

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

Notes of the 17th Meeting of the Taskforce on Review of Code of Practice

Date: 23 May 2018
Time: 9:15 a.m.
Venue: Room GH317, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Present: Mr. WONG Ka-ming (Acting Convenor)
Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen
Dr. CHENG Yuk-tin, Carl (co-opted member)
Mr. LUN Chi-wai
Apology: Dr. LAM Chiu-wan (co-opted member)
Secretary: Mr. LEE Wing-po, Eric, Registrar
Ms. FAN Lai-yee, Veronica, Assistant Registrar

Confirmation of notes of last meeting

1. Members endorsed the notes of meeting.

Matters Arising

2. Members endorsed the documents “Related to clients – responsibility to clients” and “conflicts of interest”. For the document in relation to “sexual relationship”, the last few words in point 8.3 should be changed to “because of the potential for harm to them”.
3. In point 14.1 in “conflicts of interest”, when social workers provide services to two or more people, they should clarify with all parties the obligations to various individuals. The Taskforce agreed that social workers in relevant work setting would be consulted at the time of consultation period but not before.

Discussion on revising the Code of Practice

4. The meeting took note of the master summary of revisions.
5. Related to clients – cultural awareness
 - (a) Dr. Cheng walked through the document and highlighted that the proposed principles adopted a broader meaning whilst the contents in standard and rules were revised to become more concrete. He had taken reference to NASW. Members agreed with his suggestion to include “social diversity” and to revise the heading as “cultural awareness and social diversity”.
 - (b) Members’ discussions were summarized as follows:
 - (i) Members had no comment on the principles.

- (ii) In point 1, it was suggested to replace the word “education” by “training”. Members understood that the Code of Practice and the Board’s Principles, Criteria, and Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social Work for RSW (“PCS”) were two independent documents. Teaching staff who did not teach the concerned topics such as social diversity might not contravene the Code of Practice.
- (iii) The second part of point 1 should align with Value 2 as shown in section 3 Basic Values and Beliefs.
- (iv) In point 2, it was suggested to add “which” after “modalities” and to remove “qualified”.
- (v) Point 3 involved management and administrator whilst point 4 involved social workers in general. It was suggested to swap the sequence of the points.
- (vi) It was suggested to remove point 5 before we had a common understanding on the terms of “other forms of oppression” and “anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice principles” as stakeholders would possibly ask for detailed explanations.
- (vii) The proposed changes were marked in Annex 1.

6. Related to client – use of information and principles of confidentiality

- (a) Dr. Cheng walked through the document and he reported that there were no major changes to the principles except principle 1. Similarly, reference was made to the NASW for this section.
- (b) Members had the following discussions:

Principles

- (i) Members re-arranged the principles and there would be 6 principles.
- (ii) In Point 1, it was understood that social workers should act in accordance to the statutory requirement in relation to the clients’ privacy and hence it was unnecessary to highlight the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. The second sentence specified the exceptional circumstances when Principle 1 did not apply. It was suggested to put it under standard and rules. The third sentence was separated as Principle 2.
- (iii) It was suggested to revise point 4 as “social workers should protect confidentiality of clients whenever using any kinds of electronic communications”. Members agreed that there should be more details on this part because it was already a common practice to use electronic media in the provision of services. Dr. Leung undertook to rewrite the standard and rules under this Principle by making reference to NASW which had detailed elaboration.

(iv) It was suggested to delete point 5 as it was already covered in other principles.

Standard and rules

(v) Members re-arranged the standard and rules under the principles. It was suggested not to include points 10 and 11 as point 10 had already been covered in other sections whilst point 11 was too specific.

(vi) The proposed changes are marked in Annex 2.

Date of next meeting

7. The next meeting would be held on 6 June 2018, both at 9:15am at Room GH317 Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

8. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

28 May 2018