



Moving forward with Mobility



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Moving is an adventure, combining elements of mischief, hard work, humor, and stress.

One fellow employed by a moving company worked with a client who wanted to pack her goods herself. When the mover arrived to load up the client's bits and pieces, he found that she had indeed packed all her belongings (other than furniture) in large black plastic trash bags. Clothes, cosmetics, china, artwork, cutlery, jewelry, glassware, and pots and pans all were jumbled together in these many trash bags. The client blithely asked the moving man whether the company would "be liable for breakage."

ASWB is moving forward these days, thinking about mobility of practice and portability of licensure—but we aren't packing our plans and dreams in garbage bags, and we don't worry about liability for breakage! We are confident that we can develop workable strategies to help licensees be more mobile in their lives and more successful in their careers. Part of our confidence emanates from the lively, upbeat, thought-provoking Education Meeting ASWB hosted in Seattle at the beginning of May.

More than 100 people attended, all with quick-thinking brains and

lots of ideas about how to make licensing more contemporary and relevant in a world where people move often, work across the globe through technology, and cross boundaries to serve people in times of disaster. Amid laughter and groans (mostly at our dear Dale's jokes), the ASWB family struggled with how to create avenues for people to practice safely and legally across jurisdictional lines. We learned from the Canadian example, where that nation has shaped national standards for many occupational licenses so that citizens can easily relocate and work. It is clear that many U.S. jurisdictions want mobility of practice and portability of licenses; several have already started working on how to achieve this goal. ASWB wants to proactively take the lead on social work licensure.

We began the meeting with a great dinner, followed by dance instructors who taught the brave and foolhardy to dance the samba and tango. (Despite flying legs and waving arms, a good time was had by all!) We heard from Dr. Rick Reamer about how technology drives part of the practice mobility/license portability moving van. Leaders of other disciplines, such as medicine and pharmacy, explained how their professions are working toward mobility. Various presenters spoke to standard setting

President's
message

and educational underpinnings as elements of mobility. Attendees then convened as a World Café. Wearing ASWB “Thinking Caps,” participants sat at tables complete with checkered cloths and a set of challenging questions to discuss. We harvested a heap of ideas about mobility. Meanwhile, a graphic artist drew renderings of most of the meetings, a process which was fascinating to watch.

Attendees left needing brain massages, since they had so many new ideas and insights on this

exciting topic. The Regulatory Education and Leadership (REAL) Committee did a great job of framing the Education Meeting, and the faithful ASWB staff did a ton of work to make it happen. Between dancing and drawing, thinking and listening, laughing and lounging, the meeting was a great success! Many thanks to all the participants who contributed their brain cells to the process!

Next on the agenda is forming a Mobility Task Force. That group will be doing its work starting soon

and will be reporting back to the ASWB family about their suggestions to achieve practice mobility and license portability. Please keep generating ideas to help us reach this “moving” goal—but you don’t need to send garbage bags!