

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

Notes of the 20th Meeting of the Taskforce on Review of Code of Practice

Date: 6 July 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
Mr. LUN Chi-wai
Apology: 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.

Matters Arising

2. Members endorsed Appendix B1 and B3 but had some comments on Appendix B2 and B4:

Related to Clients: Use of Information and Principles of Confidentiality (Appendix B2)

- (a) In point 6.3, the Taskforce considered to revise the wordings of “legally authorized body” by making reference to other professional bodies or just to remove the wordings. *(Post meeting note: with reference to The HK Solicitors’ Guide to Professional Conduct, similar words such as “government authority” or “law enforcement agencies” were used in the document.)*
- (b) The Board office was asked to check the English usage of “apply to” or “apply for”. *(Post meeting note: “apply to” means “make a formal application or request” whilst “apply for” means “put oneself forward formally as a candidate for a job” and therefore the sentence was proposed to revise as “apply to the court or the legally authorized body for withdrawing the order”)*
- (c) In point 6.2, the Taskforce discussed whether it was in alignment with current practice of social workers. A member shared that in general practice, social workers would enquire what information was requested by the police and amendment to point 6.2 was not required.
- (d) The proposed changes were marked in Annex 1.

Section 4 Ethical Practice and Decision Making (Appendix B4)

- (e) This section was prepared by Dr. Lam and Dr. Cheng.
- (f) Points 4.1-4.3 were the basic principles which highlighted the importance of a clear and definite values system for developing a set of principles, standard and practice. It was a living document that continual review was required for enriching the whole system in the ever-changing environment. In point 4.4, when personal values were in conflict with the basic values in this Code of Practice, social workers are obliged to comply with the Code. It was agreed that meaning of “values system” should be clearly defined in Section 6.
- (g) A member expressed that in the previous discussion about Belief and Values, it was agreed that the Code would not specify which values are most important and outweigh others when conflicts occurred. However, in the standard and rules, social workers were requested to give justifications when clients’ interests were overridden by the social work basic values such as when there were conflicts between clients’ interests and social justice. It was advised to have further discussion and a comprehensive review of the whole document.
- (h) Other revisions were marked in Annex 2.

Discussion on revising the Code of Practice

- 3. The meeting took note of the summary of revisions.
- 4. Section 6: Definition and Interpretation and Related to Profession – point 35.3
 - (a) Due to time being run off, these two parts would be deferred to the next meeting.

Any other business

- 5. Three quotations were tabled for members’ consideration. The quoted prices were (business information deleted) in which only one service provider provided past reference work. Members agreed to select (business information deleted) whose quotation was the lowest and she had relevant translation experience in social work.

Date of next meeting

- 6. The next meeting would be held at 9:15am on 14 August 2018 at PolyU.
- 7. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

26 July 2018