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Points of Interest:

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Renew your membership today! Visit our website for more information on how to renew:
www.nvsph.com

Stay up to date on NVSHP news and events. Email changes in your contact information to:
nvsphinfo@gmail.com.



Message From The President

I am very honored to be serving as your President for NVSHP this year. The Board of Directors and committee members have been working hard to plan 2011 and start the New Year off at full speed. The Board of Directors met in person on January 8th to plan the year at our Annual Strategic Planning meeting. We were honored to have Hannah Vanderpool from ASHP attend our meeting and help the Board of Directors review and update the goals, strategies, and action plans for 2011.

I am very excited to welcome our new president-elect, Sandy Sierawski, student representative, Anthony Fermin, and returning Board members, Corrine Bailey and Paul Oesterman. See page 2 for a current list of all our BOD and their contact information.

Looking back on our organization we have come a long way in the last five years. We are continuing to grow and find new ways to serve our members. I am excited about the possibilities for growth in the year ahead. The Board of Directors and committees have many plans to help NVSHP take new directions which will help ensure another successful year for our organization. 2010 was full of successes which are highlighted throughout this newsletter.

All of our committees met in January or February to review their goals for 2011 and start making plans for the new year. There is more information on the various committees and their work in this newsletter. Highlights for 2011 include: Our 4th Annual Meeting which will be held in Northern Nevada this fall and our first Annual Technician Meetings planned for March 12th in Northern Nevada and this fall in Southern Nevada.

I want to personally extend appreciation to those who volunteer their time, effort, and ideas to help this organization be successful in serving the needs of our state. I would like to encourage and challenge current members to get involved, whether it's on a committee, volunteering to write an article for an upcoming newsletter, attending a Board of Pharmacy meeting or helping to recruit new members. The future of NVSHP looks very bright. Please reach out to me or any Board Member if you have any questions about NVSHP or if you desire to become more involved in our organization.

Regards,

Tracie Balvanz

Welcome to Our New President Elect

Sandy received her B.S. degree in Pharmacy from Ohio Northern University College of Pharmacy and her Masters in Business Administration at the Ohio State University Fisher College of Business. She practiced pharmacy at The Ohio State University Medical Center for over 25 years serving in numerous roles including Assistant Director over Purchasing and Medication Management, Director for the Center for Drug Policy, and Clinical Instructor at the College of Pharmacy. Sandy joined Pfizer in Columbus, Ohio, April 2004 and relocated to Las Vegas, NV in September 2005 where she currently works in the Medical Affairs Division as the Medical Outcomes Specialist (MOS) for the State of Nevada.

As a Medical Outcomes Specialist, Sandy collaborates with Nevada customers to advance patient care through educational information and development of local "real world" data projects. At Pfizer, Sandy has served on a number of working groups and advisory committees. She currently participates on the Anti-Infective Product Support Team and is the West MOS representative with the Value Based Benefit Design/Employer Health Trends & Channels. Along with her current duties, Sandy has recently taken on a 6-month Internship role in the ongoing development of a web-based platform, iDNA- Informed Data and Analytics, which is utilized to create customized analyses and reports using medical and pharmacy utilization data. Maintaining her commitment to teaching, Sandy conducts a 6 week rotation for Pharm. D. students from the University of Southern Nevada College of Pharmacy.

Immediate Past President

Caryn Bing
(cbing@criticalcaresystems.com)

President

Tracie Balvanz
(tracie.balvanz2@va.gov)

President-Elect

Sandy Sierawski
(sandy.sierawski@pfizer.com)

Secretary

Diana Quach
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Corrine Bailey
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Legislative Committee Chair

Adam Porath
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Membership Committee Chair

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Awards and Nominations**Committee Chair**

Caryn Bing
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Technician Representative

Adrienne Santiago
(asantiago@ccnn4u.com)

Student Representatives

Jeni Riddle - P3 year
(jridde@student.usn.edu)

Michelle Blair - P2 year
(mblair@student.usn.edu)

