

**WOMEN'S COMMISSION**

**Notes of the meeting held on 26 April 2023**

Present:

Ms CHAN Yuen-han	(Chairperson)
Ms Shirley LAM	Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Vice-Chairperson)
Professor LUI Yu-hon	
Dr Kitty WU	
Ms Winnie NG	
Mr Adrian TAM	
Ms Melissa PANG	
Mrs Viola WONG HO	
Mrs Jennifer CHENG YU	
Ms JIN Ling	
Ms Mary HUEN	
Ms LAM Wai-ling	
Mrs Katherine NGAN NG	
Ms Cindy PUN	
Professor SHAM Mai-har	
Dr SO Wing-yee	
Miss Sherry TSAI	
Ms Vivian WONG	
Miss Cathy LI	Principal Assistant Secretary (Constitutional and Mainland Affairs)5/Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
Ms Wendy CHAU	Assistant Director (Family & Child Welfare)/Social Welfare Department

Absent with

Apologies:

Ms Melaine LEE  
Mr Walter TSUI  
Ms LU Hai  
Ms Ashley TSE

Ms Rita GURUNG

<u>In attendance:</u>	Mr Nick AU YEUNG	Deputy Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Home Affairs)/Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB)
	Miss Mandy WONG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Home Affairs)1/HYAB (Secretary)
	Miss Jody HUEN	Chief Executive Officer (Community Care Fund)/HYAB
	Mr Kelvin CHEUNG	Assistant Secretary (Home Affairs)(1)2/HYAB
	Mr Toby LEUNG	Executive Officer (Home Affairs)(1)1/HYAB
<u>For Agenda Item 1:</u>	Mr Eddie LEE	Deputy Secretary for Health 2/Health Bureau (HHB)
	Dr PANG Fei-chau	Commissioner for Primary Healthcare/HHB

1.1 The Chairperson welcomed all Members to the meeting and the six incoming Members for joining the Women's Commission (WoC).

### **Confirmation of Notes of Last Meeting**

1.2 The Chairperson and Members confirmed the draft notes of the last meeting without any amendment.

### **Agenda Item 1: Brief Introduction to Primary Healthcare Blueprint (WoC 07/23)**

1.3 With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Mr Eddie LEE, Deputy Secretary for Health of the HHB, briefed Members on the Primary Healthcare Blueprint (the Blueprint) published in December 2022.

1.4 Mr LEE elaborated on the five major directions of the Blueprint: (1) develop a system; (2) strengthen governance; (3) optimise resources; (4) reinforce manpower; and (5) consolidate data. Specifically, all family doctors and healthcare professionals currently providing primary healthcare (PHC) services would be enlisted on the Primary Care Register (PCR) to enable members of the public to each pair with a suitable family doctor so that their health needs could be followed up by the same doctor. The concept of "Family Doctor for All" would be useful for chronic disease prevention at the community level. Besides, there would be two-way referral arrangements for patients to be referred to specialists by their family doctors when necessary and vice versa, so as to reduce the costs for

specialist medical services.

1.5 The Blueprint also recommended strengthening one-stop care. For example, District Health Centres (DHCs) would play the role of a hub for referral of cases to a network of healthcare professionals such as optometrists and speech therapists. In addition, the Government would enhance the functions of the Electronic Health Record Sharing System (eHealth) to record all relevant patient information such as referrals, prescriptions, diagnoses and payments, contributing to users' health management with the aid of technology.

1.6 On resource consolidation, improvement to the Elderly Health Care Voucher (EHCV) Scheme could be explored for better directing resources towards PHC services with an emphasis on strengthening chronic disease management and reinforcing different levels of prevention by incentivising elders to use EHCVs for continuous preventive healthcare and chronic disease management services of healthcare providers registered under the PCR.

1.7 On strengthening management of PHC services, the Government proposed that the Primary Healthcare Office currently under the HHB be gradually transformed into the Primary Healthcare Commission so as to oversee PHC service delivery, standard setting, quality assurance and training of PHC professionals under one roof, while the planning of PHC services and allocation of PHC resources would be implemented under a strategic purchasing approach through the Strategic Purchasing Office.

