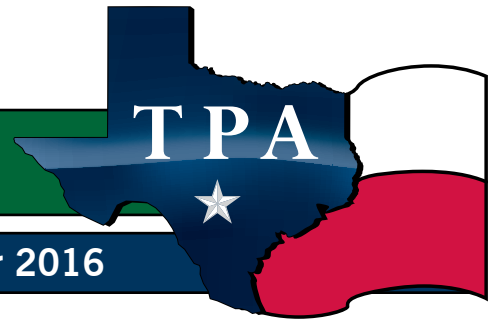


Texas Pharmacy Association

A Report to the Texas Pharmacy Congress • November 2016



Advocacy/Education

TPA's Opioid Seminar in Austin Addresses Epidemic



TPA's "The Pharmacist's Role in the Opioid Abuse Epidemic" seminar in Austin on October 23 attracted numerous pharmacy professionals as they sought to better address Texas' opioid addiction crisis. The live seminar helped attendees learn to identify patients at risk for opioid overdose; select an appropriate naloxone formulation based on patient-specific factors; educate patients and caregivers regarding naloxone administration; recognize the signs and symptoms of an

acute opioid overdose; as well as how to administer naloxone to a patient experiencing an acute opioid overdose.

"I really enjoyed it," said Gayle Dichter, of Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island. "Presenters Lori Holleran Steiker, Ph.D. and Mary Velasquez, Ph.D. gave great overviews from a social aspect. It was a well-coordinated effort to give you a rounded overview of how to manage and detect opioid abuse disorder."

TPA Participates in the Texas Pharmacy Summit

The Texas Pharmacy Summit—a coalition of the state's various pharmacy organizations — established in 2014 in an effort to unify the profession - met on November 2 in Austin to finalize positions on several legislative priorities. Former Senator Leticia Van de Putte again moderated the meeting.

Key items focus on : Medicaid Managed Care, Pharmacy Technicians, PBM Reforms, and Enhanced Patient Access to Services. Other issues include Med Synchronization, Pharmacists as Providers and Pharmacist Reimbursement.

The Texas Pharmacy Summit will meet in January with a goal of finalizing legislation that can be supported by all of pharmacy.

The eight-member group includes the Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA) along with the; Alliance of Independent Pharmacists of Texas (AIP); the Texas Association of Independent Pharmacy Owners (TAIPO); the Texas Federation of Drug Stores (TFDS); the Texas Independent Pharmacies Association (TIPA); . Texas Pharmacy Business Council (TPBC); Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP); and Texas TrueCare.

TPA at Texas State Board of Pharmacy Quarterly Meeting

On Tuesday November 1, the Texas State Board of Pharmacy in Austin. TPA was in attendance and participated in the meeting to assure that your positions and concerns would be well represented.

One of the unexpected decisions made by the Board was to propose a rule change to Rule 297 regarding Pharmacy Technicians which will remove specific reference to the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) when noting the requirement for a certification exam. While this change will not impact the acceptance of the PTCB exam in Texas, it does remove the emphasis placed on the PTCB as the only exam in Texas. Additionally, the Board directed staff to begin the bid solicitation process for certification exams , with the process to be completed by its February meeting.

TSBP also approved all six of the proposed rules for final adoption with minor changes.

Final Adoption of Rules

- C.1.1 Amendments to §281.65 Concerning Administrative Penalty for Failing to Operate a Pharmacy
- C.1.2 Amendments to §291.34 Concerning Schedule II Prescriptions from Out-of-State Practitioners
- C.1.3 Amendments to §291.74 Concerning Class C Pharmacies Operated by Management Companies
- C.1.4 Amendments to §291.155 Concerning Class H Pharmacies
- C.1.5 New Rule §295.14 Concerning Pharmacists Dispensing Opioid Antagonists (Tab 06)
- C.1.6 Amendments to §295.16 Concerning the Definition of an Epinephrine Auto-Injector

Analysis and review of the proposed rules will be forthcoming in subsequent issues. For the complete agenda, click [here](#). Background materials for each item also are accessible through the online agenda.



TPA in Action

TPA Criss-Crosses State Talking About Shaping the Future of Pharmacy



Mary Klein

Protecting and advancing the future of Texas pharmacists is a TPA goal. Monday started with meetings with our corporate partner **Liberty Software** in Dallas, followed by a trip to the University of North Texas in Fort Worth. There, TPA President-elect Mary Klein and TPA Division Director of Public Affairs Justin Hudman shared with the students how they can be part of shaping the future of pharmacy.

The indefatigable TPA team then met with business partner **Cardinal Health** in

Fort Worth to review pharmacy-related legislative prospects for 2017.

Meanwhile, on Monday November 7, TPA CEO Joe DaSilva and AIP's David Gonzales met with the **NCPA student chapter** at the **University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy**. The two-person panel focused on key legislative challenges at the federal and state level and how students can be a part of the process.



Kim Roberson

On November 9, DaSilva and Hudman, along with TPA Division Director of Pharmacy Practice Kim Roberson met with **PDX**, a Fort Worth-based pharmacy software company, followed by a meeting with drug wholesaler **H.D. Smith** to discuss future opportunities to work together.

