

Committee Charge

The Regulation and Standards Committee (Committee) reviews and recommends policies and actions pertaining to the association's role in providing regulatory information, making policy suggestions, facilitating the exchange of information about practice mobility and portability, and working toward uniformity of law and practice while respecting jurisdictional rights. The committee works closely with the president and the CEO and reports to the Board of Directors. As necessary and appropriate, the committee will work in collaboration with other ASWB committees and task forces to complete its charges. The Committee's work will be guided by the ASWB strategic framework and governmental affairs policy platform whenever applicable. The Committee seeks to elevate the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in regulation at every opportunity.

Ongoing charges

- Develop and consider proposals for additions or changes to the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act.
- Conducting regular reviews of the Model Social Work Practice Act.
- Encouraging the use of ASWB resources to support greater uniformity in regulation. Providing input on related policies and procedures such as the Laws and Regulations Database, legislative and regulatory tracking services, and curated data products.
- Making suggestions for model procedures and requirements to support greater uniformity among jurisdictions.
- Monitoring, reviewing, and developing recommendations related to continued regulatory reform initiatives and emerging issues impacting the regulation of social work practice. Ensuring recommendations are in alignment with ASWB governmental affairs priorities.

2026 charges

1. The Committee will explore potential model procedures and requirements to support greater uniformity in requirements in the administration of social work regulation across jurisdictions. The Committee may consider and make best practice recommendations for administrative procedures such as license verifications, supervision documentation, and other tasks integral to the administration of regulatory mandates.
2. The Committee will consider how ASWB can best engage member jurisdictions around the management of regulatory data and resources maintained by the association regarding their jurisdiction's regulatory requirements and policies. The Committee will learn more about ASWB's current regulatory data systems and may choose to explore suggestions for future resource materials that may be useful to the membership.
3. The Committee will evaluate the need for ASWB to create a task force to explore issues related to supervision and to possibly make policy suggestions. The Committee will make a recommendation to the ASWB Board of Directors regarding whether a task force should be created and if so, what the proposed charge should be.
4. Consultation with ASWB staff, as needed, while staff works to operationalize updates to the Model Law document, representing a culmination of Committee work initiated in 2021 with a comprehensive review of the document, and the adoption of statute changes approved by the Delegate Assembly in 2025. The redevelopment of the Model Law document will include updates to the guidance language, text commentary and regulations, and modernization of the document's structure to maximize accessibility. The Committee will consider how to educate about the Model Law, both its purpose and potential application for individual jurisdictional use.

Committee members

Chairperson

Brian Carnahan (OH)

Darrel Spinks (TX)

Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey (IN)

Miguel LeBlanc (NB)

Sara Batter (NE)

Steve Sodergren (CA)

Board liaison

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Recommendations/actions

At the beginning of its 2026 work, the Committee reviewed the breadth of its full charge and considered how to use its limited meeting time most effectively. Because the charge included several substantial areas of work, the Committee decided to concentrate its 2026 deliberations on the specific assignment to evaluate the need for a supervision task force. This narrower focus allowed members to examine the supervision landscape in greater depth while identifying other charge areas for future Committee attention.

The Committee reviewed research on clinical supervision, environmental scans of supervision requirements across the United States and Canada, previous ASWB supervision work, Committee and member input, and materials developed by the ASWB Supervision Toolkit Workgroup. Its discussion considered variation in jurisdictional requirements, supervisor qualifications and preparation, documentation and accountability, remote supervision, interstate practice, implementation capacity, and the need for practical resources that can support quality supervision without necessarily requiring a statutory or regulatory mandate.

As the review progressed, the Committee explored possible focus areas and operating parameters for a task force. Members also considered whether the identified work required a separate, time-limited body or could be carried forward more effectively through the standing Committee, coordinated with related ASWB initiatives and informed by additional research and stakeholder engagement.

Following its review, the Committee determined that creation of a supervision task force is not necessary at this time. Instead, the Committee recommends that supervision be established as a priority area for continued Regulations and Standards Committee work in 2027 and 2028. The Committee made recommendations for its future charge to include:

1. Review the clinical supervision provisions of the Model Law and recommend additions, clarifications, or revisions that reflect the current regulatory landscape.
2. Explore supervision standards and best practices and develop a practical best-practices resource for member jurisdictions.
3. Address inconsistencies in regulatory definitions related to supervision, and qualifying practice experience.
4. Examine supervisor qualifications, competencies, preparation, training, accountability, and the supervisor's role in supporting readiness for independent clinical practice.
5. Evaluate emerging issues, including remote supervision, telehealth-based supervised experience, supervisors licensed in another jurisdiction, interstate practice, and implications of the Social Work Licensure Compact.
6. Engage member jurisdictions and other interested parties to identify implementation challenges, gather feedback, and support alignment with related ASWB resources, including the supervision toolkit.
7. Identify research priorities and opportunities for practical guidance that can strengthen supervision, support workforce development, and advance public protection.

Continuing the work around supervision within this standing committee will allow ASWB to build on the Committee's 2026 review, coordinate with related Model Law and supervision toolkit work initiated at this year's Education Meeting, and engage the membership before recommending new regulatory structures or mandates. This approach recognizes that jurisdictions differ significantly in statutory authority, regulatory capacity, workforce conditions, and available resources, and a nuanced approach is necessary. Anticipated outcomes may include:

1. Proposed revisions or additions to Model Law statute, regulation, commentary, or guidance language related to clinical supervision.
2. Best-practice policy statements, guidance, and resources, that can be used across jurisdictions to enhance supervisory processes and outcomes while recognizing differing regulatory capacity.
3. Clearer and more consistent definitions and terminology.
4. Recommendations for additional research to strengthen the evidence base for future policy decisions.
5. Member engagement opportunities before proposed Model Law changes are advanced for consideration through ASWB governance processes.