



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON 46TH MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORK

21 April 2022

The South African Council for Social Service Professions' Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work (PBCYCW) held its 46th meeting on 29 March 2022 using the Microsoft Teams virtual platform. The PBCYCW discussed various topics in preparation for its handover report to Council as its term of office is coming to an end on 18 June 2022.

Amongst the key topics that were discussed is the progress made with institutions of higher learning relating to offering the child and youth care work degree. Feedback received from UNISA indicated that the development of the degree program was on track for 2022. Follow-up meetings with the University of Western Cape were scheduled to establish the possibility of continuing with the development of the new degree offering at the institution, and the University of Johannesburg is also pursuing the development of the degree program.

The PBCYCW met with the Department of Basic Education and UNICEF regarding a need for child and youth care workers in school settings, and there is consensus amongst all stakeholders regarding the importance of deploying child and youth care workers in school settings. Follow-up meetings are planned to advance the agenda of opening up educational settings as employment options for child and youth care workers.

The PBCYCW is working on proposing amendment to the current regulations for child and youth care workers to introduce the Level 5 child and youth care qualification as an entry level instead of the current Level 4 qualification. It is anticipated that this will strengthen the sector and provide opportunities for the greater recognition of child and youth care workers. The sector will be notified about a call for public comments on the proposed amended regulations once the recommendation to amend the regulations is approved by council for submission to the Minister of social development, who will issue a notice in the government gazette for public comments.

The office is busy with preparations for the elections of 5th Council, 5th Professional Board for Social Work and 4th Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work. The sector will be notified through a Board Notice in the government gazette for the date of elections which will take place electronically or manually.

The PBCYCW noted the Registrations' division's report which outlined developments since March 2020. Currently the division is working on uploading all existing registered practitioners' data on the back end of the new system which Council will soon be launching. As of 28 March 2022, 12 613 child and youth care workers were registered with Council. This includes 200 registered as professional child and youth care workers, 8 358 auxiliary child and youth care workers, 3 773 auxiliary child and youth care students and 282 student child and youth care workers at professional level. The PBCYCW was gratified to note the steady increase in registrations. However, of concern was the information received that of the 12 613 child and youth care workers registered, 6 869 auxiliary child and youth care workers and 83 child and youth care workers are soon to be deregistered for failing to pay the prescribed annual fees to Council. The Professional Board calls

on all child and youth care workers who have not paid their annual fees to do so as soon as possible to avoid being deregistered.

Before the PBCYCW's end of term, the Professional Board will hold a two-hour feedback and update session on the developments that have been noted since the Summit was held last year. Be on the lookout for more information about this session.

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.