

## **SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD**

### **Notes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Taskforce on Review of Code of Practice**

Date: 21 March 2018  
Time: 9:15 a.m.  
Venue: Room GH317, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
Present: Mr. WONG Ka-ming (Acting Convenor)  
Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen  
Mr. LUN Chi-wai  
Apology: Dr. CHENG Yuk-tin, Carl (co-opted member)  
Dr. LAM Chiu-wan (co-opted member)  
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 last notes of meeting.

#### Matters Arising

2. Members endorsed the documents Related to society (Appendix B1) and Related to clients – right of information and self-determination power (Appendix B2).
3. In Related to clients – continuation of service (Appendix B3), members revised the wordings in point 16.2 and suggested to add the responsibilities of social workers in the situation when clients were required to transfer out from the service. The revision was shown in Annex 1.

#### Discussion on revising the Code of Practice

4. A summary of revision was prepared for members' information and members had no comment on the document.
5. Related to clients – responsibilities to clients
  - (a) A few points were added by making reference to the Code of Practice in Australia.
  - (b) It was agreed to replace the principle by the one of Australia i.e. Social workers should maintain the best interests of clients as a priority, with due regard to the respective interests of others.
  - (c) The original principle would be moved to be one of the standards and rules.
  - (d) The numbering and sequence were re-organized.

- (e) Majority of the contents had already been covered in “Related to agency” and it was suggested to delete part of the contents in row 2 and 4 but only keep the following points:
  - “social workers should collaborate with other professional ... include clients in such consultations”;
  - “social workers will terminate professional relationships and services when these relationship and services no longer serve the interests or needs of clients”;
  - “social workers will notify relevant family members...provide referrals or advice regarding ongoing services.
- (f) In row 3, social workers should stay alert of the potential for conflicts of interest. These interests should be presented in alphabetical order as each one carried the same priority and importance.
- (g) The proposed changes were marked in Annex 2.

6. Related to clients – conflicts of interests

- (a) The additions were made reference to the Code of Practice in USA, Australia and Canada.
- (b) In point 13.1, only the first sentence was kept whilst the rest was deleted.
- (c) Points 13.2 and 13.3 were combined into one point.
- (d) It was suggested to divide point 13.4 into two separate points. In the first part, it was suggested to add that if the conflicts of interest might be unavoidable, social workers should declare its roles and responsibilities to all parties involved. Members expressed that in reality, such as in family disputes cases, it would be difficult to have a clear definition on the responsibilities of social workers. Further opinions from social workers who were specialized in family services would be essential.
- (e) Members considered to change point 13.5 to become a “Principle” and it was necessary to further elaborate the point. Further discussion was required.
- (f) It was suggested to delete 13.6.
- (g) Point 13.7 had already been covered in “Related to agency” and it was not necessary to repeat in this part.
- (h) The proposed revisions were marked in Annex 3.

Date of next meeting

7. The next two meetings would be held on 10 April 2018 at 3:30pm and 25 April 2018 at 9:15pm, both at Room GH317 Hong Kong Polytechnic University.
8. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

26 March 2018