



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON 44TH MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORK

11 August 2021

The South African Council for Social Professions' Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work (PBCYCW) held its 44th meeting on 22 July 2021 using Microsoft Teams virtual platform. The meeting started with the PBCYC acknowledging the impact of the recent looting and vandalism that took place particularly in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, as well as the COVID-19 on the sector and communities. A moment of silence was observed for all the social service professionals and people who have lost their lives to COVID-19 and the recent insurrection that took place.

The PBCYCW noted progress made with regard to the new registration system where practitioners will be able to print their own barcoded certificates and receipts. The Professional Board expressed appreciation to the Transformation committee (TFC) of Council that has been supporting the vaccination rollout phase for social service professionals, especially those employed in the NPO sector, which was launched by the Minister of Social Development, Minister Lindiwe Zulu in Gauteng, Ekurhuleni, on 19 July 2021.

The Professional Board noted the registration report with eleven thousand five hundred and sixteen (11516) child and youth care workers registered on the SACSSP database; one hundred and fifty nine (159) child and youth care workers at professional level; seven thousand nine hundred and sixty four (7964) auxiliary child and youth care workers, and three thousand three hundred and ninety three (3393) student child and youth care workers.

The Professional Conduct Committee of the Professional Board revised the solemn declaration by child and youth care workers, which has since been approved by the Professional Board via round robin resolution and will serve before council at the next ordinary meeting end of August.

Since the Child and Youth Care Work Summit that took place in May, a range of key stakeholders have been brought into each task team according to their interest, and each task team has held at least one meeting since the Summit, reported to the Board progress thus far.

- a) The Education, Training and Development (ETD) task team whose mandate is to activate opportunities to increase child and youth care workers' access to higher education learning and bursaries, was well attended. Representatives from SAQA, institutions of higher learning and the Department of Higher Education were in attendance. One of the recommendations from this meeting was that SAQA would lead this task team in a mapping of the career path for child and youth care work. The Department of Higher Education recommended that the PBCYC look at various degrees that are aligned to child and youth care work that are currently being offered by some universities and assess these degrees. Opportunities in seeking grants for enrichment lecturers, child and youth care work degrees and support were also recommended.
- b) The OSD task team was mandated to look at the development of a business case to enable changes to job descriptions, grades and employment requirements while the OSD revision process is underway. The OSD task team also met and the Department of Social Development presented the project plan for the business case for child and youth care work to be completed before end March 2022. This plan will be presented to provinces. Be on the lookout for that.

- c) The District Development Model task team, whose mandate it is to look at the integration of child and youth care workers within the concept of the district development model, met in a follow up meeting with the Minister of Social Development and COGTA. The focus was on how child and youth care workers can be integrated more effectively within communities. This meeting took place on 23 July 2021. The National Association for Child and Youth Care Workers (NACCW) presented a success model sponsored by Aware.org, that has demonstrated how impactful child and youth care workers have responded at community level through NACCW in just 6 months. The following: Aware.org, HWSETA, DG Murray Trust, Innovation Edge, Motsepe Foundation, UNICEF and Investec were amongst the invited funders. Some of these funders made presentations that in the main supported and commended the work done in the field of child and youth care over the years.

A follow-up Summit will be held on 28 or 29 September 2021 to report back the progress from the above task teams. Please diarise these two dates, a confirmed date will be communicated closer to the time.

In the coming months, the PBCYC is planning more virtual roadshows for the sector to keep them up to date on the developments in the field and the focus will be on the understanding of the Social Service Professions Act, update on the registration process and the code of ethics. A schedule will be published soon.

The Professional Board thanked all members for their presence and active participation.

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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.