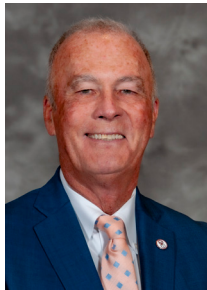


120th NABP Annual Meeting
May 14-17, 2024

Report of the Executive Committee

Presented by:

Reginald B. "Reggie" Dilliard, DPh



Good morning, fellow members, distinguished guests, and friends! Welcome to the first business session of the 120th NABP Annual Meeting. It's

truly a pleasure to see so many familiar faces gathered here today.

For me, this Annual Meeting is not just a conference, it's a reunion, a chance to reconnect with old friends and colleagues, and to forge new connections within this vibrant community we call NABP. I hope you're all taking advantage of the opportunity to catch up, share experiences, and perhaps indulge in some of the delights that Fort Worth has to offer – whether it's exploring the charms of Sundance Square or savoring some classic Texas barbecue (although as a barbecue snob, I prefer Memphis style).

Reflecting on the past year, I'm reminded of the theme I spoke about in our last gathering: the importance of embracing change. The pharmacy landscape has undergone dramatic transformations in the past decade, from the rise of telepharmacy and e-prescribing to the emergence of new roles and responsibilities for pharmacists. The demand for expanded pharmacy services, coupled with the need to adapt regulations swiftly, poses significant challenges to our profession and

the boards that govern it. Yet, amidst these challenges lie opportunities for growth and innovation.

Change is inevitable. Change is challenging. But change is also an opportunity. An opportunity to grow, to innovate, and to lead.

As NABP President from 2022 to 2023, my initiative was to embrace a new pharmacy practice model aimed at enhancing and promoting patient safety while allowing pharmacists to practice at the top of their ability. My intention was to empower the boards of pharmacy to identify and overcome barriers that impede patient access to treatment and care and to increase patient access by expanding the pharmacists' scope of practice.

Now, I'm eager to share the progress we've made over the last year in advancing this critical mission during my tenure as chairperson of the Executive Committee.

In that spirit, I'd like to take a moment to share a [video](#) highlighting the Association's work and achievements in 2023.

I'd like to continue by outlining some revisions to *Model State Pharmacy Act and Model Rules of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy*. This year, the *Model Act* underwent significant updates aimed at modernizing definitions and prioritizing patient safety. As a foundational resource for state laws and board rules, the *Model Act* is updated annually, incorporating recommendations from task forces

and committees, such as the Committee on Law Enforcement and Legislation, and approved by the Executive Committee. The latest revisions reflect the evolving landscape of pharmacy practice, including expanded scope of practice for pharmacists that have already been approved in certain states.

Changes include acknowledging the authority to prescribe and discontinue medications, order lab tests, and participate in telepharmacy consultations, aligning with the evolving role of pharmacists as essential health care providers. Furthermore, new definitions and standards for nuclear pharmacy and dispensing practitioners were adopted to enhance training and promote safer practices. Additionally, recognizing the growing importance of digital communication in health care, the concept of "website and other digital content" was expanded to focus on how these resources facilitate patient education and engagement across various digital platforms.

While these changes may appear minor, it's crucial to consider them within the context of the current pharmacy landscape. In 2022, the NABP Foundation®, in collaboration with other organizations, including the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), conducted a National Pharmacist Workforce Study — a survey that provided valuable insights into how pharmacy has evolved since 2020.

You can access the latest report through the AACP website.

The results confirmed that the pharmacy landscape has been impacted by demographic changes, technological innovations, and new opportunities for pharmacists' roles and scope of practice. And it also identified and confirmed some of the challenges facing pharmacists, which include:

- a shortage of qualified providers in some regions in part due to decreasing enrollment and retention of pharmacy students and pharmacists;
- inadequate reporting systems, unclear definitions of medication errors, and fear of blame or punishment that hinders pharmacists from reporting and learning from such mistakes; and
- pharmacy deserts affecting the availability of health care for many patients.

These challenges combine to present a threat to public health. They increase the risk of adverse events, poor adherence, and other negative outcomes.

To overcome these obstacles to public health protection, we need to collaborate with each other, and with other health care providers to advocate for our profession and our patients. One way we've worked to achieve that is through continued collaboration with organizations like the Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, as evidenced by our continued participation in the Tri-Regulator Collaborative.

