

**Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the**  
**Social Welfare Committee**  
**under Eastern District Council**

Date: 22 October 2024 (Tuesday)  
Time: 2:30 pm  
Venue: Eastern District Council Conference Room

**Present**

Mr TING Kong-ho, Eddie, MH	Mr LAM Wing-shing	Ms TSANG Cheuk-yi
Mr TING Wong, Kacee	Mr LAM Wing-cheung	Ms CHIK Kit-ling, Elaine
Mr WONG Chi-chung	Mr CHAU Chi-yan, Benny	Mr CHENG Chi-sing, MH
Ms HO Sau-yin, Zareenah (Chairlady)	Ms LIN Cai-ying	Ms LAU Suk-yin
Mr YUEN Kin-chung, Kenny	Mr HUNG Chi-kit	Ms LAU Dana Sing-she
Ms LI Lee	Mr HUNG Lin-cham, MH, JP	Mr LAU Hing-yeung, MH
Ms NG Ching-ching	Mr HUNG Chiu-kwan	Mr LAI Nuen-san
Ms LEE Ching-har (Vice-chairlady)	Mr KWOK Ho-king, Calvin	Mr LU Xiaofeng, Anthony
Mr HO Ngai-kam, Stanley	Mr KWOK Wing-kin	Mr CHEUNG Man-sung (Co-opted Member)
Mr LAM Sum-lim, MH	Mr CHAN Hoi-wing, Joseph	Ms TSOI Ka-yu (Co-opted Member)

**In Regular Attendance (Government Representatives)**

Ms CHIU Man-nga, Jasmine	Assistant District Officer (Eastern) <sup>1</sup> , Eastern District Office
Ms NG Yan-mei, Monie	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Eastern District Office
Miss NGAI Ka-man, Carman	Senior Liaison Officer (4), Eastern District Office
Miss CHOW Siu-fung, Cora	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Eastern/Wan Chai) <sup>3</sup> (Ag.), Social Welfare Department

**In Attendance by Invitation (Representatives from the Government and Organisations)**

Dr PANG Kai-yuen	Deputy Hospital Chief Executive, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital
Dr KAN Chui-kwan	Consultant (Psychiatry), Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital
Mr Eric WONG	Cluster Manager (Facilities Management), Hong Kong East Cluster, Hospital Authority
Ms Michelle PANG	Public Affairs Officer, Hong Kong East Cluster, Hospital Authority

Dr CHIM Pak-wing	Senior Medical and Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations)2, Department of Health
Dr LEUNG Lai-kwan, Queenie	Medical and Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations)2, Department of Health
Miss CHAN Fung-po	Social Work Officer 2 (Planning and Coordinating) (Eastern and Wan Chai), Social Welfare Department
Ms KWONG Suk-ching	District Operations Officer (Eastern District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr WONG Pak-hei	Officer-in-charge, Task Force Sub-unit, North Point Division, Eastern District, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr WONG Cheuk-kei	Officer-in-charge, Special Duties Squad, Eastern District, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr HO Chun-long	Assistant Police Community Relations Officer, Eastern District, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr WONG Yam-pui, David	Liaison Officer-in-charge (Community Affairs)1, Eastern District Office
Mr LAU Pak-lun, Amos	Liaison Officer (Community Affairs)1B, Eastern District Office
Ms Zoe MA	Project Coordinator (Eastern District Health Centre Express), The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation
Ms Yanny YU	Senior Consultant, Occupational Safety and Health Council

### **Secretary**

Ms NG Sze-chung, May	Executive Officer I (District Council)3, Eastern District Office
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### **Action**

### **Opening Remarks**

The Chairlady welcomed all Members, representatives from the government and organisations to the meeting.

