

PSW Board Establishes Priorities for 2007

Pharmacy Quality Collaborative, legislative involvement top agenda

by Christopher Decker, RPh, PSW Executive Vice President and CEO

The PSW Board of Directors met for its annual fall planning session and then again for its quarterly board meeting last October and November.

During the meetings, the Board reviewed PSW's current goals and objectives and considered additional items to pursue in 2007.

Included in the Board's list of discussion and action items was a review and update of PSW's current organizational goals and objectives; discussion and review of PSW activities related to the fall elections (both pre- and post-election periods); enablement of remote dispensing authority by Wisconsin pharmacies; multiple pharmacy business and practice issues, including the likely movement away from the use of AWP; and traditional MAC indexes by government and commercial insurance programs in the payment for prescription drugs.

The significant changes in leadership among the state and federal legislative bodies [see Legislative Update on page 70] caused the PSW Board to make relationship development between pharmacists and elected officials a legislative priority for 2007. PSW will work to ensure that every person from Wisconsin elected to office for the first time this fall is contacted by pharmacists in his or her district regarding health care policies and concerns of importance to pharmacists. In addition, PSW will build a grass-roots educational initiative that targets members of key committees and legislative leaders. All PSW members will be encouraged to participate in the legislative initiative at some level.

The PSW Board also provided continued direction to the formation of the Wisconsin Pharmacy Quality Collaborative as a strategy and statewide activity

to advance payment for quality service performance by pharmacists and to create a method to measure performance. Health policy makers and health care purchasers at both the state and national level are calling for improvement in health care quality and a differentiated system of reward and recognition based upon quality performance. PSW has made a commitment to being a leader in this emerging area of health care policy and PSW will work to develop a system that works for pharmacists, purchasers and patients alike. The PSW initiative is expected to begin in mid-2007.

The PSW Board also approved the formation of a Hospital Pharmacy Advisory Board in order to broaden the input and participation of pharmacists from this area of practice. The advisory board will be appointed in early 2007 and PSW members Lynne Dittman and Steve Ebert have been appointed as the chair and vice chair respectively. An additional eight PSW members will be appointed by the PSW Board to serve on the advisory group. The scope of work to be considered

by the advisory board will be defined to meet the following four objectives: to advise PSW and the Wisconsin ASHP delegates on issues of importance to hospital pharmacy practice and management in Wisconsin; to engage more stakeholders in the determination of PSW activities and policies; to support and promote PSW membership, programs and activities; and to advise PSW leaders on organizational activities related to ASHP.

Through its annual budgeting and resource allocation process, the PSW Board also reaffirmed the organization's commitment to core membership services such as multiple educational conferences provided

throughout the year at varied Wisconsin locations, the provision of frequent and substantive membership communication products, a strong state legislative advocacy program, and continued service as a meaningful pharmacy business and pharmacy practice resource. The Board recognized the critical importance of both individual and pharmacy memberships to provide the financial and human resources necessary to conduct the business of the organization. Although the PSW Board chose not to increase the dues for either individual or

pharmacy membership categories, it did call for the creation of an aggressive membership campaign to increase the number of members in both categories. ●

The PSW Board of Directors invites the views, ideas and input of all PSW members relative to the operation of the organization and the prioritization of activities. Recommendations and requests can be made by contacting PSW at pswboard@pswi.org or PSW, 701 Heartland Trail, Madison, WI 53717.

The Board has made relationship development between pharmacists and elected officials a priority for 2007.

Call for Abstracts

PSW is seeking poster presentation submissions for the 2007 Educational Conference. Through posters, pharmacy practitioners can share unique practice ideas, programs or experiences with colleagues. The poster session is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24 from 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. concurrently with the Exhibit Reception. Poster topics may cover any area of pharmacy practice. Submission by pharmacists, residents, students and technicians will be considered. Posters will be selected by a review committee. The deadline for submission is March 16. Call the PSW office for an abstract form or e-mail maria@pswi.org.