

ASPA

ASSOCIATION OF SPECIALIZED AND PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITORS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2008 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

ASPA expands its focus on professional development to feature two important and timely issues: how accreditor boards plan for crisis and how boards grow stronger through new member orientation and development. Drawing both on special guests and ASPA veterans, these sessions will offer participants an opportunity to hear from experienced observers and to take part in facilitated discussions.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 1: SEPTEMBER 8 CRISES: PREPARATION, RESPONSE, MANAGEMENT

Crises for an accreditor, whether meteorological (as in New Orleans), fiscal, or institutional, can emerge as challenges variable in their dimensions according to the organization's readiness. In the light of first-hand reflections by university officials who dealt successfully with the aftermath of Katrina, participants in this session will consider crisis management from two distinct perspectives.

First, how should standards be applied in the midst of responding to a natural disaster or other crisis? How can leniency and understanding be managed so as to remain in balance with consistency? Are there opportunities for coordination in this regard with regional and national accreditors? With other specialized accreditors? Second, what can accrediting organizations learn from Katrina—and from one another—in terms of preparing for and managing their own internal crises? What are the elements necessary to an adequate crisis management plan? Are there circumstances capable of overwhelming any plan? What should be the immediate priorities in recovery?

Participants should come prepared to think seriously about these issues, to share their experiences, and to contribute to an emerging consensus about what constitutes effective disaster planning at the association level.

1:45 – 2:00 What are the issues?

Greg Boyer, Assistant Executive Director, ACPE: Pharmacy Education and Chair of the ASPA Professional Development Committee for this program, will introduce the issues to be considered in the course of the workshop. After reviewing the questions proposed above, participants should be particularly alert to areas of concern that appear not to be included. The final discussion of the afternoon will offer an opportunity to consider such areas.

2:00 – 3:00 Present and Accounted For

According to the May 5, 2008, *Boston Globe*, "Two-and-a-half years after Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans, vast sections remain damaged and half-deserted, and many fear the Crescent City will never be quite the same. But Tulane [University] has not only recovered from the storm, it has rebounded to new heights that place it among the country's most sought-after schools." Similarly, Louisiana State University has earned national recognition for its response to an unprecedented call on its services and infrastructure. Tulane's Chief Operating Officer, Yvette Jones, and Eric N. Monday, Associate Vice Chancellor for Administrative and Financial Services at LSU, will join former ASPA chair, Paul Gaston, for a discussion of the challenges Tulane and LSU have faced and why they have been so successful in meeting those challenges—particularly from an operational point of view. There will be ample opportunity for discussion.

3:00 – 3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:30 The Inside View and the View to the Outside

A panel of experienced ASPA members will consider both preparation for crises internal to the accrediting organization and the range of responses to crises experienced by programs accredited and under review. The hoped-for result? Observations from panelists offer a sense of an emerging consensus with regard to best practices.

4:30 – 5:15 Looking Ahead

Beginning with the issues identified at the outset of the workshop, participants will consider how ASPA might more effectively in the future assist its members in preparing for and responding to crisis. Possibilities might include subsequent workshops targeted to specific elements of disaster preparedness (technology recovery, documents protection, staff reconvening, etc.), the appointment of a ready-response crisis counsel team within ASPA, a legal briefing on disaster-related issues of liability, or the development of an ASPA guide to crisis management.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2: SEPTEMBER 9
DEVELOPING NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

For an accrediting association, a scheduled orientation/introduction/induction/inauguration of new members of the association's board offers an invaluable opportunity to accomplish several closely related priorities. In this session, participants will consider an opening presentation on some priorities, then meet for discussion on how these (and perhaps other) priorities might most effectively be realized. Reports from these discussions during the final session should offer a basis for a short guide to best practices in board member orientation. This resource should continue to support ASPA members in their board member orientations.

8:30 – 9:00 “Orienting New Board Members: What Are You Trying to Accomplish?”

Facilitator Paul Gaston will provide a brief overview of several priorities in effective board member development and seek suggestions for priorities that may have been missed or should be more clearly or comprehensively stated.

9:00 – 10:15 Group Discussions

Participants will organize themselves into eight groups according to priorities that have been identified. Each group, led by an ASPA board member, will address a single question related to the chosen priority: in what ways might this priority be most effectively accomplished? At the end of the discussion, each group will complete a form provided to support the development of a guide to best practice.

10:15 – 10:45 Check Out

This extended break is provided as a service to participants who may need to check out of the hotel, but it offers also an ideal opportunity for members of different discussion groups to compare notes.

10:45 – 11:45 Framing a Guide to Best Practice

A spokesperson for each group will report in some detail on strategies for accomplishing the developmental priority that group has considered in its discussion. The facilitator will assist in identifying common themes, possible inconsistencies, and areas of consensus. From the reports submitted by the discussion groups and the substance of this discussion, the facilitator will prepare for ASPA a brief guide to best practice in board member development.

Noon: Meeting adjourned