

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

Notes of the 22nd Meeting of the Taskforce on Review of Code of Practice

Date: 5 September 2018
Time: 9:15 a.m.
Venue: Room HJ417, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Present: Mr. WONG Ka-ming (Acting Convenor)
Dr. CHENG Yuk-tin, Carl (co-opted member)
Dr. LAM Chiu-wan (co-opted member)
Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen
Mr. LUN Chi-wai
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 made minor changes to Appendix B2 as follows:

Section 4 Ethical Practice and Decision Making (Appendix B2)

- (a) Delete first sentence in 4.7 and move the second sentence to 4.8
- (b) In point 4.10, the Taskforce agreed that social workers should consider any aspects of clients' interests. Social workers also should be aware of the impact of their own personal values, cultural and religious beliefs and practices on "clients' decisions" instead of on the "ethical decision making of their clients".
- (c) The revisions were marked in Annex 1.

Discussion on revising the Code of Practice

3. The Taskforce discussed Part 6: Definition and Interpretation and decided what were to be included or excluded. The proposal was as follows:
 - (a) Definitions to be included
client, benefit/interest of client, social worker, social work relationship/professional relationship/worker-client relationship, social work intervention/professional intervention, professional qualification, clinical service, private practice.
 - (b) Definitions to be excluded
case, case material, advocate/advocacy, confidentiality, conflict of interest, informed

consent, child/children/minor, mentally incapacitated and volunteer in this part.

4. The ensuing discussions were summarized as follows:
 - (a) It was not required to define the general terms or the terms with legal definitions.
 - (b) The meaning of “advocate / advocacy” was too abstract and the word was not found in the Code in English.
 - (c) Employing agency was the agency in service provision with social work intervention.
 - (d) “Clients” was the service recipient of social workers. Members agreed that the definition should cover potential clients but they had no conclusion whether to use “has contracted to receive” or “has engaged or planned to receive” or “has eligibility to receive”.
 - (e) Interest of clients was what clients choose or prefer so as to maintain or promote their wellbeing. The second sentence describing the exceptional circumstances should be removed.
 - (f) Professional qualification should include but not limited to social work qualification. It should be specialized training recognized by relevant authorities.
5. Dr. Leung would further revise Part 6 and bring up for the Taskforce’s discussion (Annex 2).

Date of next meeting

6. The next meeting would be held at 9:15am on 3 October 2018 at HJ417, PolyU.
7. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

17 September 2018