

**The University of Hong Kong**  
**Department of Social Work & Social Administration**  
Social Work Fieldwork Placement  
(June 6 to August 12, 2016)

**Student's Oversea Placement Summary Report**

Name of student: Wong Kei Shing

Program: MSW PT

Agency: Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (South Taipei)

### **Introduction of the Agency**

The agency of my oversea placement is Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (South Taipei). I worked in the foster care service group. Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (TFCF) is an international non-profit organization, which care about the disadvantaged children and their families. Their vision and mission have remained helping vulnerable children, adolescents and families.

They uphold the "timely help" the spirit of service, "warm and caring", "love of Christ" and "professional social workers' well-being of children. They hope that through efforts to make children enjoy proper family care, the protection of physical and mental safety, healthy growth environment for life to the fullest educational opportunities and the joy of learning.

There are 24 service centers of TFCF in different area in Taiwan. The Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (South Taipei) is one of the centers in Taipei. It is mainly responsible for support poor families and children, protection advocacy services, daycare services, foster care and so on. There are 4 offices of the center. My working location is in Xin Shen Service Office. It is the department of foster care.

### **About the foster care service group**

My agency supervisor and coworkers taught me a lot of knowledge about foster care. I followed them to promotion, assessment, home visit, new case resettlement, end resettlement, yearly examining and so on. They would show me the procedure and precautions carefully.

## **Content of placement**

I had finished 2 cases, 3 programs and 1 camp in my placement. Here are the details:

### *Cases*

There are two cases were handled during placement as my major duties. In the case work, I had finished 8 weekly reports for each case. There are total 16 case reports. Also I would visit my client every week, such as home visit, agency visit, outing activities and so on.

Case one is a 12 years old teenager. His name is Tat. Tat is an orphan. He is a form 1 student. He was reported the self-harm history about cutting his finger. He was addict to play computer games and online games. He has introverted personality. He liked to stay at home and seldom to go out. My objective is building relationship with Tat. I aimed at pull him back to the reality from the computer world. I tried to create more outdoor activities to Tat and his foster parent, such as playing table tennis, biking and hiking. I tried to link up Tat and his foster family. I invited his foster parents to join the activities together. They supported Tat to join more outdoor activities rather than stay at home. Gradually Tat tried to open up his heart. I had built great relationship with Tat. He said he enjoys the outdoor activities. I encouraged his foster parent to bring Tat to join more outdoor activities.

Case two is a 7 year-old boy. His name is Lam. Lam was weak to control his emotions. He would beat others when he felt angry. Lam likes playing football, basketball and biking. In the building relationship stage, I tried to engage Lam by playing basketball and biking. We built the relationship quickly. After we built good relationship, I keep reminding him the basic rule of control emotions which is “do no

harm to self and others when controlling emotion". Also I tried to teach him some exercises about controlling emotion, such as sit alone to calm down, take a deep breath or drink water. He liked the strategy which is sit alone and calm down.

After a few weeks, Lam went to a summer camp in a church. There are many activities in the camp. The summer camp was last for 8 weeks. The children had to attend from 9:00am to 5:00pm every weekday. I went to the church to be the volunteer and accompany with Lam. The priest and social workers agree that Lam got good progress of control his emotions. When Lam felt angry, he would sit alone and calm down himself. They told me that Lam did not beat anyone in the camp when he felt angry. I felt Lam had tried his best to control his emotions. I observed that Lam got good progress to control his emotion in this summer.

### ***Programs***

I had assisted 2 programs and in-charged 1 program in the placement. The first program is the Relative Resettlement two days course for the foster relatives. It was separated in two days, and the courses were hold on 26/6 and 31/7. TFCF invited some experts, social workers and psychologist to be the tutors. They will share the experience, knowledge and rights about relative resettlement, or some decompression methods. I had assisted in the course as a helper to contact members and take photos. Sometimes the tutor would invite me to join their activities. As it is a quite new concept in Taiwan, even in Asia. I had learned a lot in the course.

