

2019 NCSBN Annual Meeting - CEO's Address Video Transcript **©2019 National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.**

Event

2019 NCSBN Annual Meeting

More info: <https://www.ncsbn.org/13304.htm>

Presenter

David C. Benton, RGN, PhD, FFNF, FRCN, FAAN, CEO, NCSBN

Let me start actually with a big thank you to the president, to the Board of Directors, all of you that work in organizations know that the functioning of the board is a really critical element to moving forward an organization and our board of directors are incredibly committed to the work of acting in the public interest.

And without them, we couldn't really achieve half of what we do. But I also want to thank the staff who work so hard for all of you. And to be quite frank, they keep me on my toes, which is something that I welcome, because I really like to always be trying to think about how we can position kelly mit

There are other regulators, there are creditors, there are employers, educators, the public, and so many more individuals and groups that interact with the environment, policies, processes, that we all must operate within. So the success of taking successful bold steps is dependent on us understanding that ecosystem.

Now, Andy Andrews, a systems theorist, said, "A butterfly could flap its wings and set molecules of air in motion, which could then move other molecules of air. In turn, moving more molecules of air eventually capable of starting a hurricane on the other side of the planet."

The actions that we take individually and collectively are important in impacting the ecosystem, both here and around the world. Remember that not everything that influences us can be seen. Some of the most powerful forces on this planet are invisible, yet we feel them. As regulators, we can generate a gravitational force that affects not just the lives of patients here in the United States and the practitioners, but around the world.

So over the next 15 minutes or so, I will address four aspects of our journey. To this end, I'm going to look at change, collaboration, and agility. Okay, so what do you think this is about? Any thoughts?

Anyone know what they are? There's a rat and there's a bat. What's that about? Well, both of them are actually vectors of disease. In 1346, bubonic plague, the Black Death, broke out in a small part of Europe.

And it took until 1351 for the remainder of Europe to be engulfed. A whole five years. However, today, things are very different. The SARS outbreak in the early 2000s went global in a matter of weeks. Today, the pace of change is phenomenal, and the reach of that change is truly global.

Now, as I move to make my regulatory point, I'm going to ask you to forget the idea of rats and bats as vectors as I'm going to talk about legislators, so I don't want to be any connection between rats and bats and legislators. Okay, that's not there, okay? But I do want you to think about the internet.

Today, politicians no longer are constrained by getting ideas from those that they talk to directly. They are bombarded 24/7, with information from all around the world. Regulatory ideas can and do come from anywhere. Accordingly, we must be proactive in shaping those ideas.

Just as the butterfly, we need to flap our metaphorical wings, communicate our thoughts, and influence the ecosystem in real time. As Gandhi said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." We used to live in an analog world, and we now live in a digital society.

And increasingly the way that we see the world and interact with it is through technology. Now, each day, 2.5 exabytes of data are produced. And everyone's going what's an exabyte? Okay, well, an exabyte is a one followed by 18 zeros.

Just remember that a million is a one followed by six zeros. But what does that mean? Well, the data produced every day is equivalent to 250,000 libraries of Congress.

The report has been distributed to regulators around the world, and our sister health and social care disciplines have invited us to present the findings to their members. It has resulted in the production of our regulatory Atlas, and this is just, as the title of the report said, is the first steps in a journey.

In sharing, we get more feedback, we add to our understanding of the issues, and we identify opportunities to collaborate. As Julie mentioned, the Citizens Advocacy Center has provided us with a critique, and in short, we've done a great job.

As a result of the 2030 report on the focus of regulatory and occupational licensing reform that we've seen from government, the seven disciplines of medicine, pharmacy, social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychology, and of course, nursing, we work together to map the landscape. Then

So this will be published in the October edition of the Journal, but this is data from the Web of Science. It's an analysis of the themes identified from the content of material indexed since 1900, on the topics of occupational licensing and professional regulation.

Now, when you look at all of the information, there are in fact, five disciplines that come up with a quantum of material: nursing, law, economics, education, and medicine. By extracting the thematic clusters of content we can see who is interested in what and who is contributing the most to the evidential base.

Now, you'll notice from this slide that medicine does not have a list of themes. Medicine has covered a broad range of topics, but there isn't a consolidated evidence base that's been generated there. By looking at the entire literature, we can ask questions about what we as a discipline, have not focused upon.

What are the opportunities? By looking at the various disciplines, we can identify potential experts that we may wish to talk to, to collaborate with. Working in isolation restricts our potential to make true progress. But we must look deeper. This is not sufficient, just getting an idea about the topics. We also need to look at the quality of the evidence that is being produced.

Now, we know that using evidence is important, and that increasingly, research-based evidence comes at us almost on a daily basis. It comes in the form mainly of articles and reviews. That is the scientific content that we see.

So in developing the discussion with our legislators, with our stakeholders, we need to curate that information. And if we look at the same information that you see on the screen, by compacting both the articles and the reviews, we identify that of all of the literature there, 74.2% of it is evidence-based.

But as you can see, nursing, the law, and economists are the ones that are actually leading the production of evidence in relation to occupational licensing and in relation, too. So we actually have something that we should be proud of, that we should promote, and that we should use, because opinion is important, but evidence is far more important.

So the strength of disciplines and indeed the weakness of disciplines is often the fact that we publish in our own journals. Nurse regulators publish in nurse regulatory journals. But we've got to build upon that, we've got to take our expertise, we've got to take bold steps, we've got to start publishing in the wider journals, in the economics journals, the law journals, so that our message is distributed more widely and we have a greater input.

So therefore, as nurse regulators, we actually need to get out of our comfort zone, we need to invite others in to write in our journals as well and media, on the editorial board have been doing a great job of that of getting economists and lawyers to write in our journal. But we've actually got to take that next bold step.

If we want to be effective, if we want others to carry our message, then it needs to appear in their