Innovation in our practice and education models will help us to utilize modern technologies to support patient care and safety, which I know Jeff Mesaros, our incoming president, is eager to talk to you about.

These challenges cannot be overcome all at once; instead, we will need to continue to evolve our solutions as change continues.

With our focus on contemporary approaches to pharmacist well-being under Lenora's guidance, and Jeff's plans to help us focus on technological innovation, we are well positioned as an association to continue developing creative and collaborative solutions to protect our patients.

Now, I'd like to shift a bit to review the work and outcomes of another important NABP task force, the Task Force on Unprofessional Conduct and Disciplinary Actions, which met at NABP Headquarters in September 2023.

This Task Force was charged with reviewing sections of the *Model Act* related to disciplinary sanctions, particularly those recommended by the Committee on Law Enforcement and Legislation, and with suggesting further revisions as needed.

After a thorough discussion, the task force members recommended exploring development of a decision tree for boards of pharmacy to use in evaluating quality-related events from a "just culture" perspective focusing on human behavior. They also suggested developing a policy statement on just culture perspective and its potential role in addressing incidents.

In addition to our task force achievements in 2023, NABP programs and services saw success in supporting member boards and helping to protect public health. This includes one of the newest services – NABP Verify®.

In 2022, the Association launched Verify as a new license monitoring service designed to support participating state boards and jurisdictions that need ongoing licensure verification for out-of-state pharmacists. The program is also experiencing major support from industry leaders who require this service for their employees. NABP Verify is not an authorization to practice pharmacy; rather it provides evidence that a pharmacist's licenses are in good standing. For boards of pharmacy, it is another tool to help

them facilitate credentialing and easily confirm that the participating pharmacists hold a license in good standing. Also, this service helps alleviate administrative burden while maintaining or increasing patient safety through monitoring licensure status and board actions.

North Carolina has been utilizing NABP Verify since it launched in 2022 for out-of-state pharmacists who practice using an interstate model. And in March, the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy voted to approve a regulation that requires pharmacists located outside of the state of Kentucky who are providing services to residents of Kentucky be licensed as a non-resident pharmacist. Pharmacists licensed under this framework will be required to obtain and maintain a credential via NABP Verify. Kentucky's new regulations are currently under evaluation by the state's legislative review committee. Once approved, the board can work with NABP to add their state's credential to NABP Verify.

If you're interested in learning more about how NABP Verify may be used in your state, contact NABP Member Relations and Government Affairs staff.

As an example of how NABP is making it easier for pharmacists and boards of pharmacy to track compliance, let's talk about CPE Monitor®. This vital service offers pharmacists the ability to track information about continuing pharmacy education (CPE) credits to monitor compliance with licensure regulations. Created and improved through a collaborative effort by NABP and its member boards, as well as the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), CPE Monitor receives direct activity data from more than 325 ACPE-accredited providers that offer CPE.

Recently, CPE Monitor has been updated to provide a more modern interface and a better user experience. If you utilize this service, you may have already noticed the fresh look and feel of the app and the

website, which are designed to make it easier and faster for you to access and manage your CPE records. Today, CPE Monitor is accessible via a high-quality mobile app and a desktop interface. Depending on their subscription level, participants can download a list of their CPE activities, view state-specific transcripts, and upload non-ACPE CPE credits. This data can be accessed by the boards through NABP eProfile Connect®. Boards can also partner with NABP on customizing data sharing tools to monitor CPE compliance, in addition to other information about licensees.

As I conclude my term of service on the Executive Committee, I want to take a moment to acknowledge all the work you all do as members of your board of pharmacy. Sometimes, it may seem like what you do doesn't matter and you aren't making a difference, but I can assure you that what you do does matter to your patients and to the profession. Likewise, what you don't do may matter as we look to remove rules that are no longer relevant to today's practice and avoid placing new barriers when we make rule changes. Finally, I would certainly be remiss if I didn't take a moment to

thank my friends and family for their support in this journey, especially my wife, Jennifer, who reminds me daily to make good choices. Apparently, I need daily reminders.

Finally, I want to thank you all for this opportunity to help lead the boards of pharmacy at such a crucial time in the Association's history. I will continue to embrace the spirit of change, looking toward the positive as we continue to innovate with a focus on our all-important public health mission. You truly are my friends, and I look forward to continuing these friendships and working together for years to come.