Pharmacists Planning Services, Inc presents proposal before the

Licensing Committee of the California Board of Pharmacy

(See suggested citation at end of document)

On June 18, 2014 Pharmacists Planning Services, Inc (PPSI) appeared before the California Board of Pharmacy to present a proposal to eliminate tobacco products from all California pharmacies. The board gave a resolution to support the proposal, and the licensing committee voted in favor of the resolution (vote tally: 5-0). On July 30th 2014, the full board will vote on the resolution for final approval.

Three main issues were presented to support eliminating tobacco products from pharmacies as follows:

1. Tobacco products are addictive and contribute to the development of cancer and many other health complications. They also cause more than 400,000 deaths per year in the United States. Therefore, pharmacies should discontinue the sale of tobacco products to 1) convey an important healthcare message to the public; 2) demonstrate pharmacists’ commitments to protect and improve the health of patients; and to 3) enhance the image of pharmacies and the pharmacist profession.
2. Following the new American Public Health Association (APHA) guidelines, the American Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education was urged to adopt the position that college-administered pharmacy experience programs should only use pharmacies that do not sell tobacco products. Pharmacists and other student pharmacists who are seeking employment are also urged to pursue positions at pharmacies that do not sell tobacco products.
3. CVS is ending tobacco sales by October 1, 2014. CVS will also increase and enhance smoking cessation programs offered.

In response to the proposal, the California Board of Pharmacy made the following remarks:

1. The Board of Pharmacy has no authority to make laws to eliminate all tobacco products from pharmacies. Enforcing such a policy would require going through the proper legal authority. The board can however, advise the public that tobacco products are harmful, and make a policy that would encourage the end of pharmacy tobacco sales.
2. The board has never become involved with regulating any other products except for pseudoephedrine.
3. Board member Dr. Panos asked the board if they could write a letter to support this proposal. Lavanza Butler also wanted to support a recommendation. The letter would support the decision not to sell tobacco products and e-cigarettes in pharmacies.
4. Albert C.M. Wong noted that a lot of people are quitting smoking because of the message out there. He also recommended the letter emphasize that youths quit using e-cigarettes.

**Decision:** The committee agreed on the recommendation to support the idea that pharmacies should not sell tobacco products or e-cigarettes.

Comments made by the public:

1. Whether the Board could enforce a resolution that pharmacies that sell cigarettes cannot provide Medicare/Medicaid.
2. The California Retailers Association said they have not found any evidence that says preventing the sales of cigarettes would decrease the number of people using cigarettes.
3. The California Society of Health Systems Pharmacists supports this decision.

**Supporting documentation from the meeting can be found at the end of this document.**

**Suggested citation**:

Russell, Laura. PPSI presents proposal before licensing committee of CBOP. [www.TobaccoFreeRx.org](http://www.TobaccoFreeRx.org); Published online July 2, 2014.

**Supporting Documentation**

**Double click on the pdfs below to view the supporting documentation**



