



# We are all ASWB...moving forward on Mobility together



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This is an exciting newsletter full of accomplishments that we have achieved together, and breaking news about ASWB's Mobility initiative that is crucial to the regulatory and social work professions. It is humbling to think how together we moved from an idea that seemed in 2015 beyond "achieving in our lifetime" to presenting a resolution that takes us closer in 2017 to its realization.

To recap how far we've come and to commit to a mobile future...

In 2015 at the ASWB Education Meeting, the theme was "It's a matter of trust." This was the starting point. We learned to listen to fellow regulators about their policies and processes and find commonalities rather than focusing on differences. Through respectful discussion, we realized that we have more in common than we thought. This idea of shared commonalities is captured in the following principle of the 2017 Mobility Resolution and Strategy:

- Member board recognition that currently licensed applicants have been vetted and duly licensed by another board of social work.

At the 2015 Delegate Assembly in Ft. Lauderdale, the ASWB Mobility

initiative continued "Full speed ahead" to achieve practice mobility in our lifetime. We committed to designing a Mobility Strategy that fits the social work profession rather than waiting for a national mandate or other legislative solution, such as an interstate compact, to be imposed. The prescience of this is expressed in the Overview of the 2017 Mobility Strategy, which highlights the heightened scrutiny being applied to state-issued professional licenses. The Strategy "aspires to depoliticize the process, maintain regulatory expertise, and implement a commonsense approach to addressing social work practice mobility."

Moving into 2016, we challenged ourselves to "Think differently" and collaborate with each other to find solutions. We recognized that social workers are already practicing in multiple jurisdictions through physical presence, as well as virtually through technology. The Model Regulatory Standards for Technology and Social Work Practice were published and then integrated into the Model Social Work Practice Act as guidance for members reviewing their statutes and regulations. By this time, we had come to agreement on the core elements of a Mobility Strategy: three categories of licensure and

four minimum essential criteria— education, exam, supervised experience, and license in good standing.

This year we are following the mantra to “Be ready!” to embrace the Mobility Strategy and support the Resolution that will be presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly. Over the next few weeks, Mobility Task Force members will be reaching out to all member jurisdictions to explain the importance of moving forward. Listening sessions are planned in late October and early November so that delegates are prepared to participate fully in the resolution process. As always, I am grateful for your input and remain interested in working together to “achieve Mobility in our lifetime.”