

Town Hall Meeting  
2015 ICHP Annual Meeting  
September 11, 2015

ICHP President, Linda Fred welcomed all attendees and provided a short summary of the various activities the divisions and committees have been and are working on at this time.

**Linda's review:**

Online communities – Linda requested suggestions from attendees and members about the types of groups people want in the online communities.

- Ambulatory Care topic request

Networks – Linda requested suggestions on other networks people may want ICHP to start – similar to CPRN and the Pharmacy Directors' Network. Ambulatory Care Network is in process of being formed.

PTCB – Provides ICHP with revenue and national exposure. PTCB will be requiring accredited training prior to sitting for the national exam. What are the issues around this?

Advocacy – ICHP coordinates Legislative Day, legislative monitoring, Board of Pharmacy relations, etc. What types of legislative issues should ICHP work on with the governor this year?

Champions – What can we do to help you establish a Champion, or do more as Champion?

NPN – What new activities would you like to do, to see?

Professional Affairs – Working on toolkits. What other resources would you like to see?

Pharmacy Tech Topics – Any ideas on what we can to support PTT?

Local affiliates – What can we do to help? Do we need them? Do we keep them?

Colleges of Pharmacy – What to do and how to keep students involved?

**Open Discussion:**

**Online Communities and Networks**– Suggestions included new online communities and networks for ambulatory care practitioners, pharmacy technicians in addition to current networks for pharmacy directors; clinical practitioners and researchers; and new practitioners.

**Technicians** – ICHP technician membership is slipping. At one time ICHP had more than 300 technician members. Currently membership stands at just over 150 but was less than 100 early in 2015. A couple of hospitals have paid for all of their technicians to become members. Membership in ICHP provides free online access to Pharmacy Tech Topics™ which will meet their CE requirements. This is important since Illinois passed a requirement this year for technicians to obtain 20 hours of CE credit every two years beginning in 2017. In addition, technician members have free access to Champion programs and the CE credit from them plus discounts on statewide meeting registration fees.

Technician registration is down at the meeting too. ICHP continues to provide solid technician programming at every statewide meeting and accredits every program possible for “T” designation, required by PTCB now.

**PTCB 2020 accredited training requirement** – PTCB is proposing a requirement for all technicians sitting for the PTCE beginning in 2020 to have completed an ASHP/ACPE accredited training program. The accreditation of training programs has now become a partnership of ASHP and ACPE and is under the guidance of the Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC). Many organizations are working to expand access to accredited training programs including the Pharmacy Technician Educators Council (PTEC), Pharmacy Technician University (providers of the Pharmacy Technician Letter), and a variety of community and proprietary colleges at widely varying prices. Proprietary colleges (for profit) tend to charge excessive prices (\$12,000-\$25,000) for their programs while community colleges are much more reasonable. Pharmacy Technician University is working on an online program that should provide the didactic component along with some or all of the simulation component of the approved curriculum. Many existing programs struggle with finding experiential sites for their students. ICHP will continue to monitor the environment and assist in any way possible for programs that are cost-effective and meet accreditation standards. ICHP members should encourage their local community colleges to consider implementing a program and offer to work with the community colleges to find faculty and training sites. Community Colleges are eligible for federal grants to start programs like this which may also help. Currently there are a limited number of accredited training programs in Illinois and many practice sites are a significant distance from these programs. It was suggested that ICHP create a plan to address this need in Illinois and quickly begin to implement it. ICHP should also monitor and provide input to PTAC in revising their curriculum to ensure that an adequate number of training sites can meet the standards by 2020.

**Residents** – The demand for residency positions continues to grow nationwide even though there has been significant growth throughout Illinois and the country. ICHP should provide more residency learning system training at its meetings to assist in the establishment of new programs and the expansion of existing ones. In addition, ICHP should continue to provide preceptor training for pharmacists who are being called upon to precept more and more students and residents. ICHP should encourage members to start residency programs in their institutions if they do not already exist.

**PPMI** – There is now an Ambulatory Care PPMI Self-Assessment available for completion on the ASHP website. Members are encouraged to complete the Self-Assessment if they have any ambulatory care pharmacy programs at their site. Members are also encouraged to continue to work on the goals of the initial PPMI to provide better care to their patients.

**ICHP Meeting Structure** – It was recommended that we include more best-practice programs, residency pearls and other pearl programming. Posters need to be presented in the spring to coincide with residency projects. The audience at the Annual Meeting was primarily from the Chicago and suburban area with few from downstate. While costs are low in Oakbrook Terrace (reasonable hotel and free parking) it is still difficult drawing participation from downstate. It was recommended that ICHP explore combining its spring meeting with other states like it does with Missouri to increase participation.

**Medical Marijuana** – The role of the pharmacist in the distribution of medical marijuana was raised. Currently ICHP is working on a position statement on this issue. Illinois law does not allow medical marijuana to be dispensed from a pharmacy. There is significant research underway on the effectiveness of many of the components of medical marijuana but no significant breakthroughs have been identified yet.