



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON 42nd MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORK

7 May 2021

The Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work (PBCYC) held its 42nd meeting on 30 March 2021 using MS Teams virtual platform. The meeting opened on a sombre note due to the news of the resignation of the Chairperson, Ms Aziwe Magida who played a significant role in the professionalization and contributed to the success of the Professional Board. During this meeting, the PBCYC elected the new Chairperson and the Vice-chairperson as prescribed in section 28(1) (gD)(ix). The former chairperson, Ms Zeni Thumbadoo was elected as the new Chairperson and Dr Lesiba Molepo was elected as the Vice-chairperson for the remaining term of this Professional Board's tenure.

The issue of lack of inclusion of child and youth care workers on the staff establishment of the National Department of Social Development was discussed, and the Professional Board will request a further bilateral meeting with the National Department of Social Development to discuss this matter further as this is delaying developments within the child and youth care sector.

During this meeting, the PBCYC noted that there are a number of child and youth care work graduates who have not had work experience opportunities. The PBCYC will approach HWSETA to request them to initiate a specific project offering internships for graduates who lack experience and in this way support their entry into formal employment. Furthermore, the HWSETA will be approached to assist with initiatives to develop the number of trainers available to facilitate the new Level 5 qualification in child and youth care work. The Professional Board approved 56 child and youth care work trainers to facilitate the child and youth care work Level 5 qualification. This was considered an important step forward to ensure high quality training for child and youth care workers, which will be offered by subject matter experts and practitioners directly from the CYC profession – and to further create career pathing opportunities.

With the success of the 1st virtual roadshow that was hosted on 3 December 2020 for child and youth care workers in Kwa-Zulu Natal, the PBCYC is planning more virtual roadshows for the sector to keep them up to date on the developments in the field. A notice with more details on this matter will be issued once planning in this regard has been finalised.

Child and Youth Care Workers' Week takes place annually during the first week of May and this year it will be celebrated on the week of the 3rd -09, May 2021. The Professional Board will be saluting all child and youth care workers through messages of support for their selflessness and commitment to making a difference in their various work settings, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, there was a high-level summit on 6th May 2021, with various speakers from key stakeholder groupings, which addressed amongst other things the role of child and youth care workers in South Africa, challenges faced by this sector and opportunities for deployment etc. This summit was streamed live on various communication platforms for the sector to join in.

With regards to the important matter of increasing access to higher education training opportunities in the child and youth care work sector, a number of exciting developments were noted and discussed. These include:

- A first Master's degree in child and youth care work to commence in 2022 -Durban University of Technology (DUT)
A postgraduate diploma in Child and Youth care to commence in 2022 - DUT, this course will help practitioners who need a bridging course to register for a Master's degree.
- A degree in child and youth care work with possible commencement in 2023 - University of South Africa (UNISA). There are ongoing engagements between the university and the Professional Board to ensure the successful implementation of the qualification.
- A child and youth care work degree with commencement in 2022 -University of Western Cape (UWC).
- A new degree offering in child and youth care work is currently under consideration by University of Johannesburg (UJ). Ongoing consultations with the Professional Board in this regard.

There has been a request from the Zambian Association for Child Care Workers (ZACCW) for use of the Virtual COVID 19 training. The Professional Board has approved sharing the training with no financial implication to the Professional Board.

The Professional Board chairperson, Ms Thumbadoo thanked all members for their inputs during the meeting and also the secretariat for their support and contributions.

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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.