IN YOUR VIEW, HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE THE IDEAL PRACTICE ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE AT THE STATE LEVEL?

Practice Advancement at the state level should be a member-driven, engaging process. As such, the Ohio Society of Health-System Pharmacists (OSHP) has developed a Practice Advancement Initiative Steering Group within our organization in order to develop and implement recommendations related to practice advancement through our organization. This group is currently made up of 17 individuals including pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and a student pharmacist. Currently, the Steering Group has two co-chairs. This model allows for distribution of work-load and varying perspectives on initiatives that bring diversity to issues discussed (one current co-chair is a new practitioner, and one current co-chair is a pharmacy technician).
HOW DO PHARMACISTS NOW PROVIDE CARE TO PATIENTS AND ENSURE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE MEDICATION THERAPY?

Within the state of Ohio, pharmacists provide direct patient care in a variety of settings, primarily inpatient and ambulatory. Pharmacists ensure safe and effective medication use by acting as the medication experts within their institution. Often, pharmacists are involved in institution-wide or health-system-wide initiatives related to improving patient care. Some examples of initiatives that could involve pharmacists include inpatient antimicrobial stewardship programs, outpatient anticoagulation management clinical services, and patient safety team efforts.

WHAT SERVICES HAVE YOU DETERMINED TO BE ESSENTIAL TO SUPPORT PAI IN YOUR STATE?

Services that are essential in supporting PAI in Ohio include:

- Involving and advancing pharmacy technicians in supporting roles in order to allow pharmacists to practice at the top of their license
- Incorporating student pharmacists in patient care services and deploying layered learning models
- Expanding pharmacy resident education within the state of Ohio
- Identifying Ohio-specific areas of priority by utilizing the PAI Hospital Self-Assessment and PAI Ambulatory Care Self-Assessments
- Establishing interprofessional relationships in the inpatient and outpatient setting in order to advance patient care in a team-based environment
- Determining best ways to reach small and rural institutions in order to best serve all pharmacists throughout the state of Ohio

HOW DID YOUR AFFILIATE USE THE ASHP FOUNDATION PAI STATE AFFILIATE WORKSHOP GRANT IN YOUR STATE?

Our state affiliate was fortunate to receive two separate ASHP Foundation PAI State Affiliate Workshop Grants. Our first grant funding focused on hosting regional PAI (formerly PPMI) workshops in rural areas of Ohio in order to engage practitioners who are often unable to attend state-wide programming. Our second grant funding was used to host a multi-organization Ohio Ambulatory Care Summit in collaboration with the Ohio Pharmacists Association and the Ohio College of Clinical Pharmacy. This unified effort brought pharmacists, pharmacy residents, pharmacy technicians, and student pharmacists together from all practice settings to determine and discuss how to best advance ambulatory care services within the state of Ohio.

HOW DID YOU SHARE THE SUCCESSES OF YOUR AFFILIATE PAI WORKSHOP?

Success of the PAI workshop was shared with membership of the organization through state affiliate publications and social media.
WHAT ARE SOME KEY CONSIDERATIONS TO GAIN MEMBER ACCEPTANCE AND BUY-IN FOR PAI?

Key considerations to gain acceptance and buy-in are emphasizing the “why” behind PAI efforts. As Simon Sinek said, “People don’t buy what you do, they buy why you do it.” This is certainly true for PAI. A small group of individuals can move an entire organization in a positive direction and influence practice throughout the entire state.

HOW DID YOU GAIN SUPPORT OF STAKEHOLDERS IN YOUR STATE TO IMPLEMENT INITIATIVES RELATED TO PAI?

Stakeholders, including leadership of OSHP and other state organizations, are bought into PAI because of the shared understanding of the need to advance the role of pharmacy in order to improve patient care. The level of support was already established; PAI provides a framework for moving practice forward that we needed.

WHAT ARE SOME LESSONS LEARNED WHILE IMPLEMENTING PAI THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHERS?

Lessons learned include: engage your membership, be persistent in efforts, dedicate resources to focus on PAI, and convey the message of PAI importance to your member through various means.