Then on November 10, Hudman wrapped up TPA's week-long travels with a visit to the **University of Houston College of Pharmacy** to be a part of the NCPA student chapter legislative

series.

"Visiting around the state provides valuable opportunities to strengthen existing relationships and building new ones," said Hudman. "Meeting this week with our students, who represent the future of pharmacy, along with great business partners serves to renew our friendships and plan for the future."



Justin Hudman



Joe DaSilva

Texas Pharmacy Association Launches Vaccination Information Newsletter & Website



TPA launched a vaccination information newsletter and website on October 14. This new no-cost service provides peer reviewed articles with the latest vaccination news. In addition to a broad search feature, articles are categorized into common search areas, including a "Zika" category for quick access to articles about Zika virus news. The website contains a "Subscribe" feature where consumers and healthcare professionals can subscribe to a weekly newsletter of the latest vaccination news. Two versions of the newsletters are available - a consumer version or a healthcare provider version.

This free service was developed to help practicing pharmacists stay abreast of vaccination related information and provides an information source that pharmacists can refer interested patients to for further and continuing information.

To sign up for the newsletter, visit www.texas.precisionvaccinations.com and click on "Subscribe".





State News

Reconstituted TSBP Pharmacy Technician Task Force Meets

Established at the request of TPA, TSHP and other pharmacy groups, the TSBP Task Force on Pharmacy Technician Qualifications and Duties held its first meeting on November 7. The Task Force is chaired by TSBP President Jeanne Waggener and is composed of nine pharmacists and pharmacy technicians from community and health system pharmacies as well as technician educators. Task Force members Mark Comfort of Austin and Ben Sims of Tyler serve as TPA representatives. Both also serve on the TPA Board of Directors.

The final report from the 2014 TSBP Task Force to Review Pharmacy Technician Practice was reviewed in depth and used as a starting point in development of new set of recommendations for consideration by the State Board. Based on discussions during the meeting, TSBP staff will develop a draft of the potential recommendations for review by the Task Force. Once the draft is finalized, it will be forwarded to the State Board – most likely at its meeting in February 2017. Included among the issues discussed were:

- Education and training requirements
- National certification examination(s)
- Registration renewals
- Expanded duties for technicians
- Clarification between “non-judgmental” duties and “non-clinical” decisions
- Process for specialty certification opportunities for technicians
- Clarification of Technician-in-Training

TPA will share the Task Force report under development when it becomes available.

In the News

TPA’s CEO Joins President Barack Obama in ACA Conference Call

As was the case in August of 2013 when TPA CEO Joe DaSilva was invited to a special meeting in Austin of a small number of key Texas health care leaders with then U.S. Health and Human Services Department Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to discuss the initial roll-out of the federally-run Health Insurance Marketplaces under the Affordable Care Act, on Thursday of this week, DaSilva was invited to participate in a conference call with President Barack Obama and current HHS Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell (at right) regarding the fourth roll-out of the program.



The call focused on the upcoming open enrollment period for what is now known as “Obama-Care” which starts on November 1. President Obama acknowledged that the conference call - which included nearly 25,000 participants - was the largest ever from the White House. He expressed appreciation to those who have helped implement the ACA during the past three years and added that nearly 23,000 million Americans now have health insurance with expectations that one million more will be added to the rolls before the enrollment period ends in January.

Opening the call was Dora Garcia Correa, an ACA coordinator from South Texas in the Rio Grande Valley. She shared her commitment and regional success in enrollment reach-out to those who otherwise would have no health insurance. Correa introduced President Obama who spoke for nearly 10 minutes.

Obama assured participants on the call that though media is focusing on possible premium rate hikes, enrollees still will have various coverage options that will be as low as \$75 per months. Obama also shared that the three-year-old program needs a number of fixes and hopes that the next president will work to make it better. The need for Americans to have affordable health insurance is too critical for our future. He said that unfortunately the biggest problem for the ACA continues to be political as has been highlighted in this year’s elections.

HHS Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell followed the President and focused her comments on the specifics of the program’s roll-out.



TPA's Hoban Presents on Texas Pharmacy Association Communications at the University of Texas

TPA Division Director of Communications and Marketing Brom Hoban gave a presentation to the University of Texas at Austin Center for Health Communication Student Interest Group on Tuesday, October 11. Hoban helped students understand the ways in which TPA communicates to members and stakeholders, using such highlights as the recently enacted HB 1550 to illustrate the sequence of communications that take place as TPA works to advance the profession of pharmacy. Focusing on the importance of “telling a compelling story,” he emphasized that communications complete of “full circle” from initially reaching out, to publishing your results in all forms of media.



Education/Events

The Pharmacist & Patient-Centered Diabetes Care (Austin)	November 17, 2016
Texas Pharmacy Day at the Capitol (Austin)	February 28, 2017
2017 Leadership Symposium	March 20, 2017



Visit www.texaspharmacy.org for details

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