



NCSBN
Leading Regulatory Excellence

Past Event: 2026 NCSBN Annual Meeting – Substance Use Disorder Resources Committee Forum Video Transcript

Event

2026 NCSBN Annual Meeting

More info: <https://www.ncsbn.org/past-event/2026-annual-meeting>

Presenter

Patricia Howard-Chittams, DNP, RN, Chair, Substance Use Disorder Resources Committee; President, District of Columbia Board of Nursing

Hi. I recognize I'm now standing between you and lunch. So I'm going to keep this presentation like a good nursing handoff: concise, organized, and no unnecessary surprises. Or, as I learned in seminary, get to the stage, do what you're supposed to do, and get off.

So today, I'd like to give you a brief update on the work that we've been doing with the Substance Use Disorder Committee, what we've accomplished, what we're working on now, and where we're headed next. So just to give you a brief review of our charge, we were to review contemporary research literature on alcohol and drug abuse disorders, access existing NCSBN resources for accuracy, clarity, applicability, gather member and stakeholder feedback, identify content gaps, and revise and publish updated guidance.

Sounds pretty straightforward, right? Read the literature, review the resources, find the gaps, update everything. Simple. Until you realize that everything means years of guidance, years of evolving science, changing terminology, and the various resources that have been used by Boards across the nation.

So yes, it's been a little bit more than a quick proofreading exercise. So before going any further, I'd like to recognize the outstanding committee members appointed by the board of directors. These hardworking members came to the committee from across the country, and they accomplished a great deal so far.

I'd especially like to thank the NCSBN staff who work with us behind the scenes and actually make sure that the wheels on the bus go round and round. Yes, I have a toddler granddaughter living with me now. Their professionalism, patience, and dedication make a tremendous difference. So I'd like to thank Tim Arehart, Emily Paulucci, and Jen Kohl for their hard work and keeping us on track.

I'd also like to personally thank the board of directors for the opportunity to serve as this committee's new chair. It is an honor and a responsibility that I greatly appreciate. Our team members, from Geneva Cartar in Louisiana, Lynda D'Alessio, Rhode Island.

If you're here, please stand. Kim Esquibel in Maine, Angela Fontaine in Arizona, Brandi Griswold, North Carolina, Corrie Lund, North Dakota, Melissa Monroe, Oklahoma, and Lisa Shiltz in West Virginia. Thank you for your hard work as well.

This work truly represents a team effort, and every member has brought tremendous expertise and thoughtful discussion to the table. So what have we been doing? What have we been reviewing?

Our review process. And we need to make sure that our review process was comprehensive, evidence-based, reviewed in duplicate, consistency across all resources. And we simply did not read the documents. We dissected them line by line, piece by piece, and are rebuilding them from the ground up. Every resource underwent an in-depth review.

Each section was reviewed independently by multiple committee members to improve consistency and to reduce the possibility of overlooking important content. Think of it as a peer review with slightly more coffee. Where are we now?

Our current focus is ensuring that every resource is accessible, accurate, current, easy to navigate, consistent in terminology, and supported by the latest evidence. Our work has now shifted from reviewing, though, to refining.

We're asking questions as we work, like, can Boards of Nursing easily find what they need? What do we need to do in order to make that happen? Is the language current? Does it reflect today's evidence? And is it practical?

We want these resources to work for the many busy regulatory bodies and professionals and not require a treasure hunt to find what you need. So what's next? We need to identify subject matter experts, identify external expert reviewers, solicit feedback from targeted Boards of Nursing, synthesize their recommendations, and incorporate revisions into the completed package.

That feedback is critical because our goal simply isn't to document what looks good. It is to produce a resource that is actually useful in practice. So what is our vision? Our blue sky vision is to create a resource that is easy to use, easy to find, easy to update, and easy to maintain.

Our biggest lift is building a structure that allows for future updates to occur more efficiently as new evidence emerges. One of our biggest goals just isn't updating today's content. Our biggest goal is making tomorrow's updates easier because science changes, evidence evolves, and language also evolves.

We want the next committee to spend less time building a new house and more time updating the furniture. Creating a resource that's sustainable may ultimately be one of the most valuable outcomes of this project. So as a team, we wish to thank you all.

We wish to thank the Board for this opportunity to serve. Thank you for your time and attention. And if there are any questions, I don't see anyone standing. I officially release you for lunch.