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DEVELOPING TOOLS FOR SOCIAL WORK MOBILITY



 **ASWB**
Association of Social Work Boards



Mobility Tool Kit Step 5B:
Assess facilitators and
barriers to interjurisdictional
practice

Practice across borders
using technology

Tool: Model Regulatory Standards for Technology and Social Work Practice

- Collaborative involving ASWB, CASW, CCSWR, CSWE, NASW, and contributors from Ireland, New Zealand Social Workers Registration Board, Wales
- Chaired by Dr. Frederic Reamer, Ph.D., Rhode Island College
- Completed in 2015



About the standards

- *Recognized that.....*digital/electronic practice has transformed the nature of social work practice
 - Its use has potential to assist people in need.....when used appropriately
 - Important piece.....SWers must work to enhance client access to digital/electronic technology
 - SWer must thoroughly understand benefits and risks
- *Intended audience* – social work regulatory community



About the standards

- Serves as *guidance to regulators*
- Not intended to set legal standards enforceable by law
- Used by ASWB Regulation and Standards Committee to amend sections of *ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act*



About the standards

- Recognizes SWers' *obligation* to practice in a manner.....
 - that honors the commitment to *client well-being*, assisting those in need, INCLUDING those who have limited access to digital/electronic technology
 - Adheres to prevailing *ethical and practice standards* in social work



Contents

- Section I. Practitioner Competence & Compliance with Ethical Standards
- Section II. Informed Consent
- Section III. Privacy and Confidentiality
- Section IV. Boundaries, Dual Relationships, and Conflicts of Interest
- Section V. Records and Documentation
- Section VI. Collegial Relationships
- Section VII. Electronic Practice Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

From the
standards....

Social workers who chose to provide *electronic social work services* shall:

- Section I., 1.01 – Do so only after engaging in appropriate education, study, training, consultation, and supervision from people who are competent in the use of this technology to provide social work services.

Question: How would you interpret “appropriate?”

From the standards....

- Section II., 2.07 Conduct an initial screening at the point of the *client's* first contact and assess the *client's* suitability and capacity for online and *remote* services. Social workers shall consider the *client's* intellectual, emotional, and physical ability to use digital and other electronic technology to receive services and the *client's* ability to understand the potential risks and limitations of such services.

How might this be addressed in laws/regulations?

From the
standards....

- Section III., 3.02 Adhere to statutes and regulations regarding the secure use of digital and other electronic technology both within their *jurisdictions* and with the *jurisdiction* where the *client* is located.

Ideally, statutes/regs would be similar

Reality, ???

From the
standards....

- Standard IV., 4.13 When providing supervision *remotely*, adhere to the regulatory requirements of the *jurisdiction* where the supervised practitioner is *regulated*.

How might this be applied in your jurisdiction?

From the
standards.....

- Section VII., 7.01 Comply with the laws and regulations that govern electronic social work services within the jurisdictions in which the social worker is located and in which the client is located.

Access to standards

- Available for download in pdf format on ASWB website; www.aswb.org.

model regulatory standards for technology and social work practice

ASWB International Technology Task Force, 2013-2014

a s s o c i a t i o n o f s o c i a l w o r k b o a r d s

visit www.aswb.org to find the most recent edition of this document

Case Example

Vicki counsels online..... (handout)

Divide into groups of four

Read the case example and discuss the questions

Report back to all

What else needs to be considered from a mobility perspective?

