ASAHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Association’s Board met on June 19-20 in Minneapolis, MN. The following actions were among those taken:

- Minutes from the May 2, 2019 conference call meeting were approved as distributed.
- President Susan Hanrahan reported on progress being made with several endeavors, including that the Global Task Force has at least 21 field testers for the Global Certification Program for rehabilitation health workers. Several countries are represented.
- Treasurer Gregory Frazer reported on the status of funds in an investment company and in a bank strong box. The objective of the investments is to protect the ASAHP funds with moderate growth. In a conference call, the investment advisor suggested the Association look at having a spending policy to use for new initiatives.
- Executive Director John Colbert reported that the Annual Conference has attracted 87 abstracts and posters, speakers have been confirmed, and sponsorship is positive.
- Various ways to ways to recognize ASAHP volunteers who provide a service to the Association were discussed.
- Consideration was given to ASAHP’s name, giving attention to the word “allied.” After discussion of the formal name, doing business name, username, and bylaws change, a motion was made and approved to change it to the Association for Schools Advancing Health Professions.
- General agreement supported further discussion be given to have summer summits to offset the deletion of the ASAHP’s spring meeting. Doing so could provide a perfect venue to invite colleagues to engage in a national dialogue about a “hot topic.”

ACCREDITATION

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) has released an important new research report - Accreditation and Student Learning Outcomes: Perspectives from Accrediting Organizations. The study describes self-reported perspectives of recognized institutional and programmatic accrediting organizations in the United States on student learning outcomes, an issue central to their future credibility and effectiveness. CHEA identifies important next steps that these organizations can take to expand accreditation’s investment in obtaining, judging, and making public evidence of student learning as part of strengthening commitment to quality in higher education.

The report presents findings from a survey on July 10-August 13, 2018 administered by NORC at the University of Chicago (NORC), an independent research organization, on behalf of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). A combined pool of 86 CHEA- and USDE-recognized accrediting organizations was invited to participate. Sixty-four out of 86 accreditors responded to the survey for an overall response rate of 74 percent. Thirteen out of 19 institutional accreditors responded (68 percent). Institutional accreditors included five regional, five national career-related, and three national faith-related accrediting organizations. Fifty-one out of 67 programmatic or specialized accreditors responded (76 percent).

Accrider perspectives on four broad topics related to student learning outcomes are examined:
1. How are accreditors currently addressing student learning outcomes?
2. What has been the impact of accreditation standards and policies on the evidence of student achievement?
3. Is the evidence of student achievement affecting the accreditation status of institutions and programs?
4. What is working, needs improvement, and provides concern among accreditors about student achievement?

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGES

Former ASAHP Board Member Patricia W. Walker is stepping down as dean of the College of Health Professions at Sacred Heart University effective June 30, 2019 after 22 years of service. Jody Bortone will serve as interim dean while a search is conducted for a permanent replacement. Witt/Kieffer has been engaged to assist the university with conducting the search. The link to the position description and application instructions is:

Evan T. Robinson will be the new dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions at Creighton University effective August 19, 2019. He has served as the dean at the Western New England University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences since 2008. Amy Friedman Wilson has served as interim dean following the retirement of J. Chris Bradberry in 2018.

WORKFORCE PROJECTIONS

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has released a report with the title Allied Health Workforce Projections. Information is provided about national-level health workforce estimates of several occupations, including chiropractors, podiatrists, and pharmacists for 2016 to 2030. Projections can be obtained at https://bhw.hrsa.gov/health-workforce-analysis/research/projections/allied-health-workforce-projections?utm_campaign=enews20190620&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE

Current market trends in higher education show that troubled institutions have been plagued by declines in enrollment, increased market prices, and poor retention rates. Yet the data show, as outlined in a new American Council on Education (ACE) brief, that less than 10 percent of just over 2,300 institutions nationwide are in serious risk of closing or merging. The next 20 percent of the market, institutions that are genuinely struggling but not in immediate danger of closing, also face challenges, according to an analysis of eight years of the National Center for Education Statistics’ Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Too Important to Fail, Too Big to Be Complacent: An Analysis of Higher Education Market Risks and Stressors can be obtained at https://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Documents/Higher-Education-Market-Risks-Stressors-2019.pdf.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

The Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) held its 2019 summer meeting on June 13-14 at the AAMC Learning Center in Washington, DC. The theme of the event was “Interprofessional Education & Collaborative Practice: Improving Health Care Education & Delivery.” ASAHP belongs to the IPEC Council and Anthony Breitbach (Saint Louis University), one of the Association’s representatives on the Council, furnished the following information.

Updates were provided on the Interprofessional Leadership Development Program (ILDP) in February 2019, a Faculty Development Spring Institute in May 2019, and webinars archived on the IPEC website. An open dialogue session was conducted on linking IPE & Practice to explore opportunities on how to: bridge the gap between IPE and the realities of practice; examine the extent health professions education is currently meeting these kinds of practice needs; and identify ways to support members and practice partners in achieving IPE and collaborative practice.

One session involved a presentation “Advancing Collaborative Practice Through Team-Based Care & Community Engagement” that examined inventive models of interprofessional collaborative practice, and sharing unique approaches, challenges, and opportunities related to implementing IPECP. Another session featured an update on the National Academy of Medicine’s Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic. Key points presented:
• Five Narratives contributing to Opioid Epidemic: Overmedication, Undertreatment, Health System Failure, Social Failure and Legal Failure
• Action Collaborative will take place through 2020 with 60 participating organizations across Public, Private and Non-profit sectors.

The 2019 USPHS IPEC Award Winner is from Boston, Massachusetts for: “Crimson Care Collaborative: An Interprofessional Academic-Practice Partnership”. Acceptance of the award included a presentation describing an interprofessional primary care model with student-faculty collaborative practice with MGH Institute of Health Professions and Harvard Medical School in the Boston area designed to improve access to care and provide students hands-on interprofessional primary care experience in diverse communities. More than 1,500 student volunteers have served over 3,300 patients/clients with interprofessional dyads seeing each patient.