

**Minutes of the First Meeting of the
Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee of the
Central and Western District Council 2024-25**

Date: 1 February 2024 (Thursday)

Time: 2:30 pm

Venue: Central and Western District Council Conference Room
14/F, Harbour Building
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present:

Chairman

Mr LAW Kam-fai

Vice-chairman

Mr LEE Chi-hang, Sidney, MH

Members

Dr WONG Sin-man, Mandy

Mr NG Yin

Mr LUI Hung-pan

Mr QIU Song-qing, MH

Ms JIN Ling, MH

Mr SHIH Jan Noel

Mr WU Man-hin

Ms CHEUNG Ka-yan

Dr CHAN Kin-keung, Eugene, SBS, BBS, JP

Dr FUNG Kar-leung

Mr YEUNG Hoi-wing

Mr YEUNG Hok-ming, MH

Mr YIP Wing-shing, SBS, BBS, MH, JP

Mr IP Yik-nam, JP

Ms CHIU Wah-kuen, MH

Mr LAU Tin-ching

In Attendance:

Ms CHEUNG Kwok-ying, Sherry Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
Central and Western District Office

Miss LO Wai-ling, Fanny Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management) 3,
Central and Western District Office

Secretary:

Mr YEUNG Lok-san, Rio Executive Officer (District Council) 5,
Central and Western District Office

Opening remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the first meeting of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (“CICRC”) under the Central and Western District Council (“C&WDC”) 2024-25. To identify the attendees of the meeting, the Secretariat would arrange staff to inspect the staff cards of all persons entering the Conference Room and obtain their business cards. Media workers and assistants to DC Members entering the Conference Room would also be required to register their real names and phone numbers to facilitate tracking when necessary. Besides, Members were reminded to make appropriate declarations of interest where necessary.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

(2:36 pm)

2. As Members did not have any comments on the agenda, the Chairman announced that the agenda was adopted.

Item 2: Chairman’s report

(2:37 pm to 2:39 pm)

3. The Chairman reminded Members of the following matters:

(i) As per the Performance Monitoring Guidelines for Members of the District Councils, Members’ **annual** attendance rate at meetings of committees should not be lower than 80%.

(ii) As provided by order 64 of the Standing Orders:

(1) Any Member who cannot attend a meeting because of sickness, attendance at a meeting or an activity on behalf of the DC or other reasons considered reasonable by the meeting (e.g. confinement, assumption of paternal care, fulfilment of civic obligations required by the law, serious illness or injury, attendance at a meeting or an activity, etc. of the Legislative Council or an advisory body or organisation appointed by the State or the Government) is required to submit a written application to the Secretary by using the sample notification form for absence from meetings at Appendix 4 of the Standing Orders before the meeting. The Secretary shall inform the Chairman of the application.

(2) A medical certificate shall be enclosed with the application for absence from a meeting on the grounds of sickness. Medical certificates not yet available at the time of application should be provided within two clear working days after the submission of the notification form.

(3) The Chairman shall announce at the commencement of the meeting the applications for absence from the meeting received. The meeting shall decide whether consent should be given to the applications for absence.

(4) The meeting shall only give consent to applications for absence filed on the grounds of sickness, attendance at a meeting or an activity on behalf of the DC, or other reasons considered reasonable by the meeting.

(iii) Order 81 stipulates that the minutes of meetings of a committee shall record the discussion in a clear and concise manner as far as practicable and on an anonymous basis unless otherwise concluded by the committee in exceptional cases (for example, by motion or ballot). The minutes and audio record of meetings should be uploaded to the website of the DC except for the closed-door meetings.

(iv) Order 38(1) provides that, without prejudice to the functions of DCs under section 4A of the District Councils Ordinance, any Members and government departments who wishes to raise an item or present a paper on an item for discussion at a meeting is required to submit the paper with a notice in writing to the Secretary ten clear working days before the meeting.

(v) Order 38(3) provides that attendees shall not discuss any item that has not been or is not approved by the Chairman for inclusion in the agenda of the meeting.

Item 3: List of Government representatives in attendance at Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (CICRC) under the Seventh Term of the C&WDC (C&WDC CICRC Paper No. 1/2024)

(2:39 pm to 2:43 pm)

4. The Chairman said that the paper was submitted by the Central and Western District Office (“C&WDO”) to inform Members of the list of Government representatives in attendance.