1.8 Members' views and enquiries were summarised below:

- (a) a Member enquired about the feasibility of including screening of cancers such as colorectal cancer and cervical cancer in PHC services;
- (b) a Member enquired whether the number of family medicine specialists was sufficient to meet the demand of "Family Doctor for All". The Member recommended the concept of "Family Doctor for All Families" instead, thereby facilitating elderly members of a family to be accompanied by their children in seeking medical treatment;
- (c) a Member enquired whether PHC services would include diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric illnesses or referral services to clinical psychologists;
- (d) given that the usual practice of the public in seeking medical services was quite different from the concept of "Family Doctor for All", a Member opined that the launch of promotional activities on health management should be considered;
- (e) a Member enquired about the feasibility of integrating the Blueprint with the healthcare system in the Mainland;
- (f) a Member was worried that the promotion of PHC would lead to reduction of manpower in the Hospital Authority (HA), hence affecting the waiting time for specialist services at hospitals; and
- (g) a Member recommended encouraging doctors to accept the mode of work of family doctors, and using the big data to tackle the "one-to-one" manpower problem.

1.9 Representatives of the HHB responded as follows:

- (a) the existing screening programmes and services of women's centres might be integrated into the Primary Healthcare Commission for co-ordination in the future. Moreover, the Government had been taking forward publicity and promotion of the "Life Cycle Health Programme", an initiative targeting at people of different age groups and genders;
- (b) the main duty of family doctors was to assist the public in disease prevention. Their scope of work covered cancer screening, vaccine administration, treatment of chronic diseases, etc. At present, there were around 9 000 private doctors in Hong Kong, but only some of them were family doctors. Over 3 000 doctors were currently enlisted on the PCR to take part in the provision of PHC services. It was hoped that more doctors would be encouraged to participate in the future;
- (c) on reinforcing manpower, an amendment ordinance would be enacted in due course to allow non-locally trained doctors to join the medical sector and practise in Hong Kong with a view to increasing the manpower of physicians and reducing the waiting time. In addition, the HA had plans to enable citizens to use the services of the University of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital, thereby alleviating the pressure on the HA's specialist out-patient services in Hong Kong;
- (d) the HHB would consider setting up an office dedicated to the big data analysis of the health condition of the population, and more and more relevant data were expected to be available in the future; and
- (e) the DHCs were responsible for co-ordination and referral of cases, and the HHB would extend the coverage of EHCVs to services provided by clinical psychologists.

**Agenda Item 2: Proposed Implementation Details of the Women Empowerment Fund (WoC 08/23)**

2.1 With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, the Secretariat briefed Members on the proposed implementation details of the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF).

2.2 As pointed out by the Secretariat, the Financial Secretary had announced in the Budget to set aside \$100 million to strengthen support for women's development and the related tasks. Starting from 2023-24, the Government would use this additional provision to increase the annual funding for the WEF from \$10 million to \$20 million. The WEF would subsidise women's groups and non-governmental organisations for launching appropriate projects to support women. To encourage more organisations to conduct related activities flexibly, the Secretariat suggested that the duration of the projects be the only criterion for setting the funding caps.

2.3 On the mode of operation, two rounds of applications for the WEF would be opened each year. For 2023, the first round was expected to start in June. The Working Group on Collaboration and Promotion would be consulted on the application guidelines shortly.

2.4 As regards publicity, a thematic website was under preparation. The application form and guidelines of the WEF would be uploaded onto the website for reference by organisations. The

Secretariat was also planning to conduct a briefing to introduce the WEF to various organisations through the WoC's social media channels. Separately, a workshop on how to formulate proposals was being arranged for interested applicant organisations.

2.5 Members' views and enquiries were summarised below:

- (a) a Member suggested that exchange activities conducted in the Greater Bay Area be included in the coverage of the WEF;
- (b) a Member enquired how to assess the themes of the projects and evaluate their effectiveness; and
- (c) a Member suggested that publicity should focus on the project themes.

