits as it would encourage transport operators to shoulder their corporate social responsibilities as they would be requested to absorb the cost of their own existing fare concessions; and
- (f) SWD had been working closely with the Hospital Authority to offer special training programmes for enrolled nurses. The Administration would regularly review the manpower requirements for medical and allied health professionals in the welfare sector. In anticipation of the rising demand for healthcare personnel, the 2011-12 Policy Address had announced that the number of first-year first-degree places in various health disciplines would be increased in the coming three academic years starting from 2012.

SWAC Secretariat
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