



Dr Sanly Kam Shau-wan  
Ms Joyce Lee Yuen-sum  
Ms Winona Lo Oi-ling  
Ms Shalini Mahtani  
Mr Kenny Ng Kwan-lim  
Ms Cindy Pun Siu-fung  
Dr Sandra Tsang Kit-man  
Mr Alan Tsoi Ka-lun  
Mr Gary Wong Chi-him  
Dr Lilian Wong Hiu-lei  
Miss Koby Wong Lok-yin  
Ms May Wong May-kwan

**Secretary**

Ms Jeanne Cheng                      Principal Assistant Secretary for  
Labour and Welfare (Children)

**In attendance**

**Chief Secretary for Administration's Private Office**

Mr Sammy Leung                      Administrative Assistant to  
Chief Secretary for Administration  
Mr Nicky Ng                              Press Secretary to Chief Secretary for Administration  
Ms Joyce Li                                Political Assistant to Chief Secretary for Administration

**Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)**

Ms Alice Lau                              Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
Mr David Leung                          Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)  
Ms Terry Cheung                        Chief Executive Officer (Children)

**Department of Justice**

Mr Vernon Loh                          Senior Assistant Solicitor General  
(Human Rights)

**Education Bureau**

[For item 4 only]

Ms Mandy Ho                              Principal Assistant Secretary  
(Special Education)  
Ms Jennifer Young                      Principal Inspector (Guidance & Discipline)

**Health Bureau**

[For item 4 only]

Mr Derek Lee

Principal Assistant Secretary for Health 3

**Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)**

Ms Yolanda Yu

Chief Superintendent of Police  
(Crime Support)(Crime Wing)**Child Fatality Review Panel**

[For item 3 only]

Dr Eva Dunn

Chairperson

Dr Anna Cheng

Group Convenor of Medical Cases

Prof Annis Fung

Group Convenor of Suicide Cases

Dr Eileena Chui

Group Convenor of Assault and  
Non-natural Unascertained Cause Cases**Members absent with apologies****Ex-officio Member**

Dr Eliza Chan

Chairperson of Women's Commission

**Non-official Members**

Mr Winson Chow Wai-chung

Dr Tang Chun-pan

Dr Rizwan Ullah

Ms Donna Wong Chui-ling

**Item 1: Confirmation of the Notes of the Twentieth Meeting held on 22 March 2024**

The draft notes of the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting were circulated to Members on 2 May 2024 and no comment was received. The notes were confirmed without any amendment.

**Item 2: Matters Arising**

2. Following a Member's suggestion made at the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission to promote positive thinking and resilience in adversity among students and parents through screening of local films, the Commission conducted a stakeholder engagement session on 22 April 2024. In line with the theme "Mental Health of Children and Positive Parenting", the session featured film screening and sharing with students and their parents, and received positive feedback from all participants. Highlights of the session were shown at the meeting. CS expressed his appreciation to Members on their active participation, and said that the Commission would continue to organise different types of stakeholder engagement activities to raise public awareness of child protection and children's growth and development.

**Item 3: Sixth Report of the Child Fatality Review Panel [Paper No. 7/2024]**

3. On CS' invitation, the Chairperson and three Group Convenors of the Child Fatality Review Panel (the Review Panel) briefed Members on the observation and recommendations in the Sixth Report of the Child Fatality Review Panel (the Report), as well as responses of relevant Government bureaux/departments (B/Ds). Members noted that the Report, including the trend of child death cases as well as various support measures implemented by B/Ds, would be available in the form of an e-book for viewing on the website of the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

4. In response to CS' enquiry on the rationale for classifying child fatality cases arising from co-sleeping with parents and improper infant sleep practices as natural cause cases, the Group Convenor of Medical Cases explained that the death of such cases was caused by sudden infant death syndrome which was one of the natural causes of death according to the Coroner's Court.

