



Upward and outward bound!



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ASWB Chief Executive Officer

Labor Day marks the end of a very busy and productive summer for ASWB volunteers and staff. Most of our committees met at least once, the Board Advance! and Board meeting was held in beautiful Boston, staff visited a number of member boards and one of the schools of social work that served as a pilot program for the Path to Licensure campaign. One might say that our summer was a “Labor of Love,” and I thank each of our volunteers for your dedication and support of ASWB, as well as your generous commitment of valuable time and focused deliberation. ASWB is strong, effective, and influential because of all of you.

Setting a course at Delegate Assembly

Much of this purposeful activity has laid the foundation for a history-making ASWB Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly in balmy Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, November 5-7, 2015. I want to encourage our members to make every effort to attend this meeting due to the serious decisions that the delegates will be asked to deliberate and vote on to continue the forward momentum we are experiencing. In early September you will receive the reports from the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee and the Regulation and Standards Committee that will help you prepare for these

deliberations related to the ASWB Bylaws and the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act.

A brief description follows:

ASWB Bylaws

In 1996, the Delegate Assembly made a critically important decision to move from governance of the association by a four-member Executive Committee to governance by an eight-member Board of Directors. This bold decision has served the association quite well over the past 19 years.

In 2014, the Board of Directors realized that the association had grown into a multifunctional and multifaceted association and needed to take a comprehensive look at the bylaws to ensure that this foundation document continues to support the vibrant organization that we have become. Exercising governance as leadership wisdom, the Board charged the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee and the Governance Task Force to examine the bylaws, update the language, and make recommendations for changes that will support and lead ASWB’s evolving structure and strategic directions. Delegates will vote on these recommendations in November.

Model Social Work Practice Act

It was also during the 1996-1997 time period that the Model Social Work Practice Act, or model law, was developed as a resource document by a task force of ASWB member volunteers. The Delegate Assembly embraced the model law in 1997, and since then this document has served our jurisdictional members quite well when writing regulatory laws and rules that make sense for protection of the public and for the social work profession.

In 2013, the Board of Directors charged the Regulation and Standards (RAS) Committee with the mission of reviewing the entire model law to reflect current regulatory best practices, and in particular, to incorporate the groundbreaking work of the International Technology Task Force, “Model regulatory standards for technology and social work practice.” This review has spanned three years, and Delegates will also vote on these recommended changes in November.

The committees, task forces, Board and staff are pleased to submit their in-depth, thoughtful analyses for consideration at the 2015 Delegate Assembly. I urge our members to read and understand the proposed changes and rationales. I hope that you will make attendance at the 2015 Delegate Assembly a high priority.

“Finding our way” to Mobility

I also want to keep you informed of further progress on ASWB’s impactful new policy initiative, Practice Mobility and License Portability.

As I think about the concept of Mobility, I am reminded of my nephew, Conor Patrick Flynn, who as a young Boy Scout (and future Eagle Scout), proudly earned his Orienteering Badge. To earn this badge, he and his buddies were dropped off at different locations in a forest preserve on the northwest side of Chicago with a map, compass, good shoes, rain gear, and sufficient food and were instructed to “find their way.” (No cell phones were allowed.) Many hours later, they always emerged safely, with great stories of their adventures of the day.

The Boy Scouts define “orienteering” as the use of map and compass to find locations and plan a journey; they state that it has been a vital skill for humans for thousands of years. Google advises that orienteering requires navigational skills to travel from point to point in diverse and usually unfamiliar terrain, to find control points, and to race against a clock. This description sounds pretty much like the challenge of crafting a model for mobility that makes sense for public protection and the social work profession!

At the 2015 Education Conference in May, ASWB members learned about how other health care regulatory organizations are designing their mobility models to grapple with issues of technology, a mobile workforce, access to care mandated by the Affordable Care Act, pressure from their members to “move on mobility,” and as always “protect the public.” Attendees also learned that a large part of the success of these organizations was due to building strong partnerships among their member boards and reaching out to a wide range of peer organizations within their professions.

As Dr. Henry Chaudhry, CEO of the Federation of State Medical Boards declares, “Our ability to work effectively with others will magnify the impact of all we do.” And as I quote Billy Joel, “It’s a Matter of Trust”—and the ability to trust is one of the most important and powerful leadership-building tools that we all have within us. I believe that the Mobility Initiative that we as an organization are embarking on together is social work’s sustaining shared future.

In August, the ASWB Board approved President Dorinda Noble’s eight appointments to the Mobility Task Force. All have accepted and are eager to begin their work. The purpose and charge of the ASWB Mobility Task Force is:

- To research, plan, and create a framework for social work practice mobility and license portability across jurisdictions in North America, to include, but not be limited to: titles, licensure qualifications, scopes of practice, use of technology, disciplinary strategies, determination of where practice occurs and jurisdictional accountability, and costs to regulatory bodies and social work practitioners
- To research and review the mobility plans of other professions, particularly health care professions such as medicine, nursing, psychology, and pharmacy
- To seek information and reflection from as many relevant stakeholders as possible from the social work regulatory community

- To work cooperatively and in conjunction with the ASWB Board of Directors by providing regular reports on the research and development of a mobility framework and plan
- To work cooperatively and in conjunction with ASWB staff to design an implementation plan for consideration and approval by the ASWB Board of Directors

Task force members will use technology to collaborate between the three face-to-face meetings, scheduled to take place concurrent with the 2015 Delegate Assembly; the 2016 Education Meeting in Jersey City, where the task force members will present their work to date and facilitate table discussions to establish consensus as we move forward; and a meeting in July 2016. The task force will present its recommendations at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly.

The Mobility Task Force will utilize expertise from an Advisory Council, the members of which will be taken from relevant and significant stakeholder organizations, such as the health care professions that participated in the 2015 ASWB Education Meeting, member boards, representatives from the Council on Social Work Education and the National Association of Social Workers in the U.S. and from the Canadian Association of Social Work Educators and the Canadian Association of Social Workers, major social work employers such as the Veterans Administration and state social services departments, and other individuals who

have expertise and commitment to achieve social work practice mobility and license portability.

In addition, there will be a “Reflection Panel” of 20-30 committed member board representatives to provide continual feedback on guiding principles, strategies, resources, and emerging ideas as the task force members design the mobility framework. This panel will function as a “focus/market test group” to keep the task force in alignment with the social work regulatory community. Panel members will be asked to commit their time, thoughtfulness and immediate response to periodic inquiry surveys. If you are interested in serving on this panel, please contact me at mmonahan@aswb.org.

Looking ahead

If summer was busy and productive for ASWB, this fall begins a new cycle of growth and discovery. Following our 2014-18 Strategic Map, ASWB volunteers and staff are moving forward on the mobility initiative, relying on the insights from our members for direction and the experience of other health care professions to provide guidance, much as my nephew and his buddies relied on compass and map to help them “find their way.” The 2015 Annual Meeting will be an important time for ASWB members to set the course for the association through consideration of changes to the bylaws and the model law and through the election process. I look forward to seeing you at this important meeting and sharing with you in more detail the progress the association has made in the last year and the plans for the future.