

## FARB 2013-07

This was an annual Leadership Conference which is designed to provide the executive directors and officers of FARB's governing member associations with a forum to discuss current topics and form a long range plan for future FARB initiatives. Attendance to this meeting is by invitation only for non-members. We were invited to present on the NASEMSO interstate compact effort.

Sample of organizations present:

- Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry
- Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy
- Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards
- Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards
- National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies
- National Association of State Boards of Accountancy
- National Association of Boards of Pharmacy

Themes common to us brought up during member organization report outs:

- Daily syncing of a database of individuals functioning in multiple states alerting the others about sanctions
- Toolkits related to disasters
- Measurement of competency
- License transfer (a 100 year old program of NABP)
- Acquisition and permitting for acquired domain names
- Creation of a matrix of all states' CE requirements
- Creating/maintaining model practice acts

Themes uncommon (but very interesting) to us:

- Being a national exam delivery service
- Managing state specific exams that are required or optional over and above a competency exam (e.g., jurisprudence, ethics)
- Issuing credentials to individuals
- Testing individuals and issuing specialty certifications on behalf of the states
- Processing applications for provider licensure on behalf of the state
- Conducting inspections with teams of surveyors for organizations licensed on the state but not based in their state
- International applicant processing
- Endorsement of durable equipment

The roundtable report out by the associations by itself was well worth my time. I never fully appreciated that the core similarities between NASEMSO and other national associations whose members are state agencies that support and regulate other professions would run as deep as they do.

As you can see from the agenda, the day and a half was chock full of presentations directly relevant to us:

- Minimum data sets HRSA is gearing up to collect through national associations for various categories of healthcare workers (provoked by PPACA)
- Disciplinary databanks managed by national associations as a service to the state members
- Lookuplicense.org – a FARB service that 8 national associations are already using
- License portability (reciprocity)
- Interstate compacts
- Best practices/regulatory structures (including measuring effectiveness of Boards and Advisory Councils) and
- Internet related intellectual property issues such as cybersquatting, online courses, and trademark protection

To round things out, the group also covered topics related to associations' annual meetings, such as national AV firms that documented equipping and manning association annual meetings for 30-40% less than having the host hotel do it. Another session further developed a FARB meeting co-op concept whereby any FARB member association could join others in a one-time commitment per year to hold a meeting at a particular hotel chain—FARB would take the net anticipated meeting expenses to the hotel chains to leverage the multi-association expenses for the best deal the chains have to offer (reduced sleeping room rates, reduction or elimination of other expenses, etc.) and then the associations use that hotel chain in whatever city they are holding their meeting in the following year. This would work for events like midyear and Board retreat meetings.

The panel on compacts included the director of the National Center for Interstate Compacts with whom we have been working very closely and the association staff from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and the Federation of State Medical Boards with primary responsibility for their compacts.

FARB holds two meetings a year (January and July). The summer meeting is attended by the Executive Director and most associations also send a second staff member or their President or other elected Board member. The January meeting has more presentation sessions and some associations send more people to that one. A third meeting has been held annually for 20 years and is geared to state deputy attorneys general and assistant attorneys general and the legal issues for those that represent state agencies that license professionals. I was told that conference now attracts state licensing employees as well.