



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT OF MEETING Professional Board for Social Work

REF: 1/24

19 January 2024

STATEMENT OF THE 59TH MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

The Professional Board for Social Work (PBSW) held its 59th meeting on 30 October 2023. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board and progress made since its 58th meeting held in September 2023 and the Professional Board's priorities for its term of office.

General issues

The Chairperson of the Professional Board reported on the following resolutions which were tabled at the 58th meeting of Professional Board:

- The PBSW to meet with the National Department of Social Development to discuss the issue of adoption services in South Africa and the planned exclusion of social workers in private practice from rendering adoption services.
- The Professional Board noted the explanatory memorandums to accompany the proposed Regulations on the eight specialities in social work were submitted to the National Department of Social Development on 26 October 2023. Social workers can currently apply to be registered for the following specialities in social work: adoption social work, clinical social work; forensic social work; speciality in probation services and occupational social work (please see the SACSSP website for the relevant Regulations). A further three specialities, i.e., school social work, social worker supervision and social work in health care, will be in place as soon as the Regulations is approved by the Minister of Social Development.

Registration under the Professional Board for Social Work

The Professional Board is pleased that from July to September 2023 a total of 231 social workers, 95 social auxiliary workers, 384 student social workers, 179 student social auxiliary workers were registered with the SACSSP. Furthermore, eight social workers were registered for the speciality in adoption social work (and can now use the title adoption social worker) while two social workers were registered for the speciality in probation services (and may now affix this speciality to their name).

The Professional Board noted the 166 verifications on the status of registration with the SACSSP were concluded which were received from Social Work England, CORU (Ireland), Social Workers Registration Board New Zealand and Social Care (Wales) which were concluded. A further 368 status of registration and good standing reports issued during this period.

The Professional Board welcomed a report on the webinars on *Regulations relating to the fees payable by social workers, child and youth care workers, social auxiliary workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers, student social workers and student child and youth care workers* facilitated from 18 to 29 September 2023 attended by 754 social service professionals, including employers.

The Restoration Panel processed 50 applications for restoration in terms of section 20(3) of the Act for 34 social workers, 14 social auxiliary workers and two auxiliary child and youth care workers. The Professional Board also noted that the names of two social workers and 30 social auxiliary workers were removed from the Register in terms of section 20(1)(d) of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978.

Professional conduct

The Professional Board noted that from July to September 2023 a total of 57 complaints of alleged unprofessional or improper conduct was investigated by the Committee of Preliminary Inquiry (CPI). The CPI finalised 21 investigations in terms of regulation 8 of the *Regulations regarding the conducting of enquiries into alleged unprofessional conduct*, while 19 matters were closed as the respondents were found not to be in contravention of the *Rules relating to the acts or omissions of a social worker, a social auxiliary worker or a student social worker which shall constitute unprofessional or improper conduct*. A further 10 matters are still under investigation and 7 were referred to the Professional Conduct Committee.

The Professional Board noted the report of the CPI Appeals Committee that one appeal was received during the period under review, bringing the total of appeals for consideration to two including the one carried over from the previous quarter. Two cases were reviewed and one matter the decision of the CPI was set aside and the matter was referred back to the Committee of Preliminary Inquiry for further investigation; and in the other matter the CPI Appeals Committee upheld the decision of the CPI.

The Professional Board was informed of the eight matters of alleged unprofessional or improper conduct which were tabled before the Professional Conduct Committee of which five matters were finalised and one part-head (to be heard in 2024). In this regard the Committee found one social worker guilty of contravening Rule 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) and 3(4) of the Rules and a 12 months suspension in terms of section 22(1)(b) of the Act was imposed. One social worker was found guilty of contravention of Rule 3(3), 3(4) and 7(1) of the Rules and received a warning in terms of section 22(1)(a) of the Act. One social worker was found guilty of contravention of Rule 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) 3(10), and 4(5) of the Rules and received a 12 months suspension in terms of section 22(1)(b), suspended for a period of 12 months in terms of section 22(1A) (a)(i) of the Act. One social worker was found guilty of contravention Rule 3(3) and 3(4) of the Rules and 3 years suspension in terms of section 22(1)(b) of the Act was imposed. One social worker was found guilty of contravention Rule 3(1), 3(2), 3(3), 3(4) and 3(10) of the Rules and a 12 months suspension in terms of section 22(1)(b) of the Act was imposed.

The Professional Board further noted the capacity development sessions on the code of ethics took place at the North-West Department of Social Development, Gauteng Department of Social Development and the Western Cape Association for Persons with Disabilities.

Education, training and development

The Professional Board noted the report from the Education, Training and Development Committee:

- (a) A total of 205 continuing for professional development (CPD) applications were received of which 150 were assessed (136 approved, 3 not approved, 11 suspended) and 55 are awaiting assessment
- (b) One CPD appeal was received during the reporting period, awaiting assessment. Four CPD Appeals from the previous quarter were successful
- (c) Quality assurance site visit to University of Limpopo of the BSW qualification was completed and the report will be submitted to the Professional Board

Congratulations

The Professional Board congratulated Mr Frans Manthosi on his appointment as a lecturer at the School of Psychosocial Health at the North-West University, Potchefstroom campus.

The Professional Board for Social Work concluded its 59th meeting by expressing appreciation to Members and Secretariat for their contribution during the meeting.

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ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SERVICE PROFESSIONS

The South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) is an autonomous statutory body established in terms of section 2 of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978 ("the Act"). The SACSSP discharges its mandate, subject to the provisions of the Act together with the Regulations and Rules thereto, as the determining, guiding and directing authority body for the social service professions of social work and child and youth care work in the country. The SACSSP fulfils this role through Council constituted in terms of section 5 of the Act and the Professional Board for Social Work and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work established in terms of section 14A of the Act and constituted in terms of the applicable Regulations, by setting the standards for

education and training of social service professionals (qualifications and continuous professional development); registration of social service professionals as a requirement to practice; setting standards for and exercise effective control over the professional conduct (including ethics) of social service professionals as well as by taking policy resolutions as guidelines for the practising of the social service professions under its auspices. Thus, protecting the integrity of the social service professions as well as the interest of the public at large. It is a legal requirement in terms of the Act for a social worker, social auxiliary worker, student social worker, student social auxiliary worker, child and youth care worker, auxiliary child and youth care worker, student child and youth care worker and student auxiliary child and youth care worker to be registered and in good standing in terms of his or her registration as condition to practise.