



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

The e-Bulletin is a monthly informal communicate to persons registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professions and other stakeholders.

NOVEMBER 2020

From the desk of the Registrar



“COVID 19 - the aftermath and the new normal”

A few months back a dark cloud swooped over Mzansi and we were forced to relook life in general.

Everyone was gripped by fear of the unknown and the saying: that *“death is the night thief who can knock on your door anytime”* became a hard reality that caused a lot of mental health issue for children and adults alike. Being thrust in the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic means a lot of social service practitioners harboured a lot of the fear and pain. The way we conduct our business and offer interventions can never be the same again. We cannot revert back to the former “normal” that we used to know because many great opportunities have been created where the global village is far reachable than before. The challenges of offering supervision to social service practitioners in outlying communities can be mitigated by having interactive supervision using secure virtual platforms. A good number of essential service workers were lost to COVID-19 and we must never forget or take their deaths in vain. We need to forge forward with more vigour and conscientiousness COVID-19 the aftermath and the “new normal” to make sure that this “new normal” is understood by our service beneficiaries and that we educate them about the hard core facts of what may happen if we drop the guard and become careless about prevention protocols. Health and safety measures must be maintained whether a second wave hits us or not.

Social service practitioners need to disseminate accurate information to communities and ensure that there is psychosocial support especially for the frontline workers because they always bear the brunt of the pandemic: pressure from family who do not want them to go out to work and discrimination from community members who may allege they are actually carriers of the virus. Supervisors need to create deliberate platforms for supervisees to be debriefed so they can continue to be effective in rendering disaster management and psycho-social interventions to communities.

We must look out more for children because they may not be able to articulate the mental health issues

Quote

for the month

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.”

- Edward Everett Hale

they experience due to the observation of protocols. Children thrive on warmth offered by parents through cuddling and with the safety protocols it means that emotional security derived from reassuring hugs from friends, parents is gone. We might have a pool of children with affective disorders that teachers might not be able to detect because they too have pressures of their own-to cover the syllabus and have the learners ready to sit for exams. We have families who have not grieved properly because of the burial protocols. So, social service professionals must be aware that the ‘new normal’ is her to stay and we must engage more and connect with the pain experienced by our service users, and give support to the vulnerable to mitigate the aftermath of COVID-19. We must jointly work together with other essential care workers to prevent the 2nd wave from hitting us unprepared.

Langi Malamba
Registrar

What's on *for social service professionals*

5 December - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development

10 December - Human Rights Day (international)

18 December - International Migrants Day

20 December - International Human Solidarity Day

REMINDER: It is time to pay your annual fees to the SACSSP

SHARE your important date or event in this column by sending an email before the end of any month to communications@sacssp.co.za

RESOURCE *Corner*

ARTICLE: *Child protection and resilience in the face of COVID-19 in South Africa: A rapid review of C-19 legislation.* This article investigates how legislation related to the minimum health, safety and social distancing measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 enabled, or constrained, South African children’s protection from abuse and neglect and appraises the findings from a social-ecological resilience perspective. You can access this article [here](#).

ONLINE JOURNAL: The *CYC-Online journal* reflects the activities of the field of Child and Youth Care. Click [here](#) to access the latest version (and back issues).

COVID-19: Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Other Resources are available on the website of the University of Cape Town’s Knowledge Translation Unit (KTU). Click [here](#) to access these resources.

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3 questions to ERIKASTUTTERHEIM

Member of the Professional Board for Social Work



Tell us who is Erika the person?

I am a devout Christian, honest, loving, caring, dedicated and true to my principles. I love and cherish my family and friends. I am passionate about the development of and care for children, my profession as a social worker and strive to develop social workers to their full potential.

What is the biggest highlight in your career as a social worker?

My entire career of 43 years as a social worker is a highlight since I consider my profession as a calling. At university in the late 1980's I initiated the Child-centered-client and the differences in dealing with children as opposed to adults. The proper approach in respect of the abused child. I was a member of the National Council for Child Welfare. In 1996 I was appointed as Head of Social Work in the South African Police Service where I established occupational social work and developed social workers in this field. Due to my passion for the child client I was also instrumental in the development and establishment of a Forensic Social Work Unit within the Detective Branch to optimise the proper investigation of crimes against children.

What is your vision for social service professionals in the country?

My vision is that all social work professionals regard their profession as a calling and provide effective, efficient services to ensure a well-functioning society.



Your professional titles are PROTECTED

Only persons who are registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professions may use the following titles in accordance with the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978:

- *social worker*
- *social auxiliary worker*
- *child and youth care worker*
- *auxiliary child and youth care worker*

And for persons studying:

- *student social worker or student social auxiliary worker*
- *student child and youth care worker and student auxiliary child and youth care worker*

Section 15 of the Act is explicit in prohibiting any person that is not registered with Council to practise these professions or perform any act which especially pertains to a profession for which a professional board is established or give instruction on any subject with connection to the aforementioned professions; or pretend to be a person registered for the professions mentioned above. Section 16 of the Act states that any person who use any of the aforementioned titles without being registered is guilty of an offence.

The use of these titles is restricted and protected by law.

A CHILD AND YOUTH CARE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A FREE CPD accredited in-service training programme designed for all child and youth care workers in South Africa to enable them to safely serve children, families and communities during the COVID-19 crisis. Please see the SACSSP's website or contact the Secretary of the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work at MolebohengM@sacssp.co.za or more details. Access more details [here](#).



LOCAL & international NEWS

FOSTERING GOOD QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES

Office of Health Standards Compliance published its *Enforcement Policy* on 4 December 2020 (Access Government Notice No 1286 published in the Government Gazette No 43962 of 4 December 2020 [here](#)). Office of Health Standards Compliance was established by section 77(1) of the National Health Act 61 of 2003 with aim to foster good quality health services. This *Enforcement Policy* sets out the approach to be followed by the Office of Health Standards Compliance in enforcing compliance by health establishments with the prescribed norms and standards to guide its employees and categories of health establishments to whom the prescribed norms and standards apply, while it also sets out the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders.

Source: www.gov.za

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2021 FOCUSES ON UBUNTU

The theme for the 2021 *World Social Work Day* 2021 (16 March) is *Ubuntu: 'I Am Because We Are' - Strengthening Social Solidarity & Global Connectedness*. The more information and the poster is already available [here](#). "The theme comes from extensive consultation within IFSW and beyond. At a time when global politics has retreated into nationalism, Ubuntu is a powerful message on the need for solidarity at all levels: within communities, societies and globally" says International Federation of Social Workers' President, Silvana Martinez.

Source: International Federation of Social Workers

ESSENTIAL ROLE OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE WORKFORCE DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND

Social Service Workforce Week 2020 was celebrated from 26 to 30 October and highlighted the many essential roles of the social service workforce in the lives of individuals, families and communities. Throughout the week there was a focus on how the workforce is essential during COVID-19 and for transforming children's care, protection of children, and delivering mental health and psychosocial support. A new *Guidance Manual on Strengthening Supervision of the Social Service Workforce*, developed by the Alliance's Interest Group on Supervision, was also released (download it [here](#)). For more information visit their website [here](#).

Source: Global Social Service Workforce Alliance

In Memoriam

As the COVID-19 pandemic remains with us, the *South African Council for Social Service Professions* remembers at the end of this year all those frontline workers, including social service practitioners who lost their lives in the service of their fellow human beings. They, and other still continuing to serve our nation and beyond give true meaning to our motto **NON NOBIS - Not for ourselves**. We share in the grief and sadness with their loved ones.

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