

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

Notes of the Joint Meeting of the Committee on Professional Conduct (“CPC”) and Task Force on Review of Code of Practice (“TFRCOP”)

Date: 17 Jan 2020
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room, 26/F Eastern Commercial Centre, 83 Nam On Street, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong.
Present: Mr. LUN Chi-wai (Convenor)
Ms. CHAN Tsz-wai (CPC)
Ms. LIT Ming-wai (CPC)
Ms. MAN Yuen-ling, Connie (CPC)
Dr. NG Yut-ming (CPC)
Mr. TSANG Kin-chiu (CPC)
Ms. TSOI Wing-tak, Michelle (CPC)
Dr. CHENG Yuk-tin, Carl (TFRCOP)
Dr. LAM Chiu-wan (TFRCOP)
Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen (TFRCOP)
Mr. WONG Ka-ming (TFRCOP)
Apology: Dr. TING Wai-fong (CPC)
Secretary: Mr. LEE Wing-po, Eric, Registrar
Ms. CHAN May-shan, Emily, Assistant Registrar

Mr. LUN, as the convenor, briefed the purpose of this joint meeting and invited all members to introduce themselves at the beginning of the meeting.

(Ms. LIT arrived and joined the meeting at this juncture.)

Review of Code of Practice (“COP)

Comparison between the present and revised version of COP (Chinese version)

1. (Anonymised) gave a brief introduction of the major changes of the document and the rationale behind the suggested changes. Members started to go through the document JM COP-1.2 prepared by the Board Office, in which the comparison of changes between the present and revised version were clearly presented.
2. For Section 1 (Preamble), members of TFRCOP highlighted that the term “political values” is intended to carry the broader meaning that social workers should be aware of the influence of societal changes and uphold the important values of social justice.
3. For Section 3 (Beliefs and Values), one of the beliefs (point 5. Social workers believe that each society, regardless of its form, should provide maximum benefits to its members.) was proposed to be removed from the existing version. After discussion, members agreed to reframe the wordings and integrate into the 4th paragraph of Section 1. For the newly added belief (point 7. Commitment to Professional Integrity), members of TFRCOP explained that this point was found in the code of practice in USA and should be added as a basic value for HK social workers.

4. As a newly added section, members of TFR COP elaborated that Section 4 (Ethical Practice and Decision Making) emphasized the importance of taking a reflective attitude in applying this code, which social workers should be aware of the possibility of ethical dilemmas instead of complying strictly with the rules without consideration of the ethnical context. With this rationale, members agreed to amend the wordings of the 2nd last paragraph from “當個人價值觀與專業價值發生衝突時，社工首要的責任是先遵守本守則；並應進行反思和辨別，...” to “當個人...，社工應以本守則為首要決策參考，並在此基礎上進行反思和辨別，...”.
5. For Section 5 (Principles and Practices), members agreed in principle to the key points of changes highlighted in blue colour. The Secretary pointed out that point 1.2.1 of the existing version related to trying new techniques and methods was not simply moved to points 25.2 & 25.3 as the key point of client’s consent and endorsement from supervisors/agencies was omitted. After a detailed discussion, members came into a view that the focus should be the requirement of receiving proper training and professional consultation for the protection of clients’ interests.

(Mr. TSANG retired from the meeting at this juncture.)

6. For the deletion of point 13.3.1 of present version, though point 22.3 of the revised version also stated that social workers should not use their official authorities to influence staff to vote for any affiliated political party, the target of influence is staff instead of clients. Members agreed to further re-consider this point.
7. In all, it was agreed among the members that the two versions should not be compared only from the perspective of adding or deleting some points, but the new version should be viewed as the amendment or transformation of some concepts.

Arrangement of public consultation of the Code of Practice

8. Regarding the arrangement of public consultation, members agreed in principle with the proposal listed in the document JMCOP-1.3. For the date of session for the RSWs of family and child welfare services; and services for offenders, members preferred changing from 16 May to 30 May. Members agreed that at least 2 TFR COP members would attend each public consultation session for assisting in the briefing work.
9. For the means of promotion, it was proposed to make a short video of presenting the background and rationale of the review, in which an interview with the TFR COP members might be considered. This suggestion would be put forth to CPC for endorsement.

Any other business

10. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12p.m.

End