

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD
Notes of the 78th Meeting of the Committee on Professional Conduct

Date: 6 May 2020 (Wed)
Time: 7:35 p.m.
Venue: Online meeting via Webex Meet platform
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
Ms. TSOI Wing-tak, Michelle (co-opted member)
Apology: Ms. LIT Ming-wai (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 last meeting and joint meeting with the Task Force on Review of Code of Practice

Matters arising from the last meeting

Review of Code of Practice (“COP”)

1. Regarding the draft of COP, the Secretary summarized the key comments of legal advisor by referring the document CPC 78-2.1(c). No significant inconsistency or non-compliance with the laws was identified. Further amendments of wordings were proposed for the alignment of legal terms.
2. The revised bilingual version and the comparison of changes between the present (2013 version) and revised version were presented via the documents of CPC 78-2.1(a) & CPC 78-2.1(a).
3. Members of the Committee agreed not to add the phrase “for the public/對公眾而言的” of sub-section 2.1 under Section 2 as recommended by the legal advisor in her review.
4. For the arrangement of the public consultation, in view of the latest public health considerations leading to uncertainty of room booking for consultation sessions, the Committee consented that the five consultation sessions originally scheduled from mid-May to late June would be postponed and tentatively rescheduled to July. The consultation sessions would be further postponed or held online if the scheduled dates fell within a specific period for prohibition on group gathering by the Government under the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) Regulation. The whole consultation period including collection of written replies would be around three months’ time. Members also agreed to swap the dates of consultations sessions for social workers of Family & Children services (originally scheduled for 4 July) and the Children & Youth Services (11 July).

5. The above proposal and the revised document would be put forth to the Board for consideration and endorsement.

Casebook of Disciplinary Inquiries

6. The initial proposal of publishing a new Casebook (CPC78-2.2) was prepared and presented by (Anonymized).
7. The Committee agreed that the objectives were to:- (i) publicise the importance of professional ethics; and (ii) educate the professional community on cases that breach professional ethics, in which the ethos of the 2009 Casebook would be continued. Though members recognised that the cases included in the Casebook might be used by parties to disciplinary inquiries as a reference, this would not be regarded as a planned objective.
8. After deliberation, members reached consensus on the following recommendations that would be put forth to the Board for consideration:-
 - (i) Objectives: listed in point 7 mentioned above;
 - (ii) criteria of cases being reviewed: cases have been inquired by Disciplinary Committee and concluded as from 28 Aug 2008 (the last cut-off date of the 2009 Casebook) to a later cut-off date of the new Casebook;
 - (iii) formation & composition of the editorial sub-committee: 5-7 members including a member with legal training & the membership would be by invitation;
 - (iv) extra manpower & resources involved: a professional editor would be engaged on a project basis.

(Ms. TSOI retired from the meeting at this juncture.)

9. Members perceived that the engagement of a professional editor would speed up the drafting and editing work, that hopefully the publication could be completed within 28 months, instead of almost 5 years' time for the first Casebook, where such engagement need not be from the outset, when the initial case selection has to be taken up by members of the sub-committee themselves. The Board Office would be researching on the usual fee of such engagement of the editor.
10. The option of publishing the Casebook as an e-book would be explored in the future.

Date of next meeting

11. The next meeting would be held at 7:30p.m. on 5 Aug 2020.
12. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10p.m.

End