



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

ERRATUM STATEMENT ON 44th MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

18 November 2019

The Professional Board for Social Work held its 44th meeting from 10 to 11 October 2019 in Pretoria. The Professional Board noted the approval by Council during the meeting in September 2019 of regulations and policies prepared and submitted by the Board:

- Regulations defining the Scope of practice for Social Work
- CPD Policy
- CPD Standards and Guidelines
- Professional Conduct Dispute and Appeals Policy
- Regulations relating to the registration of a speciality in Adoption Social Work

It was further noted that Council approved the appointment of Ms Ida Strydom as the chairperson of the Committee for Preliminary Inquiries. Once administrative processes for the implementation of the CPD policy were finalized, the sector will be informed of the implementation date.

The manager of the Qualification Development Sub-Division at Health and Welfare SETA made a presentation on the realignment of qualifications. The importance of consultation with SACSSP in the early stages of the development of new qualifications was emphasized.

The Professional Board for Social Work and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work will have a joint meeting on 18 November 2019 to discuss matters of common interest.

The Professional Board noted from the report of the Education, Training and Development Committee that the Regulations for all fields of specialization were submitted to National Department of Social Development (NDSD) for final preparation to be gazetted for public comments. The task teams for specialization in social work submitted the assessment criteria for the different fields. The Education Training and Development Committee of the Professional Board will finalize the documents and prepare them for implementation during a work session on 4 December 2019. The Professional Board further noted the progress made with the assessment

criteria for the Bachelor degree in Social Work, drafting of regulations for private practice and for the assessment of learning material.

The Professional Board noted the work done by the Professional Conduct Committee on the draft regulations for employers, the Course of Conduct, Code of Ethics and the Rules for Social Service practitioners.

From 13 to 15 November 2019 delegated Professional Board members will participate in a work session with NDSD on the regulations for the Social Service Professions Bill.

The Professional Board discussed special considerations when applications from practitioners who were not active in the profession for an extended period is received. It was agreed that these applications will be considered on an individual basis and the registrations unit will be advised accordingly.

The Professional Board noted that the Registrar's Committee on Professional Conduct (RCPC) was phased out and that a Professional Conduct Panel will assist the Committee for Preliminary Inquiries (CPI) to analyse cases before they are discussed during a meeting. The panel members will be approved by the Professional Board based on their competencies; confidentiality and conflict of interest clauses will be signed.

The Professional Board acknowledged the progress made with stakeholder engagements from the office of the Registrar. Engagements with the Public Health and Social Development Collective Bargaining Council (PHSDCBC) resulted in resolution 3 of 2019 which allow Department of Social Development and Department of Health to deduct annual fees from the registrants' salaries and pay SACSSP in bulk.

The Professional Board and SACSSP were represented at the ASASWEI conference in August 2019, where representatives from SADAC countries were engaged in a discussion on the role and work of SACSSP. A round table discussion with representatives from neighbouring countries is planned for 2020. Furthermore, a meeting was held with heads of schools of social work at universities, where matters such as norms and standards, screening of students and training in the fields of specialization were discussed. SACSSP will communicate to training institutions to obtain information on available training programmes for the different fields of specialization. This information will be communicated to the sector to avoid misrepresentation of information. Once the

audit is completed and the need for training programs confirmed, training facilities and private service providers will be engaged in discussions for the development of training programmes.

From the Registration department, the Professional Board noted the progress made with registrations, restorations as well as the introduction of Standards Operating Procedures.

Professional Board members agreed that the focus of the next meeting in February 2020 will be on the evaluation of progress made during the current term of the Board and to identify the critical matters to be completed before the end of the term in 2021.

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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.