



NCSBN
Leading Regulatory Excellence

2021 NCSBN Annual Meeting - President's Address Times Video Transcript
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Event

2021 NCSBN Annual Meeting

More info: <https://www.ncsbn.org/15915.htm>

Presenter

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Greetings member boards, NCSBN staff, and guests. It is my pleasure and honor to address you today and to provide reflections on the work of the board of directors and the business of NCSBN during the past year. Our keynote speaker's presentation title, "Leadership during turbulent times," aptly describes the year we have all experienced as one of the most unusual and challenging in the history of NCSBN.

In keeping with our theme this year, there are many examples of how NCSBN has braved new pathways and led the way for regulatory transformation. The board of directors' practice of conducting an environmental scan at each meeting has kept at the forefront topics that were impacting the organization and our members in significant ways.

Some areas required sudden course correction to address in real-time organization regulatory and public protection priorities, vaccinations, lockdowns, emergency orders, regulatory waivers, testing capacity issues, remote work, staff support and reorganization, cross-border practice, workforce readiness, research, retirements, clinical experiences, and the list goes on and on.

I would be remiss if I did not address the unexpected changes in the leadership of the board of directors very soon after Delegate Assembly last year. NCSBN by-laws and sound government structure provided an immediate pathway to manage the change. And the board of directors and our CEO rose to the occasion.

I'm grateful to those that came immediately before me, Julie George and Jim Cleghorn for their leadership and commitment to NCSBN. Last year you may recall that Julie handed off the president's gavel to Jim virtually making it appear as if they were in the same room.

Little did I know that I would be inheriting what goes along with that gavel in three short weeks. No one could have anticipated that the newly constituted board would not meet together in person for over a year or that the board would be without a president-elect and therefore, one member short. And so the year continued with the miles separating the board of directors.

There has been no opportunity for the traditional annual board group photo with Chicago as a backdrop, or the team building that occurs as a natural byproduct of being in the same physical space while digging into substantial regulatory issues. I offer you a visual reminder of the membership of the 2020/2021 board of directors.

I want to thank the board members who you see here who have unselfishly given off their time and talent in discharging their duties for the benefit of NCSBN at a time when their personal and professional lives was stretched in response to the pandemic.

My sincere gratitude to each of them and to our CEO, David Benton and the remarkable staff of NCSBN for rising to the challenge and exceeding expectations during this historic time. I do want to mention two members of the 2020/2021 board of directors who most likely will not be with us when we meet next in person.

Cynthia Labonte from Wyoming, Area 1 director who took early retirement in May 2021, and Anne Coghlan from Canada, Director-at-large, who has announced she will retire at the end of this year. The board and NCSBN have benefited from the leadership, service, and contributions and we wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

Demonstration of the values of NCSBN has provided a sound on depending and response to the most unusual year. Those values, collaboration, excellence, innovation, integrity, and transparency have certainly been reflected in the business activities of this past year.

And most importantly, in how this work was accomplished for the good of the organization. You will find a full report of the board of directors on page 12 of the Business Book. And I encourage you to read that as there is not time today for me to address every detail of the work that has been accomplished during the year of a pandemic.

I would like to touch on a few of those highlights and ask you to remember that, although our focus shifted to urgent pandemic matters, the strategic work continued, and we found that the strategic initiatives were right in line with the areas of nursing regulation that were under scrutiny. Across the world we've seen in this year of the nurse, that collaboration between education, practice, and regulation were essential to preparing and mobilizing a workforce that could meet the unique and overwhelming demands of the provision of care.

Among other things, the COVID-19 crisis has shone a light on the benefit of Compacts. The Nurse Licensure Compact not only has expanded, but there are several jurisdictions in the pipeline, and we saw our first U.S. territory, Guam join the NLC. Congratulations to our colleagues in Guam.

Well done. The significant Delegate Assembly vote last year related to the APRN Compact was also impacted by COVID as legislators focused their attention to emergency legislation and funding. In spite of that, many contemplated lessons learned and the necessity of cross-border practice. We celebrated the APRN Compact passing in North Dakota and Delaware.

Congratulations to our colleagues in those jurisdictions, and many thanks to the NCSBN Compact team who have focused all of their efforts towards creating a compact nation. We are well on the way to participation of seven jurisdictions needed for implementation of the APRN Compact.