### **Agenda 1. Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 4th Meeting of SWC**

2. The above draft minutes were confirmed without amendment.

### **Agenda 2. Concern over Safety Incident of Building Facilities on 19 August and Overall Maintenance and Rejuvenation of Eastern Hospital (SWC Paper No. 13/2024)**

3. The Chairlady welcomed the representatives of the Hospital Authority (HA) to the meeting.

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4. A Member briefed the meeting on Paper No. 13/2024.
5. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:
  - (a) Members remarked that the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH) was a crucial large-scale medical facility serving over 500 000 local residents. However, the buildings aged over 30 years with deteriorating structural condition. In addition, with the rising usage under the serious aging population in the district, the operating floor area was insufficient and the facilities continued to wear and tear. The captioned incident happened despite regular inspections and the PYNEH only handled it by means of minor repairs without looking into the root cause. It reflected the PYNEH's failure to effectively protect the public safety and it could hardly dispel public concerns over the safety of the hospital buildings.
  - (b) Members viewed that the PYNEH should have taken the captioned incident as a warning and reviewed the adequacy of the existing maintenance programme.
  - (c) Members suggested the PYNEH carry out comprehensive inspection, investigation and assessment of the building components, and proactively carry out large-scale improvement works such as comprehensive maintenance, renovation and reinforcement.
  - (d) Members suggested writing to the HA about the suggestion to include the extension/redevelopment of the PYNEH into the Second Hospital Development Plan.
6. The representative of the HA noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:
  - (a) The HA attached great importance to the safety of the hospital environment, and had formulated the "rolling inspection and maintenance programmes" and the "scheduled planned maintenance programmes" for hospital buildings and facilities according to factors such as their age, usage, uniqueness of the structure/building fabric

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design, history of spalling and risk profile in accordance with the strategic approach to arrange for inspection and repairs by phases.

- (b) For higher risk areas of the hospitals, the HA would carry out a comprehensive safety inspection around every six months. As regards other areas (including the ward in question), an inspection would be carried out every 12 to 24 months to facilitate the patient services and operation. Moreover, timely repair works would also be arranged to ensure proper maintenance of the facilities.
- (c) The PYNEH had immediately carried out examinations and emergency repairs, as well as detailed inspections in the vicinity of the ward in question and the floors above and below the ward on the day of the incident. No building safety issues were found.
- (d) The PYNEH would like Members to understand that the PYNEH buildings had been built many years ago and it was difficult to conduct large-scale improvement works at present with the space constraint and the need to maintain smooth medical operations.
- (e) The PYNEH would still continue to proactively monitor the condition of the facilities, balance the need of patient services and hospital operations and enhance manpower to implement the maintenance programmes with a view to providing a safe and convenient hospital environment for patients and healthcare staff.

7. The Social Welfare Committee (SWC) endorsed the Chairlady to write to the HA via the Secretariat after the meeting.

8. After discussion, the SWC agreed that there was no need to follow up on the agenda item.

(Post-meeting note: (i) The Secretariat wrote to the HA on 30 October 2024.  
(ii) The Secretariat passed the reply from the HA to the SWC for information on 14 November 2024.)

**Agenda 3. Concern and Support for the Mentally Ill**  
**(SWC Paper No. 14/2024)**

9. The Chairlady welcomed the representatives of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), Department of Health (DH), HA and Eastern District Health Centre Express (Eastern DHC Express) to the meeting.
10. A Member briefed the meeting on Paper No. 14/2024.
11. The SWC noted the written reply from the Health Bureau (HHB).
12. The views of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows;
  - (a) Members suggested providing more information on mental health to frontline security guards so that they could assist in the identification of the mentally ill and encourage the patients or carers to seek early professional assistance.
  - (b) Members suggested introducing new generations of psychiatric medications and enhancing tracking and follow-up treatment services.
  - (c) Members suggested stepping up the promotion of pop-science activities about mental health to enhance public understanding and awareness.
  - (d) Members suggested enhancing the intervention and support services of professional and experienced staff.
  - (e) Members suggested enhancing mental health services for children and adolescents aged 15 or above.
  - (f) Members suggested setting up an emergency mental health support hotline.
  - (g) Members suggested enhancing community promotion and outreach services by social welfare service units and “District Services and Community Care Teams” (Care Teams).
  - (h) Members suggested studying the deployment of professionals to assist

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in keeping the scene under control when the police were dealing with patients with severe mental illness during their relapse.

