

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

Notes of the 13th Meeting of the Taskforce on Review of Code of Practice

Date: 7 February 2018
Time: 9:15 a.m.
Venue: Room GH317, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Present: Mr. WONG Ka-ming (Acting Convenor)
Dr. CHENG Yuk-tin, Carl (co-opted member)
Dr. LAM Chiu-wan (co-opted member)
Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen
Mr. LUN Chi-wai
Secretary: Mr. LEE Wing-po, Eric, Registrar
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. The Secretary updated members the progress of revision and members had no comment on the document.
3. Related to agency
 - (a) Mr. Lun revised point 35, point 36, 36.4 and 36.2 for further discussion.
 - (b) The Secretary expressed his concerns on point 35 and point 35.4. He enquired whether the Code should only govern social work practice or whether it was appropriate for the Board to step in the agency's management and employment issues which was beyond the mandate of the Board. A member explained that it came to his notice of the malpractice of a few RSWs in management or administration but these malpractices were not governed by the current Code and could not be handled by the current disciplinary proceedings. In the ensuing discussion, the Taskforce held the view that a separate section should be included in the Code to specify RSWs in roles of management or administration to be ethically responsible to observe the Code.
 - (c) It was suggested to revise point 35 as “負責行政事務的社工，在機構的管理事務上，須履行其專業社工的責任”。A member also suggested making reference to the Code of Ethics of AASW page 33 section 5.4.2 which stated that “In addition to the general provisions of the Code, social workers in management will undertake specific ethical responsibilities”. The point would be further revised after the meeting.
 - (d) For point 35.4, members noted that the Board had no authority to govern the agency or to

intervene agency's policy. When evaluating the performance of subordinates particular those RSWs, the appraising officers should be observing the Code as well. It was suggested to remove the wordings "in accordance with the agency's policy" and replaced it by "and with reference to the Code of Practice".

- (e) A member clarified the meaning of point 36 that the community activities could be those organized by the employing agency or by other third parties. Another member added that when the RSWs invited the clients to join these community activities, the RSWs should fully disclose all information to the clients such as their rights, obligations and possible consequences and the RSWs should also get the consent from clients. The Secretary expressed that it was important to clearly define agencies in this context which could mean welfare agencies only or all kinds of organizations such as Urban Renewal Authority, insurance companies, offices of District Councilors or Legislative Councilors, community organizations and etc. The rules might bring different consequences to RSWs working in different settings.
- (f) For point 36.2, members suggested dividing it into two and revised the wordings as shown in Annex 1.
- (g) The proposed changes were incorporated in Annex 1.

4. Purposes of COP

- (a) Members were invited to make comments on the draft and the proposed changes were marked in Annex 2.

Next action

- 5. The Taskforce set the target to complete the first draft of revision in April 2018.
- 6. Dr. Lam undertook to prepare the draft of Section 4 Ethical Practice and Decision Making (i) and (ii) while Dr. Cheng the (iii) and (iv).

Date of next meeting

- 7. The next meetings would be held on 28 February 2018 and 21 March 2018 at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.
- 8. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 nn.

8 February 2018