The second program was the outdoor activities with the foster children. It was a one day program. I had assisted the program twice. They were hold on 19/6 and 16/7. The first time on 19/6 we went to Kwan Too Natural Park. There were 18 foster children

and 20 volunteers. I responded in prepare the material, matching the volunteers and foster children, maintain order, looking after 2 foster children, and take photos, briefing and de-briefing. The second time was on 16/7, we went to The Museum of Science and Disaster Prevention. There were 16 foster children and 16 volunteers. I responded to discuss with the volunteer leader, prepared the materials, matching the children and the volunteers, taking photos and looking after 1 foster child at that day. There was a tour guide to introduce the Museum. Also there were many experiential activities about disasters in Taiwan, such as earthquake, typhoon, and blaze etc.



The third program is a Self-reliant program for foster teenagers. It includes 10 sessions. I had assisted in 1 session (18/6) and in-charged in 2 sessions (9/7 and 23/7). In the session which I had assisted, the topic was “Cleaning Master”. The tutor taught the teenagers the convenience method to clear. She also taught them to make some creative tools to clear. The objective was mainly to encourage the foster teenagers to do more housework. I was an assistant on that day. I responded in taking photos, class management, and guiding the members.

I had in-charge the later 2 sessions on 9/7 and 23/7, I had discussed with my agency supervisor. Also I had written a proposal and two session plans. I planned these two sessions are cooking programs. I added some self-reliant elements in these two sessions, such as team work, money management, cooking, communication, go out to buy food and so on. The topic was “Master of cooked wheaten food” in 9/7. It was a half day program. The members were divided into two groups. We provided the recipe of the cooked wheaten food as reference. There were four part of the procedure. The first part is discussion. They need to design their own recipe, assess the price of food and division of labor. The second part is going out to the supermarket to buy the food. The third part is cooking. The last part is eating and debriefing. The topic was “Healthy meal cooking competition” in 9/7. I designed the program as a cooking competition. The procedure was similar to last session. It still had four main parts. However, we would not provide the recipe for reference. And we had invited three judges to comment and decide the award. I designed two prizes which are “The healthiest award” and “The color, flavor and taste award”. There were two social workers as the assistants. I was the leader and host of these two sessions. I had to prepare all materials and procedures.





### *Camping in Wu Lai*

I had assisted in 3 days 2 nights summer camp in Wu Lai. It was a wild camp for 40 Junior high school students. As the camp was sponsored by District Prosecutors Office and the Rotary Club, they demanded we need to promote the anti-drugs, anti-bullying and anti-fraud in the camp. We need to prepare for the promotion. I had made the power point, pretest/protest, and I was the host at that day. After that presentation, we went to the camp site in Wu Lai. Also the students divided into 4 groups and each group has 9-10 teenagers. I was a group leader of 9 members. In those 3 days, I looked after my group members. Also we responded to lead the camp fire at the second night. We leaded 2 dances and some songs of camp fire. For this part, we had meetings and rehearsals for many times before.



### Comparison about the foster care service between Taipei and Hong Kong

Also I had compared about the foster care service between Taipei and Hong Kong. As there are different welfare and system in different city in Taiwan, I chose Taipei for comparison.

Items/Country	Taipei	Hong Kong
<b>Organization</b>	2 (TFCF, World vision)	11 (Mother's choices, Po Leung Kuk, Hong Kong Family Welfare Department etc.)
<b>Foster home application process (compare with TFCF)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Description recruits foster families</li> <li>2. Accept the application data</li> <li>3. Social workers conduct home visits</li> <li>4. Accept couples group lessons (husband and wife need to participate in 16 hours)</li> <li>5. Consideration of eligibility review meeting (Social Affairs invited representatives and experts and scholars from home and send live interview)</li> <li>6. Accept the pre-service training courses (16 hours) → completed the training to become a reserve foster homes</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Description recruits foster families</li> <li>2. Accept the application data</li> <li>3. Social workers conduct home visits</li> <li>4. Accept the pre-service training courses (half day 4 hours) → completed the training to become a reserve foster homes</li> </ol>
<b>Subject to in-service training per year</b>	32 hours	Optional non-essential, such as workshops, lectures, etc.
<b>Each foster child be paid</b>	- Physically and mentally	- HKD\$7,000 (about TWD\$