- (i) Members would like the authority to drive the improvement of relevant legislations after balancing the patient's right to self-determination and public interest to protect the safety of the patients and others.
- (j) Members were concerned whether patients with severe mental illness were followed up by dedicated case managers at present and whether there was any manpower shortage under the existing mechanism.
- (k) Members enquired about the number of patients receiving regular medical follow-up at the PYNEH and the effectiveness of the measures.

13. The representatives of the SWD, DH and HA noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquiries as follows:

### SWD

- (a) The two Integrated Community Centres for Mental Wellness in the district were serving children and adolescents aged 15 or above at present. Professionals such as psychiatric nurses were available in the centres to provide initial assessment for the needy and share caring skills with the carers.
- (b) The 24-hour Designated Hotline for Carer Support "182183" was answered by professional social workers to provide immediate emotional support and referral services at present.
- (c) Social workers (such as medical social workers/social workers of Integrated Family Service Centres) would provide appropriate follow-up and home visits to the referral cases.

### DH

- (d) "Shall We Talk", the mental health promotion and public education initiative launched by the DH and the Advisory Committee on Mental Health, would make use of traditional channels and emerging online

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platforms to reach out to different age groups, including children and adolescents, with a view to boosting public participation in the promotional activities, encouraging the public to seek early assistance and intervention, and reducing public discrimination against persons with mental health needs.

- (e) The DH was willing to work with the Care Teams to promote mental health in the community, and would endeavour to provide the necessary publicity and educational materials.

## HA

- (f) The PYNEH remarked that its Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine had been commissioned at the end of 2020 and briefed on the environment, facilities and scope of service of the ward.
- (g) As regards community psychiatric services, the multi-disciplinary teams would provide appropriate community support to the mentally ill in the community, including corresponding follow-up by case managers, subject to the conditions, clinical needs and risks of the patients in the community.
- (h) The HA's 24-hour Mental Health Direct hotline (Tel: 2466 7350) was operated by psychiatric nurses to provide professional advice and arrange timely referral for persons with the mentally ill and carers.
- (i) The HA would provide Members with the statistics of their concern for information after the meeting.

14. After discussion, the SWC agreed that there was no need to follow up on the agenda item.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat passed the supplementary information provided by the HA to the SWC for information on 7 November 2024.)

**Agenda 4. Invitation for Eastern District Office and Eastern District Council to Support “The 2nd Hong Kong Civic Education Quiz Contest”**  
(SWC Paper No. 15/2024)

15. The Chairlady moved the agenda item and briefed the meeting on Paper No. 15/2024.
16. After discussion, the SWC agreed to support the captioned activity and allowed the display of the “Eastern District Council” logo on the publicity materials.
17. The Chairlady remarked that the organiser would be informed of the SWC’s decision after the meeting.

**Agenda 5. Discussion on “Occupational Safety and Health Promotional Campaign 2024-25” by the Occupational Safety and Health Council**  
(SWC Paper No. 16/2024)

18. The Chairlady welcomed the representative of the Eastern District Office (EDO) to the meeting.
19. The representative of the EDO briefed Members on Paper No. 16/2024.
20. After discussion, the SWC agreed to accept the \$40,000 funding sponsored by the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC) for local organisations to organise the captioned activities, and authorised the EDO to invite local and non-governmental organisations to submit proposals. It also agreed to authorise Mr LAM Sum-lim and Ms NG Ching-ching to follow up on the agenda item.

(Post-meeting note: The EDO submitted the applications and proposals from recommended local organisations to the OSHC on 8 November 2024 for review and follow-up.)

**Agenda 6. Introduction of “Hong Kong Safe and Healthy Community Scheme” - Together We Build Safe and Healthy Community**  
(SWC Paper No. 17/2024)

21. The Chairlady welcomed the representative of the OSHC to the meeting.



## Action

22. The representative of the OSHC briefed Members on Paper No. 17/2024.
23. After discussion, the SWC was interested to accept the OSHC's invitation to join the "Hong Kong Safe and Healthy Community Scheme".
24. The OSHC noted the SWC's decision.

