



## Your board in action

*A summary of the work of ASWB's Board of Directors at its January 28, 2016, meeting in Clearwater Beach, Fla.*

The ASWB Board of Directors met in person on Thursday, January 28, at the The Sandpearl resort in Clearwater Beach, Florida, in conjunction with the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Forum. Here is a recap of the activities of the Board at that meeting.

**Treasurer's report:** Board members received the treasurer's report and accepted financial statements through November 30, 2015, and statements from ASWB's investment accounts through November 30.

**Strategic discussions:** Board members participated in strategic discussions about the following subjects.

Examination policy. Staff presented a white paper about jurisdictional use of the exams outside of policy. Continued use of the exams in ways that fall outside of policy may jeopardize the validity and legal defensibility of the exams. After discussion, the Board voted to implement a formal review process that would require a jurisdiction using an exam outside policy to request a waiver from the Board for such use. In the event that the Board did not grant the waiver, the jurisdictional board would be required to stop using the exam in that way. *(More information will be*

*forthcoming at a later date.)*

Employers and Path to Licensure. Staff presented a white paper about a meeting with the Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF) to discuss the employer's participation in the Path to Licensure program as a means to supporting their social work employees, who must obtain licensure within six months of employment. Currently, only social work schools or programs are participants in Path to Licensure. Kansas DCF expressed a willingness to share with other jurisdictions a pilot program that its training department is developing to help employees understand social work professional regulation. Outcomes of the meeting include ASWB working with the Kansas social work board to support DCF's pilot program development; ASWB working with a local university social work program to help unlicensed DCF employees prepare for the exam using ASWB's group practice test; and ASWB and the Kansas board meeting with the Kansas Council on Social Work Education to encourage participation of social work programs in Path to Licensure and collaboration with DCF.

**Review and adjustment of strategy:** The Board reviewed and approved the 2016 CEO and

operational goals; developed Board governance goals; and reviewed and approved committee and task force appointments and charges, Board member attendance at external meetings, the themes for the 2017 and 2018 Education Meetings, a funding request for ASWB's continued participation in the Social Work Workforce Initiative Steering Committee activities as members of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Roundtable, and the purchase of land for the headquarters building project.

**Policy updates:** The Board reviewed and approved updates to the ASWB Policy Manual and the Comprehensive Exam Security Manual; received a report from staff about progress on the headquarters building project; and received a report about the 2016 Education Meeting preliminary agenda.

**Approval of minutes:** The Board approved the minutes of the November 5 and 7, 2015, Board of Directors meetings in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

**Confirmation of decisions made in email meetings:** The Board confirmed the decisions made in email meetings conducted on November 11 and November 18, 2015.

**Consent agenda:** Reports approved via consent agenda included: Leadership reports of the President and the CEO, the Executive Vice President's report, Examination Services report, evaluations from the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly, and a letter about membership fees from the Ohio social work board administrator.

**Committee, task force, and**

**meeting reports:** The Board received reports about ASWB participation at the CSWE Roundtable in December and attendance at the annual meeting of the Citizens Advocacy Center (CAC) on the subject of continuing competency.

### **Recap of the Board of Directors Orientation Meeting**

On Wednesday, January 27, at The Sandpearl resort in Clearwater Beach, Florida, the Board of Directors held an orientation meeting and a working session to write Board governance goals. Topics covered during orientation included:

- ASWB mission and values, leadership, and governance led by the ASWB president and the CEO
- Duties of care, loyalty, and obedience; fiduciary responsibility of the Board; liability and conflict of interest led by ASWB legal counsel Dale Atkinson
- Meeting structure, financial reports, and executive session and voting duties led by ASWB's president, CEO, treasurer, and legal counsel
- Meeting attendance and Board liaison assignments conducted by the ASWB president with the other Board members
- Current ASWB programs and services led by the CEO and the executive vice president

### **Recap of the Foundation Board Meeting**

Immediately following adjournment of the Board of Directors meeting on January 28, the Board reconvened to hold a board meeting of the American Foundation for Research and Consumer Education in Social

Work Regulation (the Foundation). The Foundation is ASWB's 501(c)3 organization that sponsors a grant program for research on topics relevant to social work regulation, consumer protection, and related areas. The Foundation Board of Directors comprises the members of ASWB's Board of Directors.

**Approval of minutes:** The Foundation Board approved the minutes of the August 8, 2015, meeting held at the Boston Park Plaza hotel in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Review of the Foundation Review Committee purpose and charge:** The Foundation Board approved the 2016 charge for the Foundation Review Committee.

**Financial report:** The Foundation Board received the Foundation financial statement of revenues and expenditures as of December 31, 2015.

**2016 funding and RFP timeframe:** The Foundation Board discussed the funding to be allocated for 2016 research projects and established the timeframe for the application process.

**Review of reports from current grant recipients:** The Foundation Board received reports on research activities submitted by two current grant recipients, King's University School of Social Work (reporting on Q4 2015) and Governors State University (reporting on Q3 and Q4 2015).