5. Members' suggestions and views were summarised as follows –
- (a) Review Mechanism
    - (i) The review should aim to derive common causes of death as identified over the years, and focus resources on tackling the risk factors and keeping track of the effectiveness of the follow-up actions taken by the relevant parties and B/Ds rather than examining individual death cases and coming up with the same or repeated causes of death.
    - (ii) The review should examine the correlation between the death cases and relevant factors such as the socio-economic background of the families, mental health status of parents and children, whether the children had unmet special needs, etc.
    - (iii) The review should expand its scope to cover serious injuries, attempted suicides and attempted assaults for identification of risk factors and early interventions on top of death cases reportable to the Coroner's Court.
  - (b) Student Suicide
    - (i) The review should assess the mental health status of the family members of students who committed suicide, in particular the siblings, and provide timely support to those who had signs of suicidal ideation.
    - (ii) The review should aim to strengthen the sensitivity and alertness of school personnel and parents for early identification of potential suicidal cases. A Member suggested HKPF to share the practical guide for managing school crisis to all schools to enhance the capability of relevant school staff in handling student suicide.
  - (c) Support and Preventive Measures
    - (i) There was a need to step up promotion of sleeping safety,

highlighting in particular the risks associated with bed sharing. However, avoiding bed sharing could pose challenge to underprivileged families which had limited living space.

- (ii) The referral mechanism of students from mainstream to special schools should be simplified in order to relieve parents from the stress of taking care of children with special educational needs or mental health issues.
- (iii) Schools should receive better support in educational psychology or clinical psychology services to elevate the heavy workload of teaching staff and enable them to handle situations with complexity. Social workers should receive continuous training and development to equip them with up-to-date professional knowledge in meeting service needs.
- (iv) Public education and law enforcement for the prevention of accidents related to home safety and road safety should be enhanced.
- (v) The Government should consider issuing health care vouchers so that the children and youth in need might engage psychiatry services in the private market.

6. In response to Members' views, the Group Convenor of Suicide Cases said that post-secondary institutions offered post-graduate programmes in counselling, covering professional counselling skills and family therapy. On the promotion of sleeping safety, the Group Convenor of Medical Cases said that the Department of Health had introduced a pamphlet on co-sleeping, and the nurses at the Maternal and Child Health Centres also gave advice on sleeping safety to families of new born babies and follow-up on their situations when necessary.

7. AD(FCW) supplemented that SWD and relevant B/Ds had accepted the recommendations of the Report and would continue to promote multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration to prevent avoidable child death.

8. CP informed the meeting that HKPF had been organising seminars and workshops to schools on handling school crisis, and distributed practical guidelines to the participating schools. HKPF also launched a student leader training programme to enhance students' capability in identifying their peers at risk and intervention skills. In response to comment from a Member regarding a woman transporting children on an electric bicycle, the Police had taken arrest action to address the illegal behaviour.

**Item 4: Mandated Reporter Guide under the Mandatory Reporting Regime for Suspected Child Abuse Cases  
[Paper No. 8/2024]**

9. On CS' invitation, AD(FCW) briefed members on the skeleton document of the Mandated Reporter Guide under the Mandatory Reporting Child Abuse Bill (the Bill).

10. With reference to a few scenarios of suspected child abuse cases, a Member enquired the role and responsibility of members of the public with no mandatory reporting obligation in these circumstances. In response, AD(FCW) said that whilst the Bill set out the statutory obligation for mandated reporters to ensure early detection and intervention into child abuse cases, the Government had all along encouraged all members of the public to report suspected child abuse cases for child protection.

11. CS said that while the specified professionals would be mandated to report serious child abuse cases as stipulated in the Bill, any suspected illegal acts should be reported to the Police as soon as possible.

**Item 5: Progress Reports of the Working Groups  
[Paper No. 9-11/2024]**

12. The progress reports of the Working Group (WG) on Children Protection and WG on Promotion of Children's Rights and Development, Public Education and Engagement, WG on Research and Development, as well as WG on Children with Specific Needs were circulated to Members for information prior to the meeting. The Secretariat had not received any view on the reports from Members.

**Item 6: Any Other Business**

13. Some Members would have served the Commission for six years by 31 May 2024 since the Government set up the Commission in June 2018. CS expressed his gratitude for their valuable contributions to the work of the Commission in promoting child protection and children's growth and development. A souvenir would be given to them as a token of appreciation.

14. A Member thanked CS for his leadership, the collaboration of Government B/Ds in the follow-up of Members' views and the assistance offered by the Commission Secretariat to Members.

15. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:30 p.m.

**Commission on Children Secretariat  
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