5. The Chairman further said that those Government representatives would attend subsequent meetings, submit consultation papers, and report on information papers, etc. Besides, the Chairman asked Members to take note of the following terms of reference of the CICRC:

(i) to be consulted by the Government on affairs concerning community involvement, civic education, culture, sports and arts activities etc. in the district;

(ii) to assist the Government to publicise and promote community involvement, civic education, culture, sports and arts projects and activities in the district and to encourage residents to participate in activities organised by the Government and the District Council;

(iii) to apply for fundings under the Community Involvement Fund for projects and activities relating to the functions of District Councils, so as to implement different community involvement activities, such as district cultural events, civic education programmes, and sports activities;

(iv) to collect the views of the people in the district for district matters related to community involvement, civic education, culture, sports, and arts as requested by the Chairman of the District Council, and to submit to the Government a summary of the views collected and the suggested corresponding measures;

(v) to provide steer for its working group(s) and to endorse conclusions made by the concerned working group(s); and

(vi) to report the work of the committee regularly to the District Council and to undertake assignments as commissioned by the Chairman of the District Council.

Item 4: Any other business

(2:43 pm to 3:11 pm)

6. The Chairman thanked Members for attending the briefing session on 26 January 2024 regarding the welfare work by the Social Welfare Department (“SWD”) in the Central and

Western District (“C&W District” or “District”). He believed that Members had their own suggestions and views on the District’s welfare services. He appealed to Members for expressing views on the content of the briefing session and the welfare work in the C&W District. For instance, how Members might assist the SWD in enhancing the District’s welfare services. Members’ views were as follows:

(i) A Member learnt that the C&W District Officer and the SWD would like to cooperate with Care Teams and the C&WDC. But since members of Care Teams generally were not familiar with the operation of the Government, he hoped that more exchange sessions would be organised for members of Care Teams. He suggested that the sessions be conducted outside the working hours, namely after the C&WDC meetings, on weekday evenings, or on Saturday afternoons, facilitating the participation of Care Teams’ members. He hoped that through these exchange sessions, the SWD would highlight the support, general knowledge and training, etc. to be provided to Care Teams, so as to facilitate Care Teams to respond to questions received during home visits and refer cases in need to the SWD.

(ii) A Member enquired whether the SWD and non-governmental organisations (“NGOs”) might furnish Care Teams with a list of households in need of home visit. If the list could not be produced for circulation in light of privacy, whether the SWD or the institutions concerned might conduct home visits or provide services together with Care Teams, and in the meantime, promote the duties and scope of services of Care Teams. This would enable members of the public to understand that, apart from the SWD and NGOs, they might also contact Care Teams for assistance.

(iii) A Member said that recipients of the current social welfare services were largely the elderly and people with special needs, given that the District’s population had been ageing. However, based on her experience in the community and during home visits, residents’ mental health should not be neglected as well. She said that it would be relatively difficult to identify mental health issues, whilst the pandemic and social movement had brought influences to mental health among the youths. She thus enquired whether the social welfare sector would provide relevant professional services via the community network of the C&WDC Members. In addition, high rents in the District might prompt social welfare institutions to select service targets owing to high operational costs. She asked whether the SWD had any mechanism in place for monitoring the service standard of the institutions concerned, or solely relied on judgment by professionals.

(iv) A Member asked whether the SWD would furnish a “one-stop” contact list, categorised by professional areas such as mental health, public welfare, etc. so that the

C&WDC Members might promptly refer cases to relevant institutions or professionals with the aid of the contact list, after being in touch with those cases.

(v) A Member hoped that social welfare institutions would strengthen their cooperative ties with district organisations in a joint effort to expand the welfare service network in the District.

(vi) A Member suggested organising public events to encourage conversations with people in need of care.

(vii) A Member said that mental health issues among students were slightly under the radar in the briefing session by the SWD. In a recent visit to the C&W District Health Centre, she learnt that the target recipients of mental health service only included primary school students but not secondary school students. In light of the worsening increase in the number of suicide incidents among secondary school students, she suggested the C&WDC, Care Teams, and the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation strengthen their cooperation in tackling the matter. Besides, she said that the elderly proportion in the District was relatively high, so she asked whether NGOs would collaborate with Care Teams in rendering outreach services specifically for the elderly in an effort to enhance its effectiveness.

