

Acknowledgments

The National Task Group on BSW Gatekeeping Standards that collaborated to shed light on the topic of BSW gatekeeping comprised the core group of individuals who brought this project to fruition. However, without the support, assistance, and influence of many people, both the substance and presentation of this work would have been dramatically different.

I (Patty) am deeply indebted to Eleanor, “Ellie,” Blakely, who deserves rich praise for joining the project as coeditor when it was well into its second year. In addition to her excellent critique of manuscripts and help with the myriad tasks associated with such a massive undertaking, her high energy level, commitment to gatekeeping, and pleasant collegiality made very tedious work a lot more enjoyable.

Because the project was not funded, the School of Social Work (more recently the Division of Social Work) at West Virginia University shouldered much of the cost associated with the development of this book over the years. We (Patty and Ellie) give special recognition to Karen Harper and Barry Locke, both of whom have held leadership positions in the school/division and have supported this project in direct and indirect ways.

We extend appreciation to Robert Madden from Saint Joseph College’s Department of Social Work in Connecticut for graciously lending his expertise in order to ensure that the sample policies, as well as the chapter content, advanced in this book are

on firm ground legally. We give special recognition to Jerry Blakely from West Virginia University (WVU) for the various ways he assisted in this project. We wish to acknowledge the technical assistance offered by Cherie Hawkins, a former WVU BSW student, during the early years of this project.

I (Patty) express deep gratitude to my family for bearing with me for more than six years of “burning the midnight oil” while I completed this time-consuming but gratifying project. I give thanks and praise to my youngest son Brian for his good-natured acceptance that my fingers seemed to be glued to the computer keyboard during most of his waking hours for so many years of his young life. I lovingly thank my adult son Shaun for his unfailing belief in my abilities and, in particular, for his strong emotional support during a shattering family crisis when work on this book was in its final stages. I additionally extend deeply heart-felt appreciation to my lovemate and lifemate, Jim Wahlberg, who tenderly patched up my broken wings and enabled me to reclaim my strength when strength was not an operative part of my life. His love and support are more central to the completion of this book than he will ever understand or would even willingly acknowledge.

Both Patty and Ellie are extremely appreciative of the consistent enthusiasm of John L. Michel, Columbia University Press’ associate executive editor, who gave us strong support from the time we first approached him about publication of this project. His belief in and support of our work meant a great deal.

It seems that from the moment I (Ellie) walked in the door of the School of Social Work here at WVU, Patty and I began discussing gatekeeping issues. Being a member of the school’s admissions committee and a faculty member who teaches across both the BSW and MSW programs provides a somewhat unique position from which to view and confront these issues. When Patty asked if I would be interested in working with her on a book she had underway, I jumped at the chance, not only because I knew I would enjoy working with Patty but also because I optimistically believed this would answer all those thorny gatekeeping questions that continue to occupy our thoughts. On the former issue, I was right; on the latter, I was wrong. In fact, I probably have more questions now regarding our gatekeeping responsibilities than

before we began working on this book. However, I am confident that I am better equipped to tackle these issues as a result of this experience. To Patty, all I can say is thank you for believing I was the right person with whom to share this project. I don't think either of us realized what we were undertaking, but it was well worth the effort. To my husband, Jerry, thanks for your patience as you constantly stepped over and around the piles of "book stuff" that have filled our study for the last few years. To our students and alumni, thanks for demonstrating through your dedication, commitment, and professional practice that these gatekeeping efforts lead to positive results.

Last, but certainly not least, the authors and task group members deserve professional accolades for their unflinching commitment to a complex task that was so global and ill-defined at its inception. On blind faith alone they joined the task group and energetically took up the task at hand. Several of the authors were contacted to draft chapters when the project was into its third and even fourth years; yet they willingly and enthusiastically contributed their expertise to improve the value and usefulness of the final product. To our authors, thank you for your insights and your patience as we scrutinized every concept, every reference, every sentence, and every punctuation mark. I (Ellie) hope to meet each of you one of these days. The authors also have my (Patty's) gratitude for exercising great patience when a personal life crisis and subsequent life changes regrettably delayed publication of this book for two years. Both of us are deeply appreciative of the cooperative and collaborative spirit that all task group members brought to the endeavor of sharing their expertise in and experiences with gatekeeping in social work education. This book would not have been possible without each of their valuable contributions.

