ASAHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Association’s Board of Directors met in St. Petersburg, FL on October 8-9, 2018. The following actions were among those taken:

- The Minutes of the conference call meeting of August 16, 2018 prepared by Secretary Ruth Welborn were approved as distributed.
- President Susan Hanrahan provided an update on the new Institutional Profile Survey (IPS). A pilot will be conducted by the end of the year with a full implementation at the start of 2019.
- Treasurer Gregory Frazer reported that asset allocation for ASAHP investments remains at 66% equities, 32% fixed income, and 2% cash. Representatives from Merrill Lynch joined the Board via telephone. No recommendations were made to change ASAHP’s investment portfolio.
- Directors Barry Eckert and Barbara Wallace will be in charge of planning ASAHP’s 2019 Annual Conference.
- Director Phyllis King provided an overview of the Leadership Development Program (LDP) that was underway while the Board was meeting.
- Motions were approved to: have Alpha ETA be the honor society of ASAHP; place the Alpha ETA link on ASAHP’s website; explore website presence and other associated activities; and appoint an ASAHP Board liaison with Alpha ETA and report annually.
- Approved the provision of financial support for an E-Book on the topic of aging that will be sold on both Amazon and the Association’s website and made available at no charge to Institutional Members.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SURVEY

Efforts continue to unfold to have the next iteration of the Institutional Profile Survey be ready for launching at the beginning of 2019. Along with the change to a new vendor for this upcoming study, some exciting refinements will occur in the kinds of information gathered. A centerpiece in the past was essential data on salaries of faculty and staff. The new version will include focuses on interprofessional activities, clinical instruction, and trends in student enrollment by profession.

A key element in this important endeavor will be the assignment of an individual at each school to oversee coordination of the data collection process. Institutions that may not have participated in the past, along with the fact that new data elements will be collected, means that a considerable amount of information will need to be assembled. Deans and directors should begin thinking now about whom to select to carry out this highly essential coordinating role.

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS WEEK

Allied Health Professions Week will be observed on November 4-10, 2018 to honor educators and providers in the allied health professions. ASAHP UPDATE readers are encouraged to send information to ASAHP staff about events that occur during Allied Health Week, which then can be highlighted in the Association’s newsletter TRENDS.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

The Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education held a 1.5 day workshop called, A Systems-Approach to Alleviating Work-Induced Stress and Improving Health, Well-Being, and Resilience of Health Professionals Within and Beyond Education. The Forum explored systems-level causes and downstream effects of job-related stress in clinical and classroom settings. A report can be obtained at https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25151/a-design-thinking-systems-approach-to-well-being-within-education-and-practice.
IPE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A call for applications for the February 6-8, 2019 Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) Interprofessional Leadership Development Program (ILDP), of which ASAHP is a member, has been issued. Applicants for this offering either should be a dean (or other senior academic administrators with similar institutional responsibilities) or administrators who are responsible for integrating IPE in school-wide learning experiences. Deans and senior administrators from multiple schools at the same institution are strongly encouraged to attend as a team, along with the campus-wide IPE administrator.

Additional information about this event that will be held in Washington, DC and how to apply can be obtained at https://www.ipecollaborative.org/ipec-ildp.html.

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

Clinicians engage in the delivery of a vast amount of health care services for patients. An implicit assumption is that all these efforts are grounded in evidence. Unfortunately, such is not the case, which provides a rationale for the value of conducting health services research to ascertain the extent to which effectiveness is proven.

The October 2018 issue of HSR: Health Services Research, an official journal of the organization AcademyHealth, is devoted to examining trends shaping this field; the changing nature of the employment setting and roles of researchers; and the needed competencies for future researchers. An initial glance suggests that all is going well since there are an estimated 14,000 health services researchers in the United States and federal funding for HSR has increased by 55 percent since 2010.

The picture is much more complex, however, and there is ample room for more investigations to be conducted to determine if the health care being delivered actually is effective. The journal can be obtained at https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14756773/2018/53/S2.

The contents of the October 2018 issue of the periodical Medical Decision Making also may be worth perusing. An article by Neumann et al on cost effectiveness analysis can be obtained at http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/mdma/38/7.

CBO PODCASTS

Transparency remains an ongoing priority for the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). Because clarity is an important aspect of what it means to be transparent, CBO strives to promote a thorough understanding of its analyses through accessible, clear, and detailed communication. As part of that effort, several interactive tools, graphics, and workbooks have been published on that entity’s website. The latest addition involves the appearance of the agency’s newest measure, a podcast called In Our Estimation that looks at the CBO’s inner workings and its role in the legislative process.

The first episode of CBO’s three-part pilot podcast series discusses the types of estimates provided to the Congress, the level of analysis, the rules and procedures in place that determine how estimates are produced, and uncertainty in CBO’s estimates. It can be obtained at https://www.cbo.gov/podcasts/54483.

The second episode discusses the components of the budget, how CBO assists the two budget committees, and CBO’s current budget projections. It can be obtained at https://www.cbo.gov/podcasts/54484.

The final episode of this three-part series focuses on transparency efforts at CBO. It can be obtained at https://www.cbo.gov/podcasts/54529.

HEALTH QUALITY VARIATIONS

Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and Massachusetts were the nation’s five top-performing States in updated assessments of health care quality, according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s (AHRQ’s) 2017 State Snapshots. The interactive resource evaluates States based on more than 250 performance measures of health care quality and access, and it is updated annually. State Snapshots show how each State fared according to access to care, type of care, setting of care, prevalence of diseases and conditions, health status of priority populations, and insurance status.

Nationwide, from 2000 through 2016, almost 70% of person-centered care measures were improving, but 80% of care affordability measures remained the same. The State Snapshots reveal specific variations across States, including sizable disparities related to race, ethnicity, income and other factors. The State Snapshots can be obtained at https://nhqrnet.ahrq.gov/inhqrdr/state/select?utm_source=ahrq&utm_medium=en&utm_term=&utm_content=5&utm_campaign=ahrq_ss_2018.