

**SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD**  
**Notes of the 76<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee on Professional Conduct**

Date: 13 Dec 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. LIT Ming-wai (co-opted member)  
Ms. MAN Yuen-ling, Connie  
Dr. NG Yut-ming  
Dr. TING Wai-fong  
Mr. TSANG Kin-chiu  
Apology: Ms. CHAN Tsz-wai  
Ms. TSOI Wing-tak, Michelle (co-opted member)  
Secretary: Mr. LEE Wing-po, Eric, Registrar  
Ms. CHAN May-shan, Emily, Assistant Registrar

**Confirmation of notes of the last meeting**

1. The Committee endorsed the notes of meeting.

**Matters arising from the last meeting**

Review of Code of Practice (“COP”)

2. (Anonymised) reported that both the draft of revised COP and the arrangement of public consultation were endorsed by the Board in principle at its meeting on 4 Dec 2019. Some Board members suggested arranging a briefing for them before the consultation in order to enhance their understanding of the proposed changes. The Board office will follow it up.
3. Regarding the legal vetting before public consultation, which was proposed by the Task Force on Review of COP, members of the Committee expressed different considerations during the initial discussion including the cost and time factors. After deliberation, members recognized the importance of legal vetting for ensuring the internal consistency and legal compliance before formal public consultation. Besides, the quotation of (business information deleted) was within our budget. The meeting came into a consensus of conducting a legal vetting before the consultation and it was understandable that a second round vetting would be required before the Code to be officially gazetted. The Board office will seek the final approval from the Board.

**Arrangement of public consultation of the Code of Practice**

4. The two documents of CPC76-2.2(a) and CPC76-2.2(b) were prepared for discussion. Members agreed in principle for the presentation format of CPC76-2.2(b) as it would give a clear picture of the concrete changes in a comparison table. The Secretary suggested providing a further elaboration of rationale for some added and deleted items of the revised COP. Members agreed and would like to hold a joint meeting with the Task Force on Review of COP mainly for this purpose.

5. Regarding the arrangement of public consultation, members agreed with the proposal listed in the document CPC76-2.2(a). For the venue, members preferred the two sessions for (1) agency administrators and social work educators; and (2) service users and the public, be held in Board office, while the other three sessions be held in different locations in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and New Territories. Venues including Hong Kong Council of Social Service, Headquarters of The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Associations of Hong Kong, Headquarters of Hong Kong Christian Service, Headquarters of YMCA of Hong Kong, Headquarters of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, Caritas Community Centre - Tsuen Wan, were suggested for consideration.
6. For the means of promotion, both the revised COP and the comparison table of Chinese version would be posted on the website of the Board. RSWs and related organizations would receive a letter informing them of the public consultation with a QR code printed for further details on our website. SMS messages would be sent to RSWs but this should be subject to the approval of the Board as SMS messages was originally designated merely for the registration renewal purpose.
7. The Secretary would update the schedule of consultation at the next meeting.

**Proposal of developing a list of precedents of established disciplined cases and its possible uses**

8. The meeting considered the spreadsheets CPC 76-2.3 prepared by (anonymised) with a more detailed classification of nature and in an enhanced presentation.
9. The Secretary showed concern if this list would be used for the Discipline Committee as a reference assisting them to make recommendations on the level of disciplinary order, as on ground of natural justice, both the complainant and respondent sides should be disclosed with the same information as the Discipline Committee received, that there would a risk of being accused of not providing sufficient details of those precedent cases hence any reference might be challenged. After discussion, the Committee resolved the list would not be available for use by the Discipline Committee but just as a general reference for Board members to better understand the operations of the Board's business.
10. The Committee reiterated the benefits of publishing a comprehensive case book as the first book named "Casebook of Disciplinary Inquiries" published in 2009 was found to be useful and accessible by all parties. As (anonymised) showed interest to look into this project, she was invited to propose a framework for it. Members also took note that extra resources, e.g. engagement of a research assistant, should be provided for it.

**Date of next meeting**

11. Members agreed that the next joint meeting with the Task Force on Review of COP would be held on 17 Jan 2020 (Fri) at 7:30pm.
12. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

End