<b>expenses</b>	impaired children and juveniles TWD\$21,958/month  - 0-12 year-old children in general TWD\$18,953/month  - 12-18-year-old general juvenile TWD\$20,469 /month	28,000) /month  - HKD\$2,000 (about TWD\$8,000) incentive foster families  - HKD\$5000 a foster child (about TWD\$20,000)
<b>Welfare (local governments as an example)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insured TWD\$20 million public liability insurance.</li> <li>- Foster parent yearly health checks (TWD\$4,000/ppl).</li> <li>- Respite leave benefit: the foster child returned home or move to other foster home (18 days per year).</li> <li>- Infants under 3 year-old subsidy (TWD\$5000/month)</li> <li>- Foster children first check-in fee (TWD\$2500/ppl)</li> <li>- Foster families applied to professional caregivers (TWD\$3,000/month)</li> <li>- Year-end bonus(award depends on different evaluation)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foster children first check-in fee</li> <li>- Diagnosed as mental retardation, hyperactivity / insufficient concentration, autistic or specific learning disabilities have extra incentive.</li> </ul>
Other scheme	Relatives resettlement	N/A

I found Taipei foster care welfare and systems are really advanced than Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, the foster parents can get HKD\$2000/per month as the award. Every foster child has the basic living expenses of HKD\$ 5000 each month. If the child has physically and mentally handicapped perks, they can get extra allowances. That is all of the welfare and subsidy of Hong Kong foster care system.

However, compare to Hong Kong, the Foster home application process of Taipei is more rigorous. Also they demand the foster parents accept the regular training every year. However, Hong Kong government did not demand that. The shortage of foster family is serious problems. However, the Government of Taipei provided much more extra welfare into the foster care system to attract more caring people to become the foster parents. For example, the foster parents can get 18 days holiday with pay every year; Foster parent yearly health checks (TWD\$4,000/ppl), and they have the year-end bonus after evaluation. They will get extra award money etc. The foster care welfare system is more attractive and systematic than Hong Kong.

### **My reflection and feelings**

I felt the oversea placement in Taiwan is a great and memorial experience for me. I feel the social workers of Taiwan are full of love and patients. They treat every case seriously and professionally. Their congruent and passion made me have deep reflection in the placement. I really appreciate their kind heart and passion. Even the social status and salary of social worker is not that good in Taiwan. However, the social workers still keep their passion and professional.

I like the best about the placement is the agency. As the agency is Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (TFCF), they had developed very good system for training interns. They arranged a lot of supervision session and courses for the interns. TFCF provided some training course to me, such as



Zen drawing workshop, course about Introduction of Wraparound and Introduction course for new staff. I can learn much more over my expectation. Also I would like to express my gratitude to my agency supervisor and colleague, it was because they treated me as a staff, they gave me lots of guidance and help, their support and cares make me feel great. They taught me a lot of knowledge and value about foster care service. There are many programs in the agency. I had chance to take part in different programs. They are very supportive to my works whatever cases work and programs. TFCF provided me with good working environment and fruitful learning opportunity, so that I have chance to serve my clients. It is a great agency for interns. All the co-workers, supervisor and the director are respectful and helpful. The agency is very warm like a family. They treated me as a family member. In the last day, they gave a great farewell card and encouragement to me. I feel cheerful and happy to be an intern here.



Finally, I want to show my gratitude to my fieldwork supervisor. My fieldwork supervisor is very supportive. She is the department head of the social work department of the National Taiwan University. She is very responsible and helpful. She spent lots of time to supervise us. We had the 2-hour group supervision every week. It is just minimum 2 hours, it almost over time for half to 1



hour every time. We discussed our works and questions there. She spent a lot of time to concern our placement life in Taiwan. She is very kind and helpful. I can feel her love and care about us. Also she would read our weekly log carefully and give the useful suggestions to us. I think she is a great supervisor.