(viii) A Member said that Care Teams were still at the budding stage, lacking resources and professional knowledge about social welfare. Thus, Care Teams would need to learn from and work with professionals in order to be able to offer basic support to cases seeking assistance, as well as to refer those cases to relevant professionals for follow-up. He hoped that Care Teams would have more opportunities to be in touch with other social welfare institutions for coordination. After reaching out to members of the public, Care Teams might thus refer those cases to the professionals.

(ix) A Member said that incidents including fire and residents committing suicide would impact the mental health of the residents in the vicinity. He hoped that the cooperative tie with the SWD could be strengthened so that the SWD professionals and Care Teams might co-organise activities such as home visits. Besides, he aligned himself with the view that the SWD or relevant social welfare institutions had to furnish Care Teams with a one-stop contact list so that members of Care Teams might refer cases in need of assistance to relevant professionals with the aid of the contact list. In addition, he also agreed that members of Care Teams had to receive basic training, such as knowledge concerning mental health.

(x) A Member said that he had received a welfare service referral form during the briefing session of the SWD, in which the C&WDC Members might refer cases, by area and case nature, to three Integrated Family Service Centres and a Social Security Field Unit in the District. However, he opined that the usage of the referral form should be extended to Care Teams. An electronic copy of the referral form should also be provided for completion by assistance seekers during Care Teams' home visits.

(xi) The Vice-chairman opined that the abilities Care Teams had displayed were falling short of public expectation. Currently, members of Care Teams were mostly district volunteers whose scope of services fell within the ambit of home affairs. Their main duties included conducting home visits, carrying out renovation of residential flats, organising cultural, entertainment and recreational events in the District. Lacking professional qualification or experience in tackling social welfare issues, they were not able to and ought not to involve in carrying out tasks that required social welfare expertise. Nonetheless, he welcomed the suggestion that the SWD and relevant social welfare institutions should brief Care Teams on various welfare services in the District so that Care Teams might well cooperate with them in terms of home affairs.

(xii) A Member said that he had paid visits to several households involving mental health issues with members of Care Teams. But he agreed that the C&WDC Members including himself and members of Care Teams generally lacked social welfare knowledge, so he hoped that more training would be given to the C&WDC Members and Care Teams. Besides, he expressed concern over the time period pending follow-up on cases referred by Care Teams, especially those involving mental health that might deteriorate in case of delay in follow-up.

(xiii) A Member opined that the SWD might further promote its social welfare support available to the service providers in the District, such as providing a one-stop referral form. Furthermore, in the briefing session, the social welfare sector had expressed its expectation on Care Teams to identify those who might need assistance during home visits. That being said, the task might be difficult to execute as members of Care Teams generally lacked the relevant expertise. She opined that the social welfare sector might provide the C&WDC Members and Care Teams with training and guidelines. Apart from this, she opined that the one-stop referral form should also be made available in English, having regard to the characteristics of the District.

7. The Chairman thanked all Members for their views, which would be consolidated and referred to the relevant departments for follow-up by the Secretariat.

8. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received a letter from the Department of Health prior to the meeting, which extended an invitation to a Member to attend the 13th meeting of the organising committee of the “Healthy Diet and Physical Activity Participation” Community Health Promotion Programme on behalf of the CICRC. The meeting would be held on 28 February 2024 (Wednesday) at 3:00 pm by video conference on Zoom. The meeting would cover the progress report, proposed theme and content, work schedule, etc. of the “I’m So Smart” Community Health Promotion Programme. The aim of the Programme was to promote health by enhancing community collaboration and encouraging organisations to hold health promotion events, with the aid of District’s resources. It would therefore foster a living environment that benefited people’s well-being. The Chairman said that he would attend the aforesaid meeting on behalf of the CICRC if no opinion suggested otherwise.

Item 5: Date of the next meeting

(3:11 pm)

9. The Chairman announced that the next meeting would be held on 11 April 2024. The paper submission deadline would be 22 March 2024.

10. The meeting ended at 3:11 pm.

The minutes were confirmed on 11 April 2024

Chairman: Mr LAW Kam-fai

Secretary: Mr YEUNG Lok-san, Rio

C&WDC Secretariat
April 2024