



# Technology practice standards ready for rebirth

*NASW announces plans to publish updated technology practice standards this spring*

In 2015, ASWB published Model Regulatory Standards for Technology and Social Work Practice based on the work of the International Technology Task Force, which included representation from social work practitioners, regulators, and educators across the world. These model standards served a dual purpose: 1) as a resource for regulators considering amendments to rules and regulations related to electronic social work services and 2) as a resource for the profession as ASWB and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) considered updating the 2005 practice standards. The task force convened in March 2015 by NASW to update the practice standards is close to completing its work. NASW has announced that publication of the technology practice standards is expected later this spring.

The practice standards task force included members from NASW and three other social work organizations in the United States: ASWB, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), and the Clinical Social Work Association (CSWA). ASWB President M. Jenise Comer and CEO Mary Jo Monahan served on both the International Technology Task Force

and the practice standards task force. Monahan noted the benefits gained through collaboration and continuity: “The regulatory standards and practice standards complement each other and are grounded in the values of the social work code of ethics. Both task forces were led by Dr. Frederic Reamer, whose knowledge of this subject helped task force members think through the many nuances and potential trouble spots of electronic social work services. It has been productive and rewarding to participate in these collaborative projects that have included regulators, educators, and practitioners in the process.”

The soon-to-be-published standards have gone through a thorough vetting. The draft practice standards were posted online in summer 2016 for public comment. More than 100 comments were received, according to Mirean Coleman, clinical manager at NASW. As a result of the comments, a sub-task force of social work technology experts was formed to review the draft. Their comments were incorporated into the final document. The published standards will be available through NASW Press.