Striving for Professional Excellence and Social PRIDE

By
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July 2015 Cambodia
(1) About the Association

• founded in 1949, incorporated in 1975

• Objectives:
  - to foster a high standard of professional practice and ethics in social work;
  - to investigate questions affecting the professional status and welfare of social workers and to make recommendations to the authorities concerned.
  - to improve and protect the core values of our community and the people.

• Main purposes:
  - to enhance professional standard of Social Work practice
  - to improve the well-being of the society
(2) How to Achieve

2.1 Governance and Engagement of Social Workers

Members

AGM

Council

Supported by 3 paid staff

Career & Membership  Chapter on Medical Social Work  Chapter on Mental Health Social Work  Current Welfare Issues  Editorial (Journal)  International & Regional Liaison  Outstanding Social Workers Award  Professional Development  Hong Kong Academy of Social Work  Supportive Supervision Scheme

Supported by 3 paid staff

3
(2) How to Achieve

2.2 Promotion and Provision in Continuing Professional Development
2.3 Advocacy for justice, dignity and inclusion of vulnerable groups

(2) How to Achieve

Set up community service teams to help high-risk families

I am sure all Hongkongers were deeply saddened by the family tragedy in Sham Shui Po on June 4 ("Mother held after baby girl chopped to death", June 5). What it illustrates is the need to improve support services for high-risk families. The Hong Kong Social Workers Association has a number of suggestions to make.

Training and awareness at all levels of the relevant services must be enhanced for early identification and intervention for these families.

Community service teams must be set up in housing estates to help newly arrived grass-roots families to familiarise themselves with available community resources. The teams should reach out to and identify high-risk and vulnerable families and find them with mutual support groups.

The teams should also collaborate with officers in the Housing, Home Affairs and Social Welfare departments, those responsible for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance and families with successful experiences in helping vulnerable families.
2.3 Advocacy for justice, dignity and inclusion of vulnerable groups

Plans for kindergartens should adopt schools’ Direct Subsidy Scheme

Published on South China Morning Post (http://www.scmp.com)

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Plans for kindergartens should adopt schools’ Direct Subsidy Scheme
(http://www.scmp.com/comment/letters/article/1437612/plans-kindergartens-should-adopt-schools-direct-subsidy-scheme)
[1]

Submitted by sebastian.wong on Mar 1st 2014, 4:35am
Comment > Letters
SCMP Editorial

In response to requests from parents and the kindergarten sector, the government established the committee on free kindergarten education last April to discuss whether to implement a policy on free kindergarten education and, if so, how to do it.

The Hong Kong Social Workers Association believes the government should subsidise kindergarten education. But because of historical and other factors that could not be achieved in the short term, and it is advisable that, when implementing policies for free kindergarten education, one must stay practical.

Rent in kindergartens is a big issue. The government currently cannot supply sufficient school premises in public housing estates or community public land for kindergartens, so most are in private properties and have to pay rent.
2.3 Advocacy for justice, dignity and inclusion of vulnerable groups (HKSWA opinion on the Method for Selecting the Chief Executive by Universal Suffrage)
(3) Issues / challenges over the years

(i) Professional Autonomy, core values and practice

- Welfare development
- Funding/subvention mode
- Political development

- Professional core values
- Professional succession
- Advocacy

- Cross sector partnership
- Participation and prominence
- Social impact

- Contract employment
- Partners request

Government

Professional Social Workers

Employer – NGO

Other sectors in society
(3) Issues / challenges over the years

(ii) Public recognition and Impact on Social development
- Outstanding Social Workers Award, launched in 1992
- Research and policy advocacy
- Journal of social work
- Media
- Government committees / advisory groups
(3) Issues / challenges over the year

(iii) Continuous Professional Development

- not mandatory
- the field in lack of trained and certified supervisors

→ set up HK Academy of Social Work
(Supportive Supervision Scheme in 2014)

→ set up specialty chapter
  (e.g. Medical SW, Mental Health SW)
(3) Issues / challenges over the year

(iv) Role and contribution to social work development in the Region

(a) Active participation in International Federation of Social Workers, International Council on Social Welfare, and International Association of Schools of Social Work
(3) Issues / challenges over the year

(iv) Role and contribution to social work development in the Region
    (cont.)

(b) Natural disaster response
    - emergency financial support to show care
    - disaster preparedness training / management workshop
    - post-traumatic counseling training
    - social reconstruction
(3) Issues / challenges over the year

(iv) Role and contribution to social work development (in Mainland China)

(a) Consultancy to various levels of civil affairs bureau / offices on social work and service development model and time frame (hardware and software)
(b) Visits and meetings with government officials
(c) Advice on manpower planning and development ; registration and certification
(d) Supervision, in-service training and coaching
(a) Study visits (bilateral) and shadow-learning
(b) Regular social work conference
(e.g. 7th Conference on Social Work and Social Development for Chinese Communities in Shanghai in Oct 2015)
(3) Issues / challenges over the year

(vi) Social Innovation

- knowledge, approaches, service synergy → to create impact with greater resources deployed, effective than current approaches

→ initiate and explore of new curriculum with universities, professional and other professions

Meeting with the Chairman of Youth Commission of HKSAR
(4) Division of duty and Cooperation with major social work platforms

- **Hong Kong Council of Social Service**
  - Compliance

- **Hong Kong Social Workers’ General Union**
  - Welfare and benefit of social workers
  - Policy advocacy

- **Social Workers Registration Board**
  - NGOs’ umbrella
  - NGO capacity building
  - Policy advocacy

- **HKSWA**
  - Professional development
  - Upholding Social Work Value
  - Policy advocacy
(4) The Way Forward

• Uphold professional autonomy
• Social Work is not just a profession, it is a just profession

We look forward to cooperating with you!
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