2.4 In respect of Members' questions, the Secretariat responded as follows:

- (a) the Secretariat would seriously consider expanding the funding scope of the WEF to enable women to visit the Greater Bay Area for exchange activities;
- (b) the Secretariat indicated that a number of themes would hopefully be set each year and reviewed regularly to meet the prevailing needs of the community. In addition, applicant organisations should clearly fill out in the application form the objectives of their projects and the methods of evaluation of effectiveness to facilitate monitoring; and
- (c) the Secretariat noted the Member's suggestion on publicity.

**Agenda Item 3: The Fourth Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (WoC 09/23)**

3.1 As stated by the Secretariat, a ten-member delegation of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government led by the Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs would attend the meetings of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to be held on 12 May (Geneva time) in Geneva, Switzerland. As part of the Chinese delegation, the HKSAR Government delegation would introduce to the Committee the parts relevant to the HKSAR in the ninth report submitted by China according to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and would answer the Committee's questions about the implementation of the CEDAW in the HKSAR. The meeting results attained by the delegation would be reported to Members by the Secretariat at the next meeting. Members noted the related work.

**Agenda Item 4: Progress Report of Working Groups of Women's Commission (WoC 10/23) and Secretary's Report (WoC 11/23)**

(1) Working Group on Enabling Environment (WGEE)

4.1.1 To enhance promotion of the CEDAW to younger student groups, the Secretariat had engaged a service provider to arrange for promotion talks at schools. The service provider was responsible for the overall co-ordination of the project, including design of the course programme for the talks, liaison

with schools to draw up a schedule for the talks, arrangement of speakers and assistants for course delivery, and handling of logistics arrangements. Spanning over one school year, the school talks had started since September 2022.

4.1.2 The first talk session was held on 21 September 2022. As at early April 2023, the service provider had already arranged promotion talks on the CEDAW at 16 schools. Feedback from both students and schools was very positive.

(2) Working Group on Collaboration and Promotion (WGCP)

4.2.1 The WGCP held a meeting on 4 January 2023 to vet applications under the 2022-23 Funding Scheme for Women's Development (Funding Scheme) "WoC Stream" (second round). A total of 24 applications were approved. The Secretariat promulgated the application results on 13 January 2023.

4.2.2 The WEF would be rolled out in June 2023. The Funding Scheme would come to an end upon the completion of all approved projects. The Secretariat would continue to process applications for reimbursement of funds for the approved projects.

(3) Working Group on Empowerment and Training (WGET)

4.3.1 The Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU) had been awarded the new service contract for operating the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) for four programme years from the November 2021 semester to the July 2025 semester (a total of 12 semesters). The 2022-23 programme year of the CBMP had started since November last year. In accordance with the proposal of lowering the minimum requirement of courses to be offered in a semester endorsed by the WGET at its meeting in May 2022, the HKMU was required to offer at least 54 courses in the March 2023 semester. In addition, the minimum enrolment requirement for the 2022-23 programme year was 5 600 participants (i.e. a minimum enrolment requirement of approximately 1 870 participants per semester). As at early April 2023, the number of participants enrolled for the November 2022 semester and the March 2023 semester were 2 188 and 2 370 respectively, which exceeded 80% of the minimum enrolment requirement.

4.3.2 The WGET had earlier endorsed the HKMU's proposal concerning the courses to be offered in the July 2023 semester and their blueprints, as well as its proposal for the publicity and promotion plan to be implemented from the same semester onwards. The Secretariat would continue to follow up with the HKMU on the arrangements for the CBMP.

4.3.3 On the occasion of the CBMP's 20th anniversary, the WGET had advised the HKMU to seize this opportunity to revamp the content of the programme and enhance its brand image. The HKMU would utilise its surplus in the 2021-22 programme year for this purpose. The Secretariat was currently working with the HKMU on the arrangement details.

**Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business**

5.1 As stated by the Secretariat, Dr Kevin LAU had all along served as the organisational representative of the WoC on the Committee on Promotion of Breastfeeding (CPB) before the expiry of his term in January 2023. The Secretariat proposed to nominate Dr SO Wing-ye as the representative in view of her background which should be conducive to the CPB's work. Members

were invited to note the matter.

5.2 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, 2 August 2023.

**Women's Commission Secretariat**  
**July 2023**