ASAHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board had a conference call on May 18, 2017. The following actions were among those taken:

- The Minutes of a March 29, 2017 Board meeting were approved after minor edits were made.
- President Linda Petrosino provided details about the upcoming Board meeting on July 10-11 in St. Petersburg, FL, which also is the site of the 2018 ASAHP Annual Conference.
- Treasurer Gregory Frazer reported ASAHP’s financial status is stable and secure with no concerns. Funds total $1,874,652. Assets are 56.5% equities, 24.5% fixed, and 19% cash.
- Director Teri Stumbo provided an update on the slate for the election that will occur this summer for positions on the Board of Directors and the Nominations & Election Committee. A motion was approved to accept the slate of candidates.
- President Linda Petrosino reported the ASAHP archives will be reviewed by Past President Richard Oliver with a television producer in the hopes of creating an ASAHP retrospective to celebrate our 50th anniversary at the 2017 Annual Conference.
- Executive Director John Colbert reported on the Administration’s FY 2018 budget request, which includes a $9.3 billion reduction for the Department of Education. Congressional leaders are concerned about large cuts to domestic programming and will present their own proposals that are expected to differ significantly from what the Administration recommended. He also indicated that the Department of Education is taking a different approach with: higher education regulations, particularly with distance education programs; regulations from the Obama Administration; and oversight expected with for-profit education entities.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Each year, the Association sponsors the Scholarship of Excellence Program for allied health students enrolled in its member institutions. The purpose is to recognize outstanding individuals who excel in their academic programs and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in the allied health professions. Each student chosen for an award will receive a $1,000 scholarship.

In 2016, ASAHP gave scholarships to 12 students. Five of these awards were provided by the firm of CertifiedBackground.com, a company that offers criminal background check and immunization status check services to member institutions.

The year 2013 marked the inauguration of the Elwood Scholar Award. Created by the Board of Directors and named for ASAHP’s former Executive Director Thomas W. Elwood who retired from that position in 2012, at the conclusion of the selection of the Scholarship of Excellence Award recipients, an additional review process will commence to identify the most outstanding applicant.

That individual will receive an additional $1,000 scholarship and a complimentary registration to the 2017 ASAHP Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX where he or she will be recognized formally as the award recipient. All travel and rooming costs will be paid by ASAHP.

Several conditions must be met to apply. Only one candidate from each member institution can be nominated. All degree levels are eligible. Information about application procedures is on the Web at www.asahp.org in the Action Section.

A key point to observe is that each application must include a letter endorsed by the dean or director who serves as the official ASAHP Institutional Representative that supports the nomination and describes qualities of the candidate, including academic and service achievements. A letter from a chairperson or faculty member also may be included. The deadline for submitting the necessary information is June 9, 2017.
IPEC WEBINAR SERIES

The next event in the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) Webinar Series will occur on Thursday, June 15th at 2:00 P.M. (Eastern Time). The topic is best practices for implementing interprofessional education (IPE). Jane Kirschling (Dean and Professor, University of Maryland, Baltimore) and Dora Anne Mills (Vice President for Clinical Affairs, University of New England) will share perspectives and lessons learned from their approaches to implementing IPE in curricula. The webinar is free and open to all interested parties. Registration and additional information can be obtained at https://www.ipecollaborative.org/webinars.html.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS CHARTBOOK

A new Chartbook from the Rand Corporation updates previous versions with more recent data on the prevalence of multiple chronic conditions (2008–2014) and associated health care utilization and spending. It also analyzes functional and other limitations for patients with multiple chronic conditions. Sixty percent of Americans in 2014 had at least one chronic condition, and 42% had multiple chronic conditions. These proportions have held steady since 2008. Americans with chronic conditions use more and spend more on health care services, and may have reduced physical and social functioning. The Chartbook can be obtained at https://www.rand.org/pubs/tools/TL221.html.

NIH FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The over-arching goal of a particular National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Education Program (R25) Program is to support educational activities that enhance the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research workforce in Medicine, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (MSTEM) as they relate to aging, through a focus on undergraduate experiences. Objectives are: (1) Expand opportunities in research training and career development for, and provide research supplements to research investigators from, racial and ethnic minority and other health disparity populations; and (2) Increase the number of researchers conducting health disparities research among older adults. Higher education institutions are eligible to apply. The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period. The maximum is five years. August 25, 2017 is both the Letter of Intent due date and the earliest submission date. More information can be obtained at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/par-files/PAR-17-290.html.

PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCE

With the market shift towards value-based and patient-centered models of care, improving patient experience is an increasingly common focus for hospitals. Although many consumers value both clinical quality and care experience when choosing a hospital, the link between patient experience and hospital quality has not been well studied. To gain greater insight into this topic, the Deloitte Center for Health Solutions conducted regression analyses to examine the association between patient experience scores and a broad range of hospital clinical quality measures (both process of care [POC] measures as well as clinical outcomes). Numerous hospital and market characteristics that also can affect hospital performance were controlled, including hospital ownership, location, teaching status, payer, and patient case mix.

The analyses point to two main findings:

- Hospitals with higher patient-reported experience ratings have better POC quality scores.
- Hospitals with higher experience ratings have better scores for some, but not all, clinical outcomes.

These new findings help strengthen the business case for patient experience. Moreover, they point to particular aspects of care that hospital leaders might want to prioritize for investments in tools and mechanisms that engage consumers and help improve the patient experience. Additional information can be obtained at https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/lifesciences-and-health-care/articles/hospitals-patient-experience.html?id=us:2em:3na:hcc:awa:chs:051617.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT

A Kaiser Health Tracking Poll released today indicates that more Americans have an unfavorable view of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) under consideration by Congress than a favorable one (55% vs. 31%, respectively). The results suggest the challenge of passing this legislation, which narrowly was approved by the House of Representatives on May 4, 2017. The May 2017 issue of ASAHP’s newsletter TRENDS has more information about the AHCA. The report can be obtained at http://kff.org/health-reform/report/kaiser-health-tracking-poll-may-2017-the-ahcas-proposed-changes-to-health-care/.