



ASWB joins the conversation about the future of macro practice

Participants agreed that “protection of the public” is a shared responsibility of social work educators, practitioners, and regulators.

Finding the intersections where social work regulation, education, and practice meet is one of the ways that ASWB can fulfill the strategic initiative to broaden stakeholder relationships for the regulatory community. The voice of ASWB has been absent from these discussions in many cases because the role of the regulator has not been understood or embraced. Collaborating in these important discussions of how to strengthen the profession will increase that understanding.

In April, CEO Mary Jo Monahan represented ASWB at a meeting about the future of macro practice hosted by the Special Commission to Advance Macro Practice, an entity of the Association for Community Organization and Social Administration (ACOSA). Also in attendance were other leaders of key U.S. social work organizations, including Darla Spence Coffey, president and CEO, Council on Social Work Education (CSWE); Angelo McClain, CEO, National Association of Social Workers (NASW); Special Commission co-chairs Darlyne Bailey, dean of Bryn Mawr’s Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, and Terry Mizrahi, professor at Hunter College’s Silberman School of

Social Work; and Mark Homan, chair of ACOSA. The purpose: to talk about the challenges facing macro practice and ways to deal with the perceived marginalization of the practice within the field of social work.

Participants came away from the meeting acknowledging the need to promote macro practice in education and practice and the shared responsibility of all to protect the public. As part of this ongoing outreach, ASWB will continue to provide accurate information about current licensure regulations and the ASWB exams and continue to participate in discussions on issues of social work regulation relevant to the Special Commission.

“Being at the table for these types of conversations is critical to ASWB achieving the initiatives of our strategic plan,” said Monahan. “Our participation builds bridges for greater collaboration. We can use these opportunities to increase knowledge about the value of professional regulation.”



The meeting on the future of macro practice was attended by (front row): ASWB CEO Mary Jo Monahan; Special Commission to Advance Macro Practice co-chairs Terry Mizrahi and Darlyne Bailey; Special Commission member Linda Plitt Donaldson, professor, Catholic University of America’s National Catholic School of Social Service; and (back row) CSWE President and CEO Darla Spence Coffey; NASW CEO Angelo McClain; and Special Commission staffer Jenifer Norton, MSW.