

**SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD**  
**Notes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Taskforce on Review of Code of Practice**

Date: 20 June 2018  
Time: 9:15 a.m.  
Venue: Room HJ417, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
Present: Dr. CHENG Yuk-tin, Carl (co-opted member)  
Dr. LAM Chiu-wan (co-opted member)  
Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen  
Apology: Mr. LUN Chi-wai  
Mr. WONG Ka-ming (Acting Convenor)  
Secretary: Mr. LEE Wing-po, Eric, Registrar  
Ms. FAN Lai-yee, Veronica, Assistant Registrar

Confirmation of notes of last meeting and agenda

1. Members endorsed the notes of meeting and it was agreed to discuss agenda item 2(c) at the next meeting when the draft was ready.

Matters Arising

*Cultural awareness and social diversity*

2. Members had the following revisions:

*Related to Clients: Cultural Awareness and Social Diversity*

- (a) In point 2.1, members agreed to change “and/or” to “or” and the same would be aligned in other parts of the document at the stage of editing.
- (b) Point 2.2 covered what social workers should do in social work direct practice whilst point 2.3 covered other social work activities in education, administration and policy development. Members considered the content was sufficient and suggested to remove “the like”.
- (c) To make it consistent with other points in the same section, members suggested to remove “safe” in point 2.2 and “culturally competent practice” in point 2.3.
- (d) The proposed changes were marked in Annex 1.

*Related to Clients: Use of Information and Principles of Confidentiality*

- (e) In point 1.3, it was suggested to align the wordings in other points in the same section and revised the last sentence to “clients’ records are not available to unauthorized access”.

- (f) A member invited the Taskforce to consider whether we should govern the disclosure of information of clinical cases in newspaper columns and when a social worker could publish the articles about his/her clinical cases. After discussion, it was agreed to add point 4.1 stating that when social workers published articles or writing, they should also protect the confidentiality of clients. However, it was not feasible to set a timeline when a social worker could publish articles about his cases. The current 4.1 would become 4.2.
- (g) Paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2 in the current Guidelines of COP would be adopted as points 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 in the revised version describing what social workers should do under the following scenarios:
  - (i) Point 6.1: when social workers received a request from the public authority for personal information of clients without a search warrant;
  - (ii) Point 6.2: when social workers received a request from the public authority for personal information of clients with a search warrant;
  - (iii) Point 6.3: when social workers received a court of law or an order from a legally authorized body.
- (h) Members considered that “making professional judgment” should be in higher priority than “seeking consent from clients” when social workers were under the scenario in point 6.1.
- (i) In point 6.1 and 6.3, it was not necessary to specify the “Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance as social workers should always observe the statutory requirements.
- (j) To have a broader meaning, “Police” would be changed to “public authority” and whether to use “legal authorized body” in point 3 was subject to further discussion.
- (k) The two Taskforce members who were absent from the meeting would be able to provide further advice on point 6.1 to 6.3 and this part would be further discussed at the next meeting .
- (l) The proposed changes were marked in Annex 2.

*Section 4 Ethical Practice and Decision Making*

- (m) *It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting.*

*Section 2 Purposes of Code of Practice*

- (n) Six functions were added in this section.

- (o) The title and the relevant parts in this section should be revised as Purposes, Content, Functions and Usage.
- (p) The wordings in functions 4 and 5 such as belief and values, standard and rules, principles, should be consistent with other parts of the documents.
- (q) The changes including some minor touch up were marked in Annex 3.

#### Discussion on revising the Code of Practice

- 3. The meeting took note of the summary of revisions.
- 4. Section 6: Definition and Interpretation
  - (a) Dr. Leung presented a list of terminology which was related to social work direct practice and daily operation whilst Dr. Cheng consolidated a list of definitions with reference to COP in overseas countries.
  - (b) Members went through the list prepared by Dr. Leung and shortlisted those of importance and with high frequency of usage. The list was at Annex 4.
  - (c) Due to time being run off, the rest would be deferred to the next meeting.

#### Date of next meeting

- 5. The next meeting would be held at 9:15am on 6 July 2018 at Room HJ417, PolyU.
- 6. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

27 June 2018