

2024 RAS Committee report to the Delegate Assembly



Charge to committee

The 2024 Charge to the ASWB Regulation and Standards Committee included:

1. Continuing to work with ASWB staff to incorporate changes to the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act as suggested by ongoing committee review. This will include incorporating edits to the supportive text language and adding a new section to provide guidance on the use of the Model Law as a resource in policy development. The adoption of changes to the statute language made in 2023 may be deferred to 2025 as the committee considers possible action and recommendations in several policy areas.
2. Developing a shared scope of work for collaboration with the DEIJ Committee re. opportunities to promote antiracist and anti-oppressive practices in regulation.
3. Continuing to monitor selected policy areas for possible action by ASWB or edits to the Model Law including policies for clinical supervision, the social work licensing compact and other initiatives impacting cross-jurisdictional practice, workforce challenges and potential impacts to regulation, as well as threats to exam use and the uniformity of regulatory frameworks.
4. Working with ASWB staff to provide input on program areas as needed to drive member engagement and encourage uniformity in regulatory requirements. Planned for 2024 is the redevelopment of the ASWB Laws and Regulations Database and the evaluation of platforms to manage legislative and regulatory tracking services.

Ongoing charges

The ongoing charges of the Regulations and Standards Committee are:

1. Developing and considering proposals for additions or changes to the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act.
2. Conducting regular reviews of the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act.
3. Encouraging the use of ASWB resources in support of uniformity in regulation. Provide input on related policies and procedures such as the Laws and Regulations Database, legislative and regulatory tracking services, and curated data products.
4. Making suggestions for model procedures and requirements to support greater uniformity among jurisdictions.
5. Monitoring, reviewing, and developing recommendations related to continued regulatory reform initiatives and emerging issues impacting the regulation of social work practice.

Recommendations/actions

The Committee discussed and decided upon the disposition of suggested changes to the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act (Model Law) made by the 2022 RAS Committee. This represents the culmination of several years of work to review the Model Law from “cover to cover”. The Committee conducted a comprehensive review in 2021 & 2022 to ensure the Model Law is relevant in today’s regulatory environment and to consider regulatory best practices through an equity and inclusivity lens. Last year the Committee incorporated the suggested statute changes from the review, and this year committee members provided staff direction on changes to the document structure and guidance language.

The Committee discussed several regulatory issues that could result in further updates to the model law document or other committee action items. While no recommendations were made this year, the Committee flagged several issues to revisit in 2025 for possible action. This includes electronic practice, licensure by endorsement, the interstate licensing compact and examination policy.

The Committee met with the ASWB DEIJ Committee to explore the two group’s charges. The Committee discussed the importance of elevating DEI values in regulation and possible areas where policy can be explored further.

Future discussion topics and/or suggestions for 2025 charge

Collaborate with ASWB staff to incorporate and review suggested changes to the model law document and guidance language.

Review the current regulatory landscape and consider policy recommendations regarding issues discussed in 2024 including electronic practice, licensure by endorsement, exam policy and implications of the licensing compact.

Explore opportunities to elevate values of diversity, equity, and inclusion in social work regulation.

Committee members

Chairperson

Yvette Gosline, North Carolina

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Kate Goodman,
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