



ASWB gets “LinkedIn” with its new Social Work Regulation Forum

LinkedIn discussions will focus on sharing information about the role of regulation, the value of licensure, and issues that will shape the future of social work regulation.

If you feel that this group is appropriate for you, you are encouraged to join the conversation!

If you don't already have a LinkedIn profile, you need to create one. Simply go to LinkedIn.com and follow the prompts to generate a profile. You need to add items, like your current and recent jobs, your education, and, if you like, a photo. (You have control over how much information you want to include, beyond a few required basics.)

Once you have a profile, go to the group and click on “Join.” Soon you will be involved in the exciting discussion about the future of social work regulation.

With awareness of ASWB's presence on social media growing rapidly—3,000+ followers on Facebook and 800 on Twitter—the timing seemed right to reach out to even more members of the social work community through the professional networking platform LinkedIn. More than 680,000 social workers have profiles on LinkedIn. There are 2,200 social work discussion groups on the platform—some with up to 200 active discussions per month.

Despite the large number of social work discussion groups on LinkedIn, none as yet has focused on the topic of regulation. There are groups that concentrate on practice issues and groups that focus on employment. Unlike these groups, [ASWB's Social Work Regulation Forum](#) concentrates on the importance of licensing and public protection.

“LinkedIn is a professional platform that will allow us to further our mission to educate stakeholders about the value of professional regulation for public protection,” said ASWB CEO Mary Jo Monahan, MSW, LCSW. “It's an ideal forum for engaging professional, academic, and public audiences.”

Various regulation topics will be presented in the form of posts,

much like on a blog. Members of the group are able to make comments and ask questions about the posts, and also create their own posts. Moderation by ASWB will ensure that no unwanted or inappropriate comments will end up on the forum discussion board.

Who does ASWB want to join in this conversation? Essentially anyone interested in the subject of social work regulation—social work regulators, professionals, educators, and students, as well as consumers. (All members must be approved for membership.)

ASWB did its legal research before launching the group; therefore, if you are serving on a social work regulatory body, please make sure that your participation on the forum is allowable by law. Also, because ASWB wants to protect the integrity of the laws relevant to open meetings, open records, freedom of information, and ethics, it reserves the right to limit the subject matter of the discussion forum.

If you have questions about LinkedIn, the discussion group, or your participation, please contact ASWB Information and Social Media Coordinator Tracey Daniels at tdaniels@aswb.org.