



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON 34th MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORK

22 November 2018

The South African Council for Social Professions' Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work held its 34th meeting on 01 to 02 November 2018 in Pretoria.

As is usual, the meeting was well attended and all members engaged in the rigorous discussions held on the agenda items, displaying both commitment to the field of child and youth care work and a sense of cooperation and teamwork as a Professional Board. Members worked well beyond the meeting hours to be sure to complete the comprehensive agenda. A sense of urgency is felt by the Professional Board as members are cognisant of the need to move the child and youth care work field forward in a tangible manner so that registrants feel the positive impact of being now a regulated workforce. The Professional Board is aware of the many challenges being faced by child and youth care workers and is seeking to address the systemic issues that contribute to such challenges.

One of the key matters for engagement was a review of the current NQF level 4 learning material for child and youth care work commissioned by the HWSETA. In reviewing the learning material being used by many service providers of the TVET: Child and Youth Care Work, it was noted that a bridging course will be needed to assist graduates of the certificate to obtain the new qualification which will be at NQF level 5. The Professional Board will have further engagements with the HWSETA to discuss the implementation of the bridging course. The Professional Board is fully involved in the process of commissioning a service provider to develop the new learning material for the Level 5 qualification. The Professional Board also welcomed the positive partnership formed with both the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) and the HWSETA in all their processes involving the child and youth care work professionalisation. It was agreed that a workshop with all QCTO accredited training providers will be arranged by the QCTO to make training providers aware of the statutory mandate of the Professional Board in relation to learning material development and the provision of training that meets the standards of the Council and the Professional Board.

A further area of considered attention was in relation to creating the mechanisms for child and youth care workers to have their continuous professional development recognized. The meeting focused on refining a policy to govern the continuing professional development of child and youth care workers. The Board hopes to introduce the requirement of continuing professional development as soon as the administrative processes in the secretariat of the Council are ready to manage the administrative load. This will mean that child and youth care workers will be recognized for the added activities they undertake for their professional development. The Continuing Professional Development policy (CPD) was finalised by the Professional Board during the meeting and a draft CPD policy will be circulated to the sector for comments by the end of this week.

Two further focus areas of the meeting included the ongoing concern about the manner in which child and youth care workers are limited with regard to their employment and upward mobility opportunities. Intense discussion took place on the process of advocating in this regard with the Department of Social Development, and a refined strategy on the matter has been devised.

The Professional Board further spent time on the matter of the registration of child and youth care workers. The Professional Board was very pleased to note that the administrative bottlenecks which have slowed down the processing of applications have been addressed and that in future, registering applicants will be

much swifter and smoother. The Professional Board noted the current statistics of 7322 child and youth care workers registered with Council, which it noted was encouraging, but nonetheless represented only a portion of the child and youth care workers in practice. Different means of communicating with the sector to put across the importance of registration were discussed, and all means of communication, including roadshows, will be used to ensure that child and youth care workers recognized that it is no longer legal to be working as a child and youth care worker without being registered. The Professional Board further noted the continuing trend in some provinces where the Department of Social Development continues to advertise child and youth care work positions without requiring compulsory registration with SACSSP.

The Professional Board noted the document entitled “Regulations for the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978: Fees payable by social workers, child and youth care workers, social auxiliary workers, student workers Amendment Regulations”, which was published on 19 October 2018 in Notice 1129(Government Gazette No 41982). Comments on the document were required by 18 November 2018.

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care concluded its meeting by expressing appreciation to members and secretariat for work done since the beginning of the year and identified items to be prioritised in the 2019/20 financial year.

Issued by: SACSSP Communications

ENQUIRIES:

Public Relations and Marketing Officer
South African Council for Social Services Professions
37 Annie Botha Avenue, Riviera, Pretoria 0001, South Africa
Office: +27 12 356 8300 | Direct: +27 12 356 8302 Email: communications@sacssp.co.za
Website: <http://www.sacssp.co.za> Facebook: @OfficialSACSSP Twitter: @SACSSP1

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.