### **Agenda 7. Progress Report of Matters Arising from Previous SWC Meetings under Eastern District Council** **(SWC Paper No. 18/2024)**

#### ***(i) "Request for Additional Residential Care Home for the Elderly in Eastern District"***

SWD

25. The agenda item would be followed up on upon further progress.
- (ii) "Enhancing Cooperation with Eastern District Health Centre Express to Promote Chronic Disease Co-Care Concept"***
26. The Chairlady welcomed the representatives of the SWD and Eastern DHC Express to the meeting.
27. The SWC noted the written replies from the HHB and DH.
28. The representative of the Eastern DHC Express added that the Eastern DHC Express had all along worked closely with District Council (DC) members and Care Teams, and co-organised a number of health promotion activities over the past six months. The representative thanked the DC members for their support and assistance in the publicity work of the Eastern DHC Express, in particular the dissemination of leaflets and promotion information about their services to the residents through WhatsApp for more people to have a better understanding of the Eastern DHC Express services.
29. After discussion, the SWC agreed to cease following up on the agenda item.
- (iii) "Improvement to Difficulties in Appointment Booking with General Out-patient Clinics in the Eastern District"***

HA

30. The agenda item would be followed up on upon further progress.

(iv) ***“Suggesting the Government to Conduct Joint Operations in Stamping Out On-street Prostitutes on Chun Yeung Street in North Point to Restore Community Peace”***

31. The Chairlady welcomed the representative of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) to the meeting.

32. The SWC noted the written reply from the Immigration Department (ImmD).

33. The views of Members about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

- (a) Members thanked the HKPF for distributing leaflets on anti-vice activities with DC members on Chun Yeung Street on a number of occasions in the recent months, which they viewed rather effective.
- (b) Members suggested the HKPF patrol, stop and search suspicious persons and deploy officers who could speak Mainland dialects to conduct decoy operations at different times of the day.
- (c) Members would like the HKPF to conduct more joint operations with the ImmD if resources allowed.
- (d) Members were concerned about the installation locations of the planned government CCTV camera on Chun Yeung Street and whether private shop owners would proactively support the installation of the CCTV systems outside their shops.

34. The representative of the HKPF responded as follows:

- (a) Two joint operations had been conducted with the ImmD at different times from March to October the current year, during which two females aged 43 to 55 were arrested for offences including “breach of condition of stay” and “soliciting for an immoral purpose”.
- (b) The HKPF had also deployed police cars and uniformed officers to conduct high-profile patrols and stop and search suspicious persons in the vicinity of Chun Yeung Street at different times of the day to enhance the deterrent effect.

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- (c) From August to October the current year, officers of the Police Community Relations Office and the North Point Division of the Eastern District joined hands with a number of DC members to distribute publicity leaflets in the vicinity of Chun Yeung Street to remind property owners of the offences and penalties of permitting premises to be used for prostitution, as well as to remind the public of the related offences and penalties of soliciting for immoral transactions on the street.
- (d) In addition to the CCTV cameras already installed by the government on Chun Yeung Street, the HKPF were studying the installation of more government CCTV cameras there. The HKPF were also liaising with the persons-in-charge of the private shops to encourage them to install CCTV cameras outside their shops to enhance the deterrent effect.
- (e) The HKPF would continue to monitor the situation and take timely enforcement action.

HKPF/  
ImmD

35. The SWC asked the HKPF to note Members' views and suggestions, and agreed to continue to follow up on the agenda item upon further progress.

- (v) ***“Establishment of a Support Service Centre for Ethnic Minorities in Chai Wan for Enhancing Support for Ethnic Minorities in Eastern District”***

Housing  
Department/  
District Lands  
Office, Hong  
Kong East/  
Planning  
Department/  
Home Affairs  
Department/  
Education Bureau

36. The agenda item would be followed up on upon further progress.

## **Agenda 8. Any Other Business**

37. There was no other discussion item for the SWC.

## Action

### **Agenda 9. Date of Next Meeting**

38. The sixth SWC meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 10 December 2024 (Tuesday).

39. The meeting ended at 5:00 pm.

Eastern District Council Secretariat  
November 2024