



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON JOINT MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK AND PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORK

29 November 2019

On 18 November 2019, the Professional Board for Social Work (PBSW) and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care (PBCYC) held its 2nd joint session in Pretoria, co- chaired by the chairpersons of the two Professional Boards, Ms Sharon Follentine and Ms Aziwe Magida.

The purpose of this 2nd joint meeting was to:

- Identify areas of collaboration
- Explore and share best practices
- Model unity by affirming that the two Professional Boards are allied professions who will support, enhance, respect and protect each other's professional identities, skills sets and autonomy
- Optimise opportunities for working in an integrated way on the level of policy, practice and research

Given the exploratory nature of the 2nd meeting, the agenda was fairly widespread but understandably too extensive, and covered amongst others, informative presentations by both the Health and Welfare SETA as well as the South African Qualifications Authority on their roles and responsibilities in relation to Councils'.

Also on the agenda were issues of deep concern to the Professional Boards because of the implications they hold for registrants and the social services sector as a whole. These included allegations of child trafficking by social service practitioners; the unemployment of social service practitioners; the funding crisis in the NGO sector and delays in funding transfers by their main sponsors and donors; quality assurance; continuing professional development and the possibility of an expanded notion of confidentiality and disclosure as an ethical consideration given our diverse cultural contexts.

Whilst some of these matters require further deliberation, recommendations were made in respect of others. For example, it was recommended that Council's Transformation Committee complete the project on Integrated Case Management or transfer responsibility to another task team if it falls outside of their mandate. It was also recommended that a report be requested on the investigations that were conducted into the allegations of child trafficking so that those who are found guilty can be dealt with in terms of the Social Services professions Act.

The two Professional Boards felt that opportunities for developing best practices existed through the following platforms:

- Hosting joint conferences
- Sharing documents and other relevant information and training opportunities, as well as jointly engaging in policy processes
- Jointly conducting quality assurance site visits
- Holding joint road shows
- Writing joint articles

- Issuing joint communiques

The Professional Boards concluded the meeting by confirming the need for and importance of such joint meetings being institutionalised, preferably twice per year.

Issued by: SACSSP Communications

ENQUIRIES:

Communications & Public Relations Practitioner

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.