



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

STATEMENT OF MEETING Professional Board for Social Work

REF: 3/24

23 August 2024

STATEMENT OF THE 61ST MEETING OF THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SOCIAL WORK

The Professional Board for Social Work held its 61st meeting on 27 June 2024. The meeting focused on the core business of the Professional Board and progress made during quarter 4 (January to March 2024) of the 2023/24 financial year, as follows:

Registration under the Professional Board for Social Work

The Professional Board for Social Work noted that for the period under review:

- A total of 304 social workers, 85 social auxiliary workers, 1168 student social workers and 161 student social auxiliary workers were registered with the SACSSP.
- Three social workers were registered for the speciality in forensic social work and may now use the title forensic social worker,
- Two social workers were registered for the speciality in adoption social work and may now use the title *adoption social worker*.
- A total of 104 verifications on the status of registration with the SACSSP were processed
- A total of 285 certificates of status of good standing were issued to social workers upon application.

Professional conduct

- The *Committee of Preliminary Inquiry (CPI)* investigated 20 complaints lodged against social workers and social auxiliary workers. The *CPI* finalized three separate complaints against two social workers in terms of regulation 8 of the *Regulations regarding the conducting of inquiries into alleged unprofessional conduct* while two matters are still pending. The complaints against two social workers in terms of regulation 7(2) of the *Regulations* were finalised while 10 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* and one matter is still under investigation. Two matters were referred to the Professional Conduct Committee for a disciplinary hearing.
- The *Committee for Preliminary Inquiry Appeals Committee* heard five appeals lodged against the findings of the Committee of Preliminary Inquiry. The Appeals Committee, after careful consideration of all records and documentary evidence related to these disputes, found that there was no evidence that will result in a different finding than the finding of the *Committee of Preliminary Inquiry*, and upheld the findings of the *CPI* in all of the cases reviewed.
- The *Professional Conduct Committee* dealt with three cases of alleged unprofessional or improper conduct. In this regard the Committee found two Respondents (social workers) guilty of unprofessional or improper conduct, and one case is part-heard (parties are still to submit closing arguments).
- Two *appeals in terms of section 25(1)(b)* of the Act were set down and considered by the Committee established by the Minister of Social Development. In one appeal, the Committee confirmed the penalty of three years suspension of the social worker. In the other appeal, the Committee found the social worker not guilty and set aside the penalty (removal from the register) imposed by the Professional Conduct Committee.

Education, training and development

The Professional Board for Social Work received the following update with regards to the education, training and development of social workers and social auxiliary workers:

- University of Limpopo and Walter Sisulu University submitted their development plans for quality assurance site visits in terms of the qualifications offered in social work. The Quality Assurance Panel is busy reviewing these plans. (Note: The Professional Boards are responsible to review all qualifications from time to time as to ensure that it meets the minimum requirements needed for a person to be registered as a social worker or social auxiliary worker)
- The letter of approval of the University of South Africa's Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work Supervision was forwarded to the institution.
- One application from external individuals who applied to be social auxiliary work facilitators were received and the application was circulated to the Professional Board for Social Work for assessment and this application was approved.

The Professional Board concluded its 61st meeting by expressing appreciation to Members and Secretariat for participating actively.

ISSUED BY: SACSSP Communications

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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.