



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON THE 62nd MEETING OF SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

REF: 2/1/2/11

21 September 2021

The South African Council for Social Service Professions held its 62nd meeting on the 30th August 2021 through Microsoft Teams. Focus was to discuss the overall progress of SACSSP since its 61st meeting and to assess status of resolutions. The meeting commenced with a sad acknowledgment of continued gender based violence incidents during Women's month, and noted the killing of the University of Fort Hare female student.

On the organisational report, Council noted that 33% of staff is back at the office on rotational basis post full recovery of the 5 confirmed COVID 19 positive cases. Council applauded social service professionals who had taken the opportunity to use the vaccination rollout undertaken from 19 July to 30 July 2021; however, there are social service professionals who are still hesitant about vaccinating. Under the lead of the Transformation Committee of Council, a Vaccination Hesitancy 'ethical dilemma' Webinar took place on 13 September 2021 to address concerns around vaccination in the social service sector and legal guidance for employers and employees.

Council expressed concern about dissatisfied clients who decry the lack of timely issuing of receipts and certificates. Council also noted that most social service professionals fail to update their current (emails, postal addresses and telephones (landline or mobile).

On the Professional Board for Social Work report, Council approved the following:

- Revised Code of Ethics, which was benchmarked with at least four other statutory Councils. The document is now called *the Code of Ethics for Social Work*, and will help regulate and guide employers and employees in different work settings.
- Furthermore, the revised CDP Policy was approved. The aim of the policy has been changed from *ensuring the high quality CPD* to *ensuring compliance to the CPD requirements* to facilitate ongoing annual renewal of registrations. The applicability of this document also applies to non-practicing individuals, registered persons outside of South Africa, first time registrants and those who have their names restored.
- *The Rules for Technology Supported Social Work Services* was previously approved in 2020 due to the urgency of COVID 19 restrictions, and since then it has been revised. The document will form part of annexes of the Code of Ethics document.

On the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work (PBCYCW) report, the following was noted, and approved:

- The Solemn Declaration for child and youth care workers;

- On the PBCYC Summit resolutions, Council noted the developments from the 3 task teams which were formed, the Higher Education task team which held 4 meetings, one of which SAQA, universities and the Department of Higher Education and Training attended. One of the recommendations from this task team was for SAQA to lead on the mapping process for the learning pathways for child and youth care workers.
- Furthermore, The OSD task team reviewed the summit resolution, looking at how they would move the process forward so that the process could be inclusive of all child and youth care workers irrespective of which sector and setting they are working in. The Department of Social Development presented the project plan for developing a business case for the deployment of child and youth care workers. The project plan is to be completed before the current financial year-end. A follow up summit will take place sometime later this year. More information will be shared closer to the date.
- The District Development Model (DDM) task team organised a high-level meeting on 23 July 2021, which was attended by Honourable Minister Lindiwe Zulu, COGTA and other representatives on how child and youth care workers can be used more effectively within the district development model.

Council noted and approved the following from the Education Training and Development committee of Council

- The Induction manual for Members of South African Council for Social Service Professions and staff, which was already approved in 2018 and recently reviewed;
- Council approved in principle the Revised Guidelines for the establishment of the new Professional Boards and had incorporated the terms of the new regulations.

On the Communication and Public Relations Committee, Council approved the recommendation on a survey report on the public profile of Council based on social media to develop a turnaround strategy to address the areas that influence the SACSSP's public profile within the next 30 days.

Council noted the appointment of an IT Company through a tender process. The service provider, Nu-Tab technologies has started working on the online IT system development, projected to be implemented in a phased approach from November 2021. Practitioners will be able to register online, print barcoded registration certificates and receipts amongst other things.

Council concluded its 62nd meeting by expressing appreciation to all Members, and secretariat for continued support, attention and deliberations. Next Council meeting will be held in November 2021.

ISSUED BY: SACSSP Communications

ENQUIRIES:

Lungelwa Mbuzo (Ms) (*Communications and Public Relations Practitioner*)

Office: +27 12 356 8300 | Direct: +27 12 356 8302 Email: communications@sacssp.co.za

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.