

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

Notes of the 12th Meeting of the Taskforce on Review of Code of Practice

Date: 11 January 2018
Time: 9:15 a.m.
Venue: Room GH317, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Present: Dr. CHENG Yuk-tin, Carl (co-opted member)
Dr. LAM Chiu-wan (co-opted member)
Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen
Mr. LUN Chi-wai
Apology: Mr. WONG Ka-ming (Acting Convenor)
Mr. LEE Wing-po, Eric, Registrar
Secretary: Ms. FAN Lai-yee, Veronica, Assistant Registrar

Confirmation of notes of last meeting

1. Members had no comment on the notes of last meeting

Discussion on revising the Code of Practice

2. Related to profession

(a) Members reviewed the revision and agreed to revise points 4, 8 and 11 as shown in Appendix A.

3. Related to agency

(a) This section was prepared by Mr. Lun and Dr. Leung by making reference to the Code of Practice of NASW and AASW and taking into account of their observations when they screened the complaint cases. Mr. Lun briefed members about the proposed changes. They expressed that they had talked to the frontline social workers in their personal capacities and the frontline social works shared their difficulties when they performed their duties in accordance with the agency policies.

(b) The major additions included points 33.4, 37.1, 37.2, 37.4, 37.5 and 37.6. It was proposed to cover any potential malpractice of social workers when performing administrative duties. The conflicts between agencies and social workers in relation to moral, cultural and religion were also covered. Members understood that these additions were controversial and they agreed to put up the issue to RSWs for discussion during consultation period.

(c) Values and Beliefs were revised as shown in Appendix B.

(d) It was agreed to include in point 33 the rules to govern the RSWs who were required to perform administrative and supervision duties. Some minor touch ups were made on points 33.1, 33.2 and 33.3 as shown in Appendix B. Point 33.4 was newly added by referencing to

the Code of Practice in Australia. When RSW refused to engage in work that offended against his/her moral and cultural convictions, the RSWs should have justifiable grounds for refusing the service or duties. Members had detailed discussion on the point. It was agreed that the refusal should be consistent with the Code of Practice and religious reason should be included in the rules.

- (e) Members had no particular comments on point 34, 34.1, 34.2, 34.3 and agreed to remove 34.4.
- (f) Members proposed the following rearrangements:
 - (i) Points 35 and 36 were moved after 33.4
 - (ii) 35.1 should be deleted
 - (iii) Point 37.3, 37.4, 37.5, 37.6 moved to become 35.1, 35.2 and 35.3.
- (g) The principle in point 37 would be drafted by Mr. Lun for further discussion at next meeting.

Next action

- 4. A reminder would be sent to members to prepare for the draft of the outstanding sections before the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

- 5. The next meetings would be held on 7 February 2018 and 28 February 2018, both at 9:15am at Room GH317, Hong Kong Polytechnic University.
- 6. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

23 January 2018