



# TEXAS Pharmacy Association

*Advancing the Practice of Pharmacy to Enhance the Delivery of Quality Health Care to All Texans*

## Report to the Texas Pharmacy Congress • August 2017

### After an Exhaustive Nationwide Search TPA gets a new CEO

With an official start date of August 1, 2017, TPA Chief Executive Officer, Debbie (Baggett) Garza, R.Ph. began her first week with back to back meetings and almost endless congratulatory calls, emails and social media posts. Debbie wasted no time settling into her new role working long days despite the fact that she's also spread between two homes thousands of miles away from each other. We will keep you updated on Debbie's tour de force as it unfolds so stay tuned.

### 85th Texas Regular Legislative Session Wrap-up

The 85<sup>th</sup> session saw the filing of 6,631 pieces of legislation, with only 1,211 of those passing. This number represents approximately a 5% increase over the bill filings for the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature, but the total number of passed bills represents an approximate 3 percent decrease from the previous session.

Here's a couple of the key pharmacy wins:

- **House Bill 1296** by Rep. John Frullo (R-Lubbock) and Senate Bill 697 Sen. Dawn Buckingham (R-Lakeway) establishes a process through which the plan, the enrollee, the prescribing physician or health care provider, and a pharmacist could jointly approve a medication synchronization plan for medication to treat an enrollee's chronic illness.
- **House Bill 1917** by Rep. Richard Raymond (D-Laredo), keeps the Texas Medicaid Formulary with the state until August 31, 2023. This gives pharmacy six years until we will need to address this issue again.

You can view a complete list of pharmacy's wins, losses and the bills we stopped in the June edition of the TPA magazine. Please know that it is important that WE work together to advance the pharmacy profession!

### Texas State Board of Pharmacy Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday August 1, the Texas State Board of Pharmacy met for the third quarterly meeting of 2017. Top issues on the agenda included the selection of Allison Benz, R.Ph., M.S. to replace Gay Dodson, R.Ph., as the new Executive Director/Secretary of The Texas State Board of Pharmacy effective December 1, 2017. Congratulations Allison, we look forward to working with you in your new role! TPA would like to thank Gay for her years of dedication to the State of Texas, and to pharmacy.

The Board approved moving forward with proposed rules addressing amendments to §291.121 which addresses remote technician dispensing/telepharmacy. TPA offered changes to the proposed rule to address our assertions regarding what constitutes "Continuous Supervision" and the need to require that technicians working at a remote location have at least three years of practice experience in a Class A (focused on having technicians that are at least 21 years of age) and have completed an A.C.P.E. accredited program on telepharmacy. Following discussions with the members of the Board, proposed rules addressing TPA's recommendations will be discussed at the November meeting, with the hope they will receive final approval and implementation at the February meeting.

### North Texas Hypertension Adherence Program (NETHAP)

TPA has completed its agreement with Texas Department of State Health Services on its most recent project – North Texas Hypertension Adherence Program (NETHAP). The program's objective was to create new community based clinical linkages between pharmacists and other healthcare providers.

Utilizing a web-based platform, the program successfully connected healthcare providers to pharmacists via a bi-directional referral process. Physicians and public health staff identified patients with uncontrolled hypertension and referred those to pharmacists via the Rxpert ESN™ network. Out of 55 patients referred to the NETHAP, 44 patients qualified to be eligible for the program. Of the 44 patients, 34 patients were considered active by having begun their visits in order to receive the program's services. From the 34 patients, 6 patients completed all five visits at the time of this report, from the initial appointment to four follow-up appointments. All 6 patients reached their target blood pressure goal by the fifth visit.

NETHAP will continue until a minimum of 150 patients are referred and receive services from the local, community based pharmacists.

### 2017 TPA Conference & Expo a Success

Approximately 600 pharmacy professionals convened in San Antonio for the 2017 TPA Conference & Expo. Thank you to all of the school faculty that presented! The CE sessions were very well received and provided educational take-aways to use in practice.

### Congratulations to the 2017 Award winners!

Bowl of Hygeia – Chris Alvarado, Pharm.D.

Pharmacist of the Year – Carol Reagan, Pharm.D.

Distinguished Young Pharmacist – Jacob Daggett, Pharm.D.

Distinguished Pharmacy Technician – Theresa Day, CPhT

Distinguished Student Pharmacist – Kassie Pfluger

Generations RX – Andrea Laguado

**Congratulations to the Following 2017 Texas Pharmacy Foundation Scholarship Recipients:**

Kevin Chan, Texas A&M HSC Rangel College of Pharmacy, Professional Recovery Network Scholarship  
Stephanie Hernandez, The University of Texas College of Pharmacy, Professional Recovery Network Scholarship  
Breanna Russ, University of Houston College of Pharmacy, Professional Recovery Network Scholarship  
John Ray Acosta, Texas A&M Health Science Center Rangel College of Pharmacy, TPF General Scholarship  
Darrnell Harris, Texas Southern University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, TPF General Scholarship  
Tegan Jacobson, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, TPF General Scholarship  
Lauren Goldberg, University of Houston College of Pharmacy, TPF General Scholarship  
Anna Bozhkova, University of the Incarnate Word Feik School of Pharmacy, TPF General Scholarship  
Andrew Rubio, The University of Texas College of Pharmacy, TPF General Scholarship  
Sarah Bittner, University of the Incarnate Word Feik School of Pharmacy, Robert Clayton Scholarship  
Melissa Kang, The University of Texas College of Pharmacy, Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship  
Amy Marie Kiley, University of Houston College of Pharmacy, Jim Martin Scholarship  
Ashton Goode, Texas A&M Health Science Center Rangel College of Pharmacy, Jim Martin Scholarship  
Chib Amunke-Nze, The University of Texas College of Pharmacy, Jim Martin Scholarship  
Jacqueline Hobbs, University of the Incarnate Word Feik School of Pharmacy, Shirley McKee Scholarship  
Jaekyu Lee, University of Houston College of Pharmacy, Larry "Neal" McClaugherty Scholarship  
Hayden Stewart, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Luther & Mary Ann Parker Scholarship

**Texas Pharmacy Foundation Fundraising**

Thank you to all who participated in the TPF fundraising activities during the conference. Just over \$17,000 was raised in July!

**PharmPAC Breakfast**

On July 9, PharmPAC held a breakfast at this year's TPA Conference & Expo. The breakfast was well attended with over 80 pharmacists and technicians coming out to hear from pharmacy's very own Leticia Van De Putte. The event was also joined by Rep. Kevin Roberts who authored TPA's Enhanced Patient's Access to Services bill. We were also joined by Chairman Todd Hunter who chairs the highly influential House Calendars committee, that is responsible for determining which bills will go to the House floor to be voted on.