During the past year, the board of directors considered and made decisions related to the development work necessary to move the next generation NCLEX towards implementation. Leadership and examination staff have kept the board apprised of each step on the technical side, as well as the implications for the necessary policy and fiscal decisions.

The board remains impressed and in awe regarding the work of the examination team under Phil Dickinson's expert and enthusiastic leadership. You know what I mean. You will hear more about this cutting-edge approach to test design and scoring methods while considering the board of directors' recommendations to the Delegate Assembly.

Although many of us would like to be talking about matters other than COVID-19 response, it has informed our work and stretched all of us to collaborate and innovate while maintaining a public protection focus. Without a solid foundation of engagement with global and national partners, NCSBN would not have been positioned as well as we were to learn from one another and to examine regulatory issues that need to be addressed now and in the future.

As you know, NCSBN is engaged with many organizations. Of those partnerships, the Tri-Council, the Tri-Regulator Collaborative, and the International Nurse Regulator Collaborative, INRC, activities stand out to me, that's past year. Through our membership in the Tri-Council, guidance documents and position papers were developed relevant to the times we find ourselves in.

The Tri-Council Summit resulted in a report that set out themes that continue to inform the board's work and that of the strategic initiatives. Those emerging themes, as a result of collaboration of practice, education, and regulation are equity and health equity, ethics, nursing workforce, innovation, interprofessional emergency planning and response, mental health and well-being.

The nine participant countries of the INRC among other things have continued to examine issues of mobility of nurses between countries and similarities and differences in nursing regulation and the processes for authorizing practice.

The INRC countries are British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives, College of Nurses of Ontario, the General Council of the Official Nursing Colleges of Spain, NCSBN, Nursing and Midwifery Boards of Australia, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland, Nursing Council of New Zealand, Nursing and Midwifery Council of the United Kingdom, and the Singapore Nursing Board.

With respect to the Tri-Regulator Collaborative, the pandemic certainly emphasized the need and value of NCSBN's collaboration and work across disciplines with our regulatory colleagues in medicine and pharmacy, both in the delivery of care and in the vaccination arena.

As you review the highlights of the work of the board of directors and NCSBN staff in the areas of governance, policy, finance, testing, information technology, nursing regulation and research, and strategic partnerships, you will know that the sound structure of NCSBN and the competence and commitment of those involved carried us through a time like no other.

The board of directors recommendations to Delegate Assembly have been informed by several committees whose due diligence, research, expert knowledge, and many hours of work on behalf of NCSBN has resulted in what is before you at this meeting. Thank you to members and staff who have been heavily engaged in this work.

The 2021 recommendations to the Delegate Assembly from the board of directors is summarized on page 11 of the Business Book and include three important things. The proposed revisions to the NCSBN Model Act and Rules, the 2021 Slate of Candidates, Next Generation NCLEX test design and scoring methods.

As your of directors, we have a responsibility along with our CEO to be constantly looking up and out to ensure NCSBN continue strategically while focused on public protection. I grew up in a family that spent a lot of time on the water sailing and know from those days that if one does not look up and out, the effects can slow you down or be disastrous.

If one does not see the obstacles ahead, or the other boats sailing on the same water, or does not pay attention to the direction of the wind or the storm blowing, it does not matter how well designed your craft is or how experienced is your crew. You may be left behind or worse still, hit by the boom.

For those of you who've been sailing, you know the effect of being hit by the boom. Quoting from The Six-Point Sailing Success Plan, planning ahead means among other things, "Before you round the mark, determine in which phase the breezes in and use this information to formulate your plan for the next leg."

Let me say that again. "Before you round the mark, determine which phase the breezes in and use this information to formulate your plan for the next leg." The sailing pointers from Sailing World were intended to help the reader win regattas and stay in the race.

NCSBN is not about winning a particular race, but we are about regulatory excellence, global engagement, public protection, preparation of the crew, strategy, and long-term sustainability of the organization. In the sailing world, as is the case with NCSBN, planning ahead, responsiveness, sound governance, and collecting information is part of the success plan, something your board of directors and your CEO take very seriously as we contemplate the business of the organization.

Being mindful of this sailing lesson, continuing to look up and out, focusing on our mission, values, and vision, I believe we'll keep NCSBN positioned as the premier regulatory organization that it is. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

I look forward to our next in-person encounter. Learn from the choppy water, plan for the leg ahead, keep your eye on the wind, and watch out for the boom. I will leave you with this visual of those scenarios. And I thank you for being with you today and hope you enjoy the rest of the meeting.