

Action Items and Major Activities from the October 2006 Board Meeting

Organizational Development Committee:

The board:

- Introduced new Board Members Susan Ravnan, PharmD, and Tim Daze – this was their first board meeting.
- Distributed a new committee member roster.
- Acknowledged three individuals who have been licensed for 50 years as pharmacists who attended the meeting, and commended the family of Stan Poncetta for his contributions to pharmacy.
- Commended staff for their work on the successful NABP District 7 & 8 Meeting in Anaheim in early October (Hope Tamraz, Kim Delong, Victor Perez, Virginia Herold).
- Adopted updating amendments to the *Board Member Procedure Manual*.
- Received a personnel and budget update, including a presentation on the state's budget process.
- Commended Analyst Candy Place for her assistance to board members in recognition of her forthcoming retirement.
- Viewed the newly formatted Board Strategic Plan for 2006-2011.
- Approved the minutes from the July 27, 2006 Board Meeting.

Communication and Public Education Committee:

The board:

- Heard an update on public information being developed by UCSF's pharmacist interns as part of a collaboration with the Center for Consumer Self Care – the existing nine fact sheets are being translated into Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Four new fact sheets are undergoing review.
- Was advised that the next board newsletter, *The Script*, will be published and distributed in January 2007.
- Reviewed draft language for a Notice to Consumers poster that would comply with AB 2583 (Nation) to advise consumers of their rights to obtain prescription medicine from a pharmacy with a valid prescription. The board voted to have two Notice to Consumers posters to contain the currently required and the additional information.
- Received an update on public outreach activities in the last quarter; specifically four presentations to students in schools of pharmacy, four information booths at public education events, and three presentations on pharmacy law and the board to pharmacy associations or other professional groups.

Licensing Committee:

The board:

- Recognized the School of Pharmacy at the University of Charleston, which currently holds “precandidate” status with the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. This action means that students at this school are now eligible to apply for registration in California as intern pharmacists.
- Heard a presentation on emergency preparedness for California pharmacy. The board approved a policy statement regarding emergency response which will be placed on the board’s Web site and published in its newsletter.
- Was advised that the committee will review the ExCPT exam for possible use as a qualifying method for pharmacy technicians. The exam will be evaluated against the standards established for job-related examinations in Business and Profession Code section 139. If authorized, a statutory amendment will be needed.
- Directed staff to determine why 26 states do not accept the transfer of NAPLEX scores earned for California to their states.
- Was advised that the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Committee will recertify foreign graduates who need to take the Test of Spoken English (because they were FPGEC certified before 1998) by having them pass the TOEFL iBT exam, which replaces the Test of Spoken English.
- Reviewed detailed statistics from April 1 – September 30, 2006 for CPJE. The overall passing rate for all tests taken is 80 percent.
- Received licensing statistics for the fiscal year.

Enforcement Committee:

The board:

- Supported the DEA’s proposed interpretation that Schedule II drugs could be prescribed on multiple prescriptions written at the same time that specify “do not fill before 30 days” or “do not fill before 60 days.” The board, however, encouraged the DEA not to limit such orders to 90 days’ drug supply (which is part of the DEA’s proposed policy change). The board will send a letter to this effect before the deadline of November 6, 2006.
- Directed staff to put information in the board’s packet on implementation of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 online.
- Heard a presentation by the California Naturopathic Doctors Association on naturopathic doctors and their proposed formulary of drugs that they seek to have naturopathic doctors prescribe.
- Discussed the September meeting of the Workgroup on E-Pedigree. The board also discussed the implementation of SB 1476, which amends the electronic pedigree requirements to now require all drugs distributed in California to have an electronic pedigree by January 2009. The legislation also gives the board the authority to extend the requirements until 2011. The board emphasized the need for the profession to work aggressively to meet this goal in efforts to ensure safe medication for Californians. The board supported the earliest implementation date possible.
- Reviewed questions and answers on emergency contraception with respect to Plan B becoming over-the-counter for purchasers 18 and older.
- The board reviewed enforcement statistics for fiscal year 2006-07.

Legislation and Regulation Committee:

The board:

- Approved a regulation to repeal 16 California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1717.2 Notice of Electronic Prescription Files. This rulemaking will be compiled and submitted to the Administration for review
- Adopted a regulation to require wholesalers to perform biennial self assessments, 16 CCR section 1784. This rulemaking will be compiled and submitted to the Administration for review.
- Received a short overview of the regulations adoption process.
- Was advised of the approval of 16 CCR 1727.1 Exemption for Intern Pharmacist Addresses of Record from Posting Online. This regulation took effect at the beginning of October. Accordingly, the board has removed the addresses of records of intern pharmacists. Their addresses of record will still be available via written request to the board.
- Was updated on the status of other board rulemaking activities. The rulemaking file on technicians-checking-technicians in inpatient settings (sections 1793.7 and 1793.8) was submitted to the Department of Consumer Affairs in August and is still undergoing review. Also, the rulemaking file on the use of automated delivery machines for refills and prescription drop boxes (sections 1713 and 1717(e)) was submitted to the Department of Consumer Affairs in August and is still undergoing review. Staff is preparing notices for action at a future board meeting for updating the *Disciplinary Guidelines* (section 1760), making modifications to the California Building Standards Commission in order to secure placement of the building standards for sterile injectable compounding pharmacies (24 CCR 4990A.3 and 505.12.2).
- Was updated on the status of board-sponsored legislation: enacted were: AB 2408 (Negrete McLeod) regarding pharmacists' duties and restructuring section 4052 into four sections; SB 1475 (Senate Business and Professions Committee) which contains board omnibus provisions for the year, and SB 1476 (Figueroa), which extends the board's sunset review and modifications to the electronic pedigree requirements for prescription drugs. Not enacted was AB 595 (Negrete McLeod) regarding standards for compounding pharmacies which was dropped at the end of the session due to opposition from pharmacies and the Department of Health Services.
- Was advised about other bills for which the board has taken positions. Among the bills enacted were AB 2583 (Nation), AB 225 (Negrete McLeod), and AB 2986 (Mullin).