

The Legislative Series University of Houston College of Pharmacy

Project Description & Implementation Overview

This year, the University of Houston AMCP student chapter collaborated with their local APhA, SNPhA, and NCPA student chapters in order to coordinate a 3-part legislative series designed to further educate student pharmacists on the importance of advocating for the pharmacy profession and how they can make their voices heard. Throughout the series, each participating student organization gives a presentation on a different topic pertaining pharmacy legislation. Our AMCP chapter legislative co-chairs presented an interactive session regarding bills concerning Abuse Deterrent Formulations and the MedSync program.

Purpose of the Project

The Legislative Series is designed to increase awareness of current legislative events and encourage students to take a proactive role in advocacy for the pharmacy profession. The series highlighted three important aspects: why advocacy is important, how to make an impact and get involved with advocacy, and education about the pharmacy related Texas bills that were filed in the recent legislative session. This 3-part legislative series also aims to empower students with the necessary knowledge essential for their future contribution to the advancement of the pharmacy profession.

Project Budget: Expenses and Revenues

1. Assorted candies: estimated cost = \$5
 - a. Candies were used as incentives for the quiz portion of our presentation
2. Starbucks gift card = \$10
 - a. Gift card was used as an incentive for the quiz portion of our presentation
3. Food and beverages: estimated cost \$100
 - a. Food costs were divided between the participating organizations
4. Student pharmacists and guest presenter = \$0
5. There was no revenue collected during this event

Who and How Many Chapter Members are involved?

The event was a combined effort of the AMCP, APhA, SNPhA, and NCPA legislative chairs. From AMCP, the president and vice president helped organize the event including location and advertising via social media and email. The two legislative chairs were responsible for preparing and giving a presentation as well as providing any supplemental materials.

Who Should be Targeted? Audience or Involvement? How Do You Find Them? How Do You Contact?

Audience: The Legislative Series was opened to the entire University of Houston College of Pharmacy. NCPA was in charge of sending out google forms, which were emailed out to all student pharmacists to give them the opportunity to RSVP and attend. The audience targeted was the entire student body of UHCOP, especially those who are interested in advocacy and pharmacy legislation. Overall, approximately 35 students attended the legislative series presentations.



Speakers: Presentations of the legislative series were done by the legislative chairs of each respective organization. Justin Hudman, division director of public affairs of Texas Pharmacy Association, was also invited to give a presentation. He was contacted through student members of Texas Pharmacy Association. For AMCP, our legislative co-chairs were contacted. They were responsible for choosing a topic of pharmacy legislation pertaining to managed care and creating a corresponding presentation and Kahoot quiz to accompany the presentation. Our legislative co-chairs were selected at the beginning of the semester through an interview process. Selection was based on interest in pharmacy legislation and past leadership experience.

What Materials are needed? Outside Resources, Ordering, etc.?

Ordering: Light lunches and refreshments were provided for each of the series presentations

Venue: The legislative series took place in a classroom located within our pharmacy building

Resources: Computer, projector, and microphones were used for the presentations

Information resources: Our legislative chairs looked to outside resources to obtain information pertaining to Abuse Deterrent Formulations and MedSync bills. Below are the list of resources they obtained their information from:

- <https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/Guidances/UCM334743.pdf>
<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/BillNumber.aspx>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths.html>
- February 2015 in Washington DC at the CADCA meeting. Topic - "Abuse deterrent formulations of RX drugs"
- <http://ncpa.co/uploads/Arkansas-One-Pager.pdf>
- <http://www.tlc.texas.gov/docs/legref/legislativeprocess.pdf>

Miscellaneous: Kahoot.com for the interactive quiz portion of our presentation, prizes

Timeline for Implementation and Execution

One month before the event or Earlier to a Potential Event

1. Contact speakers and assign speaking points
2. Confirm date and reserve venue for

event Two weeks before the event

1. Advertise/promote event to the whole college of pharmacy through emails, facebook, and in class announcements up until the event
2. Open RSVP form to the entire student body

One week before the event

1. Place food and refreshments order
2. Rehearse presentations
3. Send reminder emails about the

event The day of the event

1. Pick up food/refreshments and utensils required.
2. Documentation of event through pictures
3. Thank student pharmacists and special guest

speaker Within week after the event:

1. Meet with officers to discuss pros and cons of the event and how to improve the series for next year
2. Reimburse as needed

Follow-up with Faculty Members/Volunteers/Participants

All presenting student pharmacists, faculty, and speakers were thanked via email and thank you cards when appropriate. Additionally, the officers had a meeting to discuss pros, cons, and improvements for the following year.

Project Evaluation:

What Went Well:

Overall, the Legislative Series was very successful. A variety of pharmacy students, from first year to third year, attended the series. As a whole, everyone gained new knowledge about current state legislation and how to participate in advocacy. Using an interactive quiz with prizes at the end of presentations helped improve overall participation and retention of knowledge. The time, date, and location were all convenient for the speakers and student pharmacists and therefore, was successful.

What Didn't:

The biggest area of improvement for the legislative series is student participation. Although many students attended, there could be more efforts to increase student interest and contribution. Additionally, student feedback could be improved upon. Although we were able to meet with the officers of each respective organization to discuss pros and cons, we did not receive any advice on how to improve the series from any non-officers.

How to Improve for the Next Year:

Using the feedback and experience from this event, we plan on improving upon the Legislative Series for the years to come. Areas to focus on for improvement are student interest and feedback.

In order to obtain more student interest, more emphasis will be put on the legislative series during our college of pharmacy's new student orientation. This orientation is crucial for promoting organizational events and recruiting chapter members. The added emphasis on legislation will hopefully attract passionate individuals who strive to move the profession of pharmacy forward through advocacy and education.

Furthermore, this year AMCP has incorporated short, biannual legislative presentations into our general meetings. These legislative segments inform members of current legislative concerns that affect pharmacy and health care. With the increased exposure to legislative matters, students will be more aware of the importance of advocacy and how to participate in it.

In order to further improve on student feedback, a collective survey will be sent out to all student participants so that we can gain feedback on how to improve in the future. Officer and faculty feedback are also crucial, so we will continue to meet up afterwards to discuss the pros and cons of the legislative series.



Project Checklist/Timeline:

- Contact student organization that would be interesting in collaborating in the Legislative Series
- Find and contact appropriate speakers for best availability and assign speaking points Secure date, time, and location
- Publicize the event
 - Create flyers
 - Send emails
 - Make Facebook posts
 - Send out RSVP form
- Make arrangement for food, beverages, supplies/utensils, and prizes
- Ensure all presentations and supplemental materials are ready and compatible with school's system
- Send follow up thank you cards to guest speakers
- Collect feedback from attendees and organizers after the event

