

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

Notes of the Sixty-fourth Meeting of the Committee on Professional Conduct

Date: 7 November 2016

Time: 6:40 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room, 26/F Eastern Commercial Centre, 83 Nam On Street, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong.

Present: Mr. WONG Ka-ming (Acting Convenor)

Mr. HUI Chung-shing, Herman

Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen

Mr. LUK Ka-mei

Mr. LUN Chi-wai

Mr. TSANG Kin-chiu

Absent with apology: Mr. MA Kam-wah, Timothy

Mr. SHIU Ka-chun

In-attendance: Mr. Thomas LEUNG Sui-keung, Registrar

Ms. Veronica FAN, Assistant Registrar (Secretary)

Notes

1 Confirmation of the notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were confirmed without amendment.

2 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from last meeting notes for discussion.

3 Nomination of co-opted members of the Committee on Professional Conduct

- 3.1 At the last Committee meeting, the Committee members proposed to nominate co-opted members to join the Committee including two nominations from RSWs through open nomination and two nominations from other sectors. A member proposed to nominate (anonymised) as the co-opted members.

- 3.2 Information of (anonymised) and a draft nomination form were provided to the Committee for consideration.
- 3.3 (Anonymised).
- 3.4 (Anonymised).
- 3.5 The Convenor invited members to consider the nominations of (anonymised).
- 3.6 After examination of the profiles, members expressed that the nominees' experiences in rehabilitation and elderly area would be helpful to the Committee. Members agreed that (anonymised) were suitable candidates to be the co-opted members of the Committee and the nominations would be put forward to the Board for approval. Invitations would then be sent to (anonymised) upon the Board's approval. If they do not accept our invitations, the Committee would then discuss how to find suitable candidates via open nominations.

4 Discussion on the review exercise of the Code of Practice

- 4.1 The Registrar shared the past practice as follows:
- (a) It was targeted to complete the review exercise within the tenure of the Board.
 - (b) The review of the Code of Practice would be conducted by the Committee in phases.
 - (c) The review exercise had not been entrusted to people outside the Board. The Committee members studied the materials and summarized their suggestions themselves. Each Committee member was responsible for studying the code of practice of one country.
 - (d) Co-opted members would bring in their experiences from other professions.
 - (e) It was important to strike a balance between the protection of service users and the interests of social workers.
 - (f) Different stakeholders were consulted through written submission and forums.
 - (g) The suggestions would be discussed at the Committee and the Board.

4.2 A member shared his observations of the Code of Practice in UK, USA, Canada and New Zealand for discussion. He indicated that he was willing to participate and contribute to this review exercise. Meanwhile, he recommended (anonymised) They both had substantial knowledge in teaching social work practice and research work.

4.3 Members discussed the way forward to conduct the review exercise and the timeframe.

4.4 After discussion, members decided the following:

- (a) The review exercise would cover the Code of Practice as well as the Guidelines on Code of Practice.
- (b) The review exercise would be completed within two years before the end of the tenure of this term i.e. 15 January 2019.
- (c) To speed up the process, members agreed to form a Taskforce. The proposed membership included (anonymised). Three Committee members, namely Mr. Wong Ka-ming, Dr. Leung Chuen-suen and Mr. Lun Chi-wai, indicated their interest to join the Taskforce.
- (d) The Committee would identify the areas of concerns while the Taskforce would conduct research and make recommendations of amendment based on the Committee's concerns.
- (e) The Committee would have an oversight of the review exercise, and after discussion and revision at the Committee, the proposed amendments would be put forward to the Board for endorsement.
- (f) The review exercise would include four stages.
 - Stage 1: Formation of Taskforce and finalizing the first draft of amendments (within one year)
 - Stage 2: Consultation and forums
 - Stage 3: Discussion
 - Stage 4: Finalize the revision and Gazette (before 15 January 2019)
- (g) The Board office would work out a proposal including a detailed schedule and the proposed membership of Taskforce. The proposal would be circulated to the Committee and then to the Board for endorsement.

5 Information sharing on the Legal Representation Assistance Scheme

The Registrar walked through the Legal Representation Assistance Scheme. The

Scheme was mainly to provide assistance to complainants because under the current complaint system, the complainant had the responsibility to prove the complaint. The Disciplinary Committee Panel would make recommendation to the Board if legal representation assistance should be provided. So far, the Board had offered the Scheme for two complaint cases.

6 Date of next meeting

Members agreed that the next meeting would be scheduled when the Board meeting dates were confirmed.

(Post meeting note: the meeting was scheduled at 7:15pm on 18 January 2017.)

7 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

22 November 2016