The March 14th Board of Pharmacy Meeting was held at the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations offices in Springfield. These are the highlights of that meeting.

Practice Act Sunset – The Department is running two identical bills that will update the Pharmacy Practice Act Sunset date and a few other changes. The bills, SB0902 sponsored by Sen. Dale Righter, R-Mattoon and HB3462 sponsored by Rep. Mike Zalewski, D-Riverside would extend the effective date of the Act through Dec. 31, 2027 and would also make a few minor changes including requirement of email addresses for each registrant or applicant, removal of State Board of Pharmacy member per diems, deletion of the minimum required number of pharmacy inspectors and deletion of the position of deputy pharmacy compliance coordinator.

Affiliated Monitors – Beth Anne Compton, JD, Regional Director of Affiliated Monitors presented an overview of their company and services that could be used by pharmacies or pharmacists who have been court ordered independent monitors as a condition of a discipline against their licenses. The company already works with the Illinois Medical Board as an independent monitor of physicians who have received discipline of some sort and are now required to provide regular reports from an independent monitor. Situations like Medicare fraud, insurance fraud, diversion or other violations often require an outside company to provide reports to the Board. Affiliated Monitors currently provide services to individual clients (not the State agencies, medical boards or pharmacy boards) in 27 State and have live cases where they monitor individuals practices defined by court order for five State Boards of Pharmacy in Rhode Island, New Jersey, Tennessee, Colorado and Nevada. They have provided pharmacy monitoring services in Texas and Iowa in the past. They work for and are paid by the disciplined individual but report to the respective medical or pharmacy board of that State. The presentation was informational so that the Board and Department staff are familiar with their services.

2017 License Renewals – Chances are this article will be published in April, and the deadline for 2017 license renewals will be past (March 31st). This year only pharmacy technicians’, certified pharmacy technicians’ and student pharmacists’ licenses are up for renewal. At the time of the Board meeting nearly two-thirds of the licensed individuals had still not renewed. ICHP sent out a reminder to its pharmacy director members in March reminding them to make sure their technicians renewed before the deadline.

Legislative Update – At each Board of Pharmacy meeting, ICHP or IPhA staff provide a summary of pharmacy-related legislation before the General Assembly. At this meeting a 23-page document was summarized by yours truly. While ICHP has over 80 bills and resolutions that it is currently monitoring, about 20 of these bills were discussed. A full report of bills before the General Assembly can be found in the Government Affairs Report in this issue of KeePosted.
Next Board of Pharmacy Meeting – The next meeting of the Illinois Board of Pharmacy will be held at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, May 9th at the James R. Thompson Center in downtown Chicago. Announcements and agendas are posted at least 14 days in advance on the IDFPR pharmacy website. The profession is welcome to attend the open portion of this meeting.

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