



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT ON 51ST MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

11 August 2021

The South African Council for Social Service Professions' Professional Board for Social Work (PBSW) held its 51st meeting on 21 July 2021. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board and progress made since its 50th meeting held on 24 May 2021. This meeting started with the Professional Board noting with concern the recent spates of lootings, vandalism and violence, which will affect service delivery of practitioners and NGOs, especially in two provinces, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.

The PBSW noted progress made with regards to the new registration system where practitioners will be able to print their own barcoded certificates and receipts. The Professional Board expressed appreciation to the Transformation committee (TFC) of Council that has been supporting the vaccination rollout phase for social service professionals, especially those employed in the NPO sector, which was launched by the Minister of Social Development, Minister Lindiwe Zulu in Gauteng, Ekurhuleni, on 19 July 2021.

Officials from the National Department of Social Development, led by the Acting DDG welfare branch were invited to join the Professional Board meeting and note the concerns expressed by the Professional Board regarding the delays in finalising the regulations of the seven specialities in social work, as well as the regulations pertaining to the Scope of Practice for Social Work. A number of agreements were reached, including that members of the PBSW will form part of the task team that will fast track the process of finalising the 'crafting' and gazetting of the outstanding regulations.

The Professional Board commended the Professional Conduct division and the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) on the following;

- a) Reviewed Policy Guidelines for Course of Conduct, Code of Ethics. PBSW approved the Code of Ethics in principle and the document will be finalised and submitted to Council for final approval.
- b) Committee of Preliminary Enquiry investigated forty-seven (47) cases and twenty-four (24) of these cases have been finalised.
- c) Twenty (22) new complaints were recorded during April to June 2021 by Professional Conduct division and notice letters were issued to respondents.

On registrations, the Professional Board noted an increase in the number of applications processed since the previous meeting in May 2021. A total of two thousand and twenty three (2023) new applications, one thousand one hundred and eighty six (1186) verifications, two hundred (200) overseas verifications, two hundred and ninety (290) status reports, sixty-nine (69) restorations were processed.

On Education, Training and Development (ETD), the Professional Board approved the following documents;

- a) Guidelines for Social Work in Private Practice
- b) Reviewed CPD Policy and the CPD assessment form

c) Rules for Technology Supported document in Social Work

d) Regulations in Social Work Probation Services

All these documents will serve before Council during its next ordinary meeting, end August 2021, for final approval before being published for implementation.

During the previous meeting in May 2021, the Professional Board took a resolution that due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, virtual quality assurance site visits will be conducted to higher education institutions. Two such institutions are Hugenote College and UNISA.

PBSW concluded its 51th meeting by expressing appreciation for all members' contributions and secretariat for support and a fruitful engagement. The Professional Board urges all those who are not yet vaccinated to take advantage of this opportunity to help fight the COVID- 19 pandemic.

The next meeting of the PBSW is scheduled for 20 October 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.