



Built to last

ASWB's Model Social Work Practice Act is in the middle of a comprehensive tune up.



2014 ASWB Regulation and Standards Committee, left to right: Steven Pharris (TN), Brock Greek (WY), Patricia O'Reilly (WV), Spencer Blalock (MS), Renée Cardone (PA), Laura Thiesen (AK), Lisa Crockwell (NL).

Last year, ASWB's Regulation and Standards (RAS) Committee embarked on an ambitious three-year review of the entire Model Social Work Practice Act, a resource document developed by ASWB in 1997. (The task force that developed the document was co-chaired by none other than current CEO Mary Jo Monahan.)

The Model Social Work Practice Act, more commonly referred to as the model law, is a 68-page booklet that contains the text of a sample social work regulatory statute, intended to illustrate best practices in social work regulation. Since its inception, the model law has been continually updated, with modifications to the text of the statute requiring approval by the Delegate Assembly and changes to the comments approved by ASWB's Board of Directors.

The RAS Committee in 2013 was charged with undertaking a comprehensive review of the entire model law, and this year's committee meeting, held in Arlington, Va., in July, completed the second segment of the process. In 2013, the committee looked at Articles I, II, and III; this year, members reviewed Articles IV and V, which focus on discipline and confidentiality.

As part of the review, the RAS Committee solicited comments from ASWB members about

these sections of the model law. The survey comments, along with the collaborative conversations of the committee members, will form the basis of the committee's recommended changes. Because the comprehensive review will not be complete until 2015, there will be no changes to the model law on the agenda for the 2014 Delegate Assembly.

In 2015, the RAS Committee will complete the three-year review process with a discussion of Articles VI and VII. At that time, the committee will also be able to incorporate electronic practice standards now being developed by the International Technology Task Force.

Particularly, the committee members believe that the model law needs to reflect not only the growing impact of electronic practice, but also the broader regulatory perspective of the association, as its membership has expanded to include all ten Canadian provinces.

Serving on this year's RAS Committee were: Committee chair Steven Pharris of Tennessee; Spencer Blalock of Mississippi; Renée Cardone of Pennsylvania; Lisa Crockwell of Newfoundland and Labrador; Brock Greek of Wyoming; Laura Thiesen of Alaska; and M. Jenise Comer of Missouri and Patricia O'Reilly of West Virginia, Board liaisons.