

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD
Notes of the 75th Meeting of the Committee on Professional Conduct

Date: 16 Oct 2019
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room, 26/F Eastern Commercial Centre, 83 Nam On Street, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong.
Present: Mr. LUN Chi-wai (Convenor)
Ms. CHAN Tsz-wai
Ms. MAN Yuen-ling, Connie
Dr. NG Yut-ming
Dr. TING Wai-fong
Mr. TSANG Kin-chiu
Apology: Ms. LIT Ming-wai (co-opted member)
Ms. TSOI Wing-tak, Michelle (co-opted member)
Secretary: Mr. LEE Wing-po, Eric, Registrar
Ms. CHAN May-shan, Emily, Assistant Registrar

1. While Ms. CHAN Tsz-wai and Mr. TSANG Kin-chiu were yet to arrive, as the quorum was present, Mr. LUN, the Convenor, decided to start the meeting.

Confirmation of notes of the last meeting

2. The Committee endorsed the notes of meeting.

Matters arising from the last meeting

Review of Code of Practice

3. The meeting referred to the latest draft of the revised document for the Code of Practice (CPC75-2.1) and went through from Section 1 to Section 4. (Anonymized) raised his concern about the accuracy of translation and the fluency of language in both Chinese and English. He further pointed out some points with proposed refinements. Members agreed to adopt the following amendments in principle and the Secretary was asked to fine-tune and edit the document after the meeting (Remarks: The Secretary sent a revised document to all members on 25 Oct via email and invited further comments.): -
 - (a) Fine-tuned the English translation of the 3rd paragraph of Section 1;
 - (b) Added the content of“個案工作、家庭工作、小組工作” in the 4th Chinese paragraph of Section 1 in order to present a more comprehensive view of the intervention methods of social work, English translation would be followed accordingly;

(Mr. TSANG arrived at this juncture and joined the meeting.)

- (c) Amended the wordings of the Chinese translation of the paragraph under the subject “Purpose” of Section 2 for a clearer expression;
- (d) Amended the Chinese translation of the 1st paragraph of point 2 of Section 3 for a clear

- expression of the phrase “mindful of individual differences and social, cultural and ethnic diversity”;
- (e) Moved the paragraph under the subject “Registered social workers” to the beginning of the subject “Usage” of Section 2 in order to emphasize the usage and importance of the code to RSW; and
 - (f) Replaced the word “self-realization” by “self-actualization” of point 3 of Section 3;

(Ms. CHAN arrived at this juncture and joined the meeting.)

- (g) Explored another word for Chinese translation of “reasonable differences”;
 - (h) Changed the words “價值系統” as “價值體系” of Section 4; and
 - (i) Fine-tuned the 4th paragraph of Section 4.
4. The Committee discussed the next action to be taken. It was agreed that the Secretary would circulate the revised draft of Code of Practice to the members for comments and clearance. Then, the draft would be put forth to the Board at the next meeting scheduled on 19 Nov 2019. Upon endorsement by the Board, the draft would go through public consultation, with reference to the consultation of the document of “Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social Work” conducted by the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration.
 5. Regarding public consultation, members agreed to the following arrangements: -
 - (a) Five consultation sessions would be held while three would be arranged mainly for social workers, one for agency administrators and social work educators; and one for the service users and the public.
 - (b) The three sessions for social workers from different service settings would be arranged according to the following initial categorization: -
 - i) Family and child welfare services, services for offenders;
 - ii) Youth services including services for youth at risk and drug abusers, Community development;
 - iii) Elderly, rehabilitation and medical social work services
 - (c) Apart from issuing invitation letters to invite the target groups to attend the consultation sessions, specific service groups or agencies might be invited to give opinion on the document. The Secretary would follow it up and suggest the invitation list of organizations to the Committee.
 - (d) Two sessions would be tentatively planned to be held in January while three in February.
 6. The possibility of making a live broadcast of the consultation sessions via Facebook media was explored and discussed. The arrangement would be arousing the concern of the stakeholders, improving the process transparency and exchanging ideas with the readers in a dynamic mode through immediate feedback channel. However, the limitations were discussed at the same time. Firstly, it was not easy to obtain the consent of the participants to be video-recorded in a live broadcast mode. Secondly, there was no Facebook page of the Board and even though we could open an account for this purpose, the limited number of likes might affect the effectiveness. After discussion, the meeting resolved not to use live broadcast for consultation.

7. The Committee also agreed to acknowledge the efforts of the Task Force in writing and the Secretary would follow it up.

The proposal of developing a list of precedents of established disciplined cases and its possible uses

8. The meeting considered the spreadsheets CPC 75-2.2 & CPC 75-2.2(a) prepared by (anonymized) with a categorization of the nature of cases, and the level of disciplinary order respectively.
9. It was suggested that the Discipline Committee should indicate clearly in the final report of which specific standard(s) and rule(s) of Code of Practice for Registered Social Workers (“the Code”) have been violated for the established cases. This might help the social workers to be alert of not infringing the professional standards set in the Code.
10. (Anonymized) was concerned about the function and usage of this list and he perceived that the list should serve as a reference both assisting the Discipline Committee to make recommendations on the level of disciplinary order and facilitating the Board to make decision of accepting the Discipline Committee’s recommendations or not. The Committee adopted a similar view and would like to work on this direction.
11. It was suggested that the possible factors affecting the recommendations on the level of disciplinary order, such as submission of reference letters of character proof, would be included. For the categorization of nature of cases, some members were concerned about that some cases such as making forged documents, embezzlement, were classified as “administration/management” instead of “integrity/honesty”.
12. (Anonymized) undertook to fine-tune the list.
13. The committee also came to the view that the publication of a comprehensive reference book might be helpful to the profession in the long run. (Remarks: A reference book named “Casebook of Disciplinary Inquiries” was published in 2009.)

Date of next meeting

14. Members agreed that the next meeting would be held on 13 December 2019 (Fri) at 7:30pm.
15. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

End