

PathFinders Limited 遞交的口頭報告
香港特別行政區立法會
兒童權利小組委員會會議
二零一七年一月十七日 星期二 上午十時四十五分
立法會大樓一號會議室
關於

檢討多專業個案會議及兒童福利計劃

(一) 簡介

我係 PathFinders 的註冊社工。

PathFinders 係香港註冊既慈善機構，我地致力確保係香港出生既弱勢兒童同佢地既外傭媽媽得到尊重及保障。創立九年裏面，我地已協助了超過四千二百名兒童同佢地既媽媽

(二) 個案分享

係我地的經驗裏面，都睇到 MDCC 係需要改善嘅。

我地曾經有一對父母都濫藥，BB 只係七個月大就已經驗到有冰毒。開完 MDCC 確立左係虐兒個案後，決定將 BB 暫時交比院舍照顧，同要求父母作出具體行動去改善。

但係直到今日，BB 都兩歲半，父母一直都未能夠達到照顧小朋友的最基本要求，個媽媽甚至係呢2年完全無睇過 BB，(但他們亦無放棄撫養權)，小朋友就濟留係院舍度，成個個案就一直都停係度，完全無進展。

(三) 現有 MDCC 的問題

我地睇到 MDCC 只係確立到係咪虐兒個案，同埋執行到個福利計劃去阻止傷害惡化。

有時候短期的介入確實可以支援呢啲家庭，比到時間佢地調整，準備好照顧小朋友，係可行同有效的。但當個家庭改善唔到個陣，我地不單只係要透過 MDCC 解決即時的危險，更加要為小朋友制定長遠的福利計劃，英文叫 permanency plan。

即係要以小朋友的最佳利益為依歸，為佢地提供一個最適切的、安全穩定，可持續的長遠方案，包括點去提升兒童的福利、提供更多成長發展的可能。但可惜依家的指引係提都無提過。

你諗下 如果 MDCC 次次都話最好係留係院舍度，個小朋友就一直濟留係院舍，但院舍又點可能代替到家庭的照顧，更加唔會彌補到小朋友心裏被長期遺棄的創傷。童年係每一個小朋友成長發展最重要的階段，佢地係唔應該係咁不確定的環境底下一直等落去，繼續受到不必要的心理創傷。可惜 MDCC 淨係照顧到短期的需要，眨眼童年就會消失。如果我地社會工作者都唔睇得深入啲、長遠啲，咁重有邊個會關心呢啲小朋友？

(三) 建議

所以我地認為 MDCC 必需要改革。

第一、MDCC 需要一個時間框架，唔好要呢啲小朋友因為制度的冷漠而受更多不必要的心理創傷。我地建議參考英國的 26 個禮拜來做時間框架去訂立長遠福利計劃。

第二、訂立長遠福利計劃時，必需建基於為兒童提供一個長遠、安全又穩定的成長環境，絕不能只係解決短期的即時需要為目標，唔係比小朋友濟留係院舍或者醫院，叫做安全就完事。多謝。

**PathFinders Limited Oral Submission to
Hong Kong SAR's Legislative Council's Subcommittee on Children's Rights
In advance of a meeting on Tuesday,
17th January 2017 at 10:45am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex
regarding**

Review on Multi-disciplinary Case Conference and welfare plans for children

1. Introduction

I am a registered social worker from PathFinders. PathFinders is a registered Hong Kong charity. We ensure that the most vulnerable children born in Hong Kong, and their migrant mothers, are respected and protected. Since our establishment 9 years ago, we have already served more than 4,200 children and their migrant mothers.

2. Case sharing

Drawing from our experiences, MDCC does need to be improved. We had served a family that both of the parents were drug abusers. Their baby was found Methamphetamine positive when he was only seven months old! After MDCC established the incident as a child abuse case, the baby was placed at residential home for temporary care until parents could improve their childcare standard with concrete action plans. Nevertheless, up until now, this baby is already two and a half years old, the parents still cannot fulfill the fundamental childcare requirements. Even worse, the mother has not visited her child in these two whole years. (However, they have not given up the custody of their child.) Hence, the child gets stuck in the residential home without any prospective progress.

3. Problems of MDCC

MDCC only works to establish as a child abuse case and implement the welfare plan accordingly to reduce the harm caused on the child.

In some circumstances, short-term interventions indeed effectively support the family by, for instance, allowing them to adjust and prepare themselves to take up the role of carer. Nonetheless, in case the family is unable to improve themselves for childcare, we should not only remove the immediate risks faced by the children through MDCC, but also formulate a permanency plan for the children. In other words, a permanency plan is the tailor-made, long-term plan with stability and sustainability in order to maximise the best interest of the children. It should be formulated to advance the children's welfare and create more possibilities for the children to fully develop their potentials. Unfortunately, the current guideline provided by the Social Welfare Department does not even mention about that.

The child will only get stuck in residential home whenever the MDCC decides it as the best care for the child. Nevertheless, the residential home definitely cannot replace a family, or heal the child from profound

abandonment trauma. Childhood is the most important developmental milestone for every child. No single child is deserved to grow up in such an unstable nurturing environment and endure the inevitable trauma. Shamefully, MDCC only targets at short-term needs and the treasurable childhood of these children will pass in the blink of an eye. If we, the social workers, also do not make a long-term and detailed plan for these children in need, who else will care for them?

4. Suggestions

Therefore, we suggest that MDCC should reform in the following ways:

Firstly, a time frame is necessary for MDCC to avoid children bearing further psychological trauma in the current indifferent system. We suggest taking the time frame of UK as a reference—a permanency plan has to be formulated within 26 weeks.

Secondly, the formulation of a permanency plan should target at providing children with a safe, stable and sustainable nurturing environment. It is absolutely inadequate to place the child at residential homes or hospitals for temporary care. The plan should never only aim at solving short-term problems and fulfilling immediate needs.