



Technology Task Force: Reamer speaks, draft standards published

ASWB is hosting a comment period on the draft standards through December 31, 2014. To submit your comments, please email CEO [Mary Jo Monahan](mailto:MaryJo.Monahan@aswb.org).

Chair of the ASWB International Technology Task Force, Frederic Reamer, Ph.D., joined the Delegate Assembly meeting in Boise, Idaho, on Friday, November 14, to present the draft regulatory standards document and answer members' questions in a live feed broadcast from Providence, Rhode Island, where he is a professor at Rhode Island College School of Social Work.

At the same time, other task force members, including ASWB Secretary M. Jenise Comer of Missouri, Steven Pharris of Tennessee, CEO Mary Jo Monahan, and Executive Vice President Dwight Hymans, met with delegates face to face in Boise.

Dr. Reamer appeared larger than life on multiple screens before the assembled delegates and attendees. As he introduced his presentation, he made reference to 1979, when ASWB got its formal start. "Today, I am going to broach a number of topics with you that were unimaginable, absolutely unimaginable, 35 years ago in 1979."

He went on to talk about many of the new technologies that have come along since 1979, from the Sony Walkman to email to laptops, which were not even invented by then, concluding, "We now know that all of this technology is having a profound influence on the

profession of social work that all of us love. And it is having a profound effect on our efforts to assist people in need and, I dare say, not one of us, not you in Boise, certainly not me—none of us saw this coming."

He described how he had traveled the world and talked with social workers about the emerging role of technology in the profession of social work, and he concluded that "this is not a North American challenge, it is worldwide. ... And what we are talking about today will have global repercussions. I don't think there is any doubt about it."

He then talked about how the task force set about to develop guidelines, and the result of the work conducted in 2013 and 2014. The document was presented to the assembly as the *Draft Model Regulatory Standards for Technology and Social Work Practice*. Members were encouraged to contribute their comments about the draft standards through the end of the year.

Following the close of the comment period, the task force will consider all comments received and make any needed changes. The final draft will be presented to the ASWB Board of Directors for adoption at their January 22, 2015, meeting in Tucson, Arizona.



Attendees get a taste of modern technology at work as Dr. Frederic Reamer, chair of the International Technology Task Force, makes a presentation via video from Rhode Island.

The entire must-see video of Dr. Reamer's compelling presentation and subsequent discussions with delegates in Boise can be requested by contacting Communications and Marketing Director [Jayne Wood](mailto:Jayne.Wood@aswb.org).

Background: ASWB International Technology Task Force



Alison MacDonald (SK) asks Dr. Frederic Reamer a question during the live video feed presentation of the draft Model Regulatory Standards for Technology and Social Work.

The members of the International Technology Task Force were appointed by the ASWB Board of Directors in April 2013. The task force includes ASWB members, members of North American social work professional and educational associations, representatives from social work regulatory bodies of New Zealand and Wales, and a social work educator from Ireland. The first organizing virtual meeting was held on July 8, 2013, followed by four additional virtual meetings through August 2014. Members used different digital and other electronic forms of communication in their work together and gained a new respect for how advances in digital and electronic technology are transforming the nature of the social work profession—from education to practice to regulation.

A letter appears on the title page of the draft publication addressed to the ASWB Delegates and Board Members from the ASWB International Technology Task Force and signed by Dr. Frederic Reamer and ASWB CEO Mary Jo Monahan. The letter closes with the following: We applaud the wisdom of the ASWB Board and delegates in recognizing the need to embrace rather than shy from the challenges and opportunities created by the introduction of technology to social work practice. These model regulatory standards will shape practice standards and guide practitioners and regulatory bodies as practice arenas cross boundaries made ever more permeable through the advances of technology.

More on the task force can be found at aswb.org.