

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

Notes of the 14th Meeting of the Taskforce on Review of Code of Practice

Date: 28 February 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)
Secretary: Mr. LEE Wing-po, Eric, Registrar
Ms. FAN Lai-yee, Veronica, Assistant Registrar

Confirmation of notes of last meeting

1. In paragraph 3(b), the spelling of “mandate” should be amended.

Discussion on revising the Code of Practice

2. Related to agency
 - (a) Members suggested to adding “professional” to point 35 as shown in Annex 1.
3. Purpose of COP
 - (a) Members had no comment on the revised document as shown in Annex 2.
4. Related to society
 - (a) The “principle” and point 2 in the “standard and rules” should be swapped.
 - (b) In “Values and Beliefs”, “social justice” (i.e. value 4 in section 3) was adopted.
 - (c) It was proposed to use “should” (應) to replace “will” (需要) in the whole section.
 - (d) In point 1, some amendments were proposed in Annex 3.
 - (e) In point 2, members discussed on whether “institution” should cover both private and public sectors. The Secretary was doubtful of whether we should intervene activities of private institutions whilst the Task Force members expressed that when the private institution was of a large-scale, its commercial practices would affect the well-beings of public. After discussion, it was agreed that if social justice and well-beings of the public were harmed due to the policies of government or institution, social workers

should arouse the public awareness.

(f) It was agreed to add that social workers should strive for a more reasonable distribution of resources and to ensure that all persons in particular the disadvantaged group should have equal opportunity to access to necessary resources.

(g) The proposed changes were marked in Annex 3.

5. Related to client – Right of information and self-determination power

(a) Values and beliefs would be discussed at subsequent meeting.

(b) Currently, we used “informed decision” and “self-determination”. A member proposed to adopt a broader meaning and used “right of information” and “self-determination power”.

(c) Social workers should encourage self-determination subject to clients’ rights and ability. However, if there were possible risks to clients or other people, social workers was rightful of limiting the clients’ right of information or self-determination power. We should seek further opinions from social workers who are specialized in family services.

(d) The proposed changes were marked in Annex 4.

6. Related to client – Continuation of service

(a) Values and beliefs would be discussed at subsequent meeting.

(b) The current version of this part covered the existing clients only but not prospective clients.

(c) For point 16, social workers should consider clients’ willingness and provide appropriate services.

(d) It was agreed to add the point that if the centre or service would be discontinued due to unforeseeable reasons, social workers was responsible to make necessary arrangement for the clients.

(e) Points 16.3, 16.4 and 16.5 should be moved under “billing practice”.

(f) The proposed changes were marked in Annex 5.

Date of next meeting

7. The next meetings would be held on 21 March 2018 at Room GH317 Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

8. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 nn.

5 March 2018