



## Building support through collaboration



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In November 2013, the Board of Directors “performed” a new strategic plan that was approved by the Delegate Assembly. One of the strategic initiatives is to “Broaden stakeholder relationships for the regulatory community.” The purpose of that initiative is to build collaborations that embrace regulation to ensure public protection. The objectives to achieve this initiative involve increasing public, academic, and professional knowledge about ASWB as an organization. Specifically, staff and Board members attend meetings and social work conferences sponsored by other associations and organizations to promote the work of regulation.

One such meeting that the CEO and Board President attend is the annual Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Roundtable, held the first Friday in December. This meeting brings together representatives from many social work organizations to discuss current plans and strategies addressed by each group, identify new initiatives, and discover ways that we can partner and collaborate to advance our agendas. This year, ASWB’s efforts to increase licensure mobility and portability were presented to the group. Our discussion put the issue on the radar screen for other presidents and

CEOs to think about and provide feedback to inform and support our work.

At that meeting, I was particularly impressed with the presentation provided by The American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare about its groundbreaking initiative called the [Grand Challenges of Social Work](#). The intent of the initiative is to harness the power of social work to address the most pressing problems in our society. Social work regulation is directly connected to the last challenge category, Creating a Just Society, because regulation is a social justice issue.

As president, I am excited to share ASWB’s participation in five upcoming events with other social workers and organizations during Social Work Month in March and in April. On March 2, ASWB will partner with the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy (CRISP), the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), and CSWE to co-sponsor Social Work Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C. ASWB CEO Mary Jo Monahan, Executive Vice President Dwight Hymans, and I will attend the Policy and Politics Symposium and other activities planned throughout the day. Mary Jo will have an opportunity to speak during the event. While I

cannot predict what she will say, her message could provide a platform to advance our “Grand Challenge,” which is licensure mobility in this lifetime.

On March 23, former ASWB Board secretary Saundra Starks, current Board secretary Fran Franklin, and I will present a workshop titled “Public Protection and Social Justice: Working in Harmony to Meet the Needs of Vulnerable Families and Communities” at the 48th annual conference of the National Association of Black Social Workers in New Orleans, Louisiana. A current MSW student from Western Kentucky State University was added to the panel to present her perspective on the importance of social work practice mobility.

On April 1, Dwight Hymans and I will present a workshop titled “Millennials Want Mobility: The Educators’ Role in Achieving Social Work Practice Mobility” at the 33rd annual Baccalaureate Program Directors (BPD) conference in Dallas, Texas. While attending the conference, Dwight, Fran, and I are planning to meet with BPD board members and other key stakeholders to discuss mobility.

On April 2, ASWB’s Mobility Task Force will have a second face to face meeting in Reston, Virginia, to report out on team research efforts and findings. The five teams will also plan their panel presentation during the Association Education

Meeting later that month.

Our fervor to work collaboratively reaches the apex during our Education Meeting. For the first time ever, representatives from six social work associations in North America will deliver a groundbreaking presentation titled “We’re All in This Together – Mobility through Collaboration.” Moderated by task force member Deana Morrow, the panel will include Darla Spence Coffey, CSWE; Heidi McIntosh, NASW; Mary Jo Monahan, ASWB; and Fred Phelps, Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW); John Mayr, Canadian Council on Social Work Regulation (CCSWR); and Dixon Sookraj, Canadian Association of Social Work Educators (CASWE). This unprecedented assembly will explore the interconnected responsibilities and strengths of social work organizations focusing on education, practice, and regulation and how we can collaborate to achieve a mobility model that fits for the profession.

I invite you to attend the [ASWB Education Meeting](#) in Jersey City, New Jersey, April 28–30. As you can see, we are all excited, enthusiastic, and committed to the pursuit of practice mobility through collaboration.