



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON 41st MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORK

11 February 2021

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work (PBCYC) held its 41st meeting on 22 September 2020 on a virtual platform. As usual, the meeting was well attended and the chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming all members. The meeting focused on the strategic matters related to the mandate of this Professional Board.

On the SACSSP's governance, the Professional Board noted the health and safety measures and the business continuity plan put in place by Secretariat to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure minimal interruption of services to clients during the national lockdown.

The Professional Board noted the report on COVID-19 free training that had been well received by the sector. Forty-nine organisations have conducted this training and 1904 child and youth care workers have been trained.

In the professional conduct division and the education training and development division, panels have been continuing to work on their respective mandates. They have been doing assessments, engaging with the sector and conducting disciplinary hearings. Ongoing communication with the sector has also been taking place. WhatsApp platforms have been used to attend to issues regarding the mandate of Council. The SACSSP will continue to hold virtual sessions to reach out to as many stakeholders as possible and attend to their concerns pertaining to Council and its operations.

The Professional Board noted the report regarding social service practitioners who did not pay their annual fees for the 2020/21 financial year, which is one of requirements for social service professionals to maintain their registration status. Council ordered the Registrar to remove the names of persons who have not paid their annual fees by 26 August 2020 from the register, in accordance to section 20(1) (d) of the Social Service Professions Act, 110 of 1978. Any person whose name will be removed shall be notified in writing and should they wish to restore, he/she may do so by submitting an application form in terms of section 20(3) of the Act.

An update on the Government Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC), which is an advisory structure in government, was well received by the Professional Board. It was reported that a meeting will take place soon and will look at the service delivery model, recruitment and retention strategy.

The interest from two (2) universities to offer child and youth care work qualification was welcomed by the PBCYC. The University of Johannesburg has shown great interest in offering child and youth care qualification, and two appointments have been secured with the Dean at the university to further explore steps to be taken in making the provision of the qualification a success. The University of Western Cape is still committed to offering the level 8 qualification in CYCW and has projected it will be in place by 2022.

The Professional Board welcomed guests from UNICEF and the Department of Education and presented the work of the Professional Board and the child and youth care sector. This presentation explored ways in which UNICEF can work with the Professional Board to strengthen the child and youth care workforce in South Africa. More specifically in respect to the deployment of child and youth care workers within the Department of Basic Education and the possibility of UNICEF providing technical research and writing support to the PBCYC for critical workforce strengthening activities. All parties agreed that there is a need for social service professionals to work in support of educators and to recognise the role of child and youth care workers in the life space of children and how interventions of child and youth care workers contribute positively to the academic achievements of children. A task team has been established to take this partnership forward.

To continue keeping in touch with sector, the Professional Board resolved on conducting virtual roadshows to engage with the sector on registration, professional conduct and continuing professional development matters. A Notice with more details will be issued once planning in this regard has been finalised.

The Professional Board thanked all members for their inputs during the meeting and the secretariat for their support and contributions.

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ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SERVICE PROFESSIONS

The South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP/ Council) is a statutory body established in terms of section 2 of the Social Service Professions Act No. 110 of 1978 (the Act). Council has two professional boards under its auspices: the Professional Board for Social Work and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work. Council, in conjunction with its two professional boards, guides and regulates the professions of social work and child youth care work in aspects pertaining to registration; education and training; professional conduct and ethical behaviour; ensuring continuing professional development; and fostering compliance with professional standards. It protects the integrity of the social service professions as well as the interest of the public at large. In order to safeguard the public and indirectly the professions, registration with Council in terms of the Act is a prerequisite before practising social work and child and youth care work. Registration is mandatory for social workers, social auxiliary workers, student social workers, student social auxiliary workers, child and youth care workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers, student child and youth care workers, and student auxiliary child and youth care workers.