Anthony Fermin - P1 year
(afermin@student.usn.edu)

Newsletter Editor

Michael Bartholow
(mbartholow1@gmail.com)

NVSHP Election Results

The results are in for the NVSHP Board of Directors and ASHP House of Delegates. Congratulations go out to the following:

NVSHP President-Elect Sandy Sierawski

NVSHP Treasurer Paul Oesterman

NVSHP Director-at-Large Corrine Bailey

In addition, in December, NVSHP held delegate elections for the ASHP House of Delegates primary and alternate delegates representing Nevada at various ASHP events in 2011. The delegates are as follows:

Delegates:

Julie Rodgers

Caryn Bing

Alternate delegates:

Robert Long

Kathryn "Katie" Craven

Education Committee Communication

Dear member/potential member,

Please accept the first greeting of the year from the 2011 education committee who I am proud to say will be chaired by Kate Miller (pharmacist Renown Regional Medical Center). I would also like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank those who dedicated personal time and service to the education committee over the past year. It was because of your efforts that we were able to achieve such great success. I would like personally thank Katherine Smith and the University of Southern Nevada for accrediting our CE programs for the annual meeting as well as Caryn Bing and the rest of the board for their constant support. The education committee gained momentum over the 2010 year by coordinating two high quality live CE programs on the topic of novel anticoagulants delivered by the impressive Dr. William Dager. In addition to this interesting and timely topic, the event boasted good food and great networking opportunities at no charge to NVSHP members as local pharmacists from across the region met to take in the information. We carried this momentum forward in planning the NVSHP annual where it blossomed into a very successful meeting. Attendees enjoyed themselves at the luxurious Green Valley Ranch Resort in Henderson where we featured strong industry support in our exhibit hall, plenty of time for networking and of course, a full day of high quality CE. One comment I would like to make about our society is don't let our small size fool you. It is our smaller size that allows exclusive access to speakers, leaders, and peers throughout the day for all who attend our programs. The committee has already had its first planning call and is beginning to coordinate events for the upcoming year and beyond. The 2011 annual meeting will be held Reno this year and we are hoping to be able to offer additional live CE events in both Northern and Southern parts of the Silver State. In conclusion, in this year of licensure renewal, please consider attending the annual meeting or any one of the other events hosted by NVSHP to gain your CE. I truly believe you will take home more than just credits from them. I ask that you make it a habit to regularly visit the NVSHP website at www.NVSHP.org or become our friend on Facebook on order to keep up on information the education committee will be putting out this year.

Cheers,

Gary Brooks Pharm.D., BCPS, BCNSP

Social Networking and Pharmacy

By: Jintu John and Nidhi Rajan, Pharm D candidates, USN Class of 2013

In today's world, social networking has transcended from the notion of it being a mere source of fun and recreation to an integral contributing element of modern society that influences all walks of life such as business, education, research, religion, and art. According to a report from Net pop Research, LLC, the number of social networking sites has nearly doubled since 2006 and communicating through social networks consume approximately 32% of all the time spent online by computer users. Social networking has made the world smaller by making people virtually accessible to each other, thereby, making each individual an agency of information and resources. This aspect of social networking has benefitted every profession in terms of connecting with people and exchange of ideas. Like all other professions, the concept of social networking has become an inevitable phenomenon within pharmaceutical industry encompassing education, research, marketing, and sales.

Social networking websites like American Pharmacists Association (APhA), American Society of Health System Pharmacy (ASHP), Non Prescription Medicines Academy (NMA) cater to the field of pharmacy and offer opportunities to communicate and to develop a network of pharmacy professionals worldwide. It offers pharmacists, pharmacy students, and pharmacy technicians' continuing education lessons, job search forums, news and updates from the industry, professional discussions and blog forums, and much more.

APhA has created its Facebook presence with the goal of keeping people informed, while connecting them with other individuals who share an interest in the profession of pharmacy. The APhA LinkedIn network connects individuals to their trusted contacts and helps them to exchange information, ideas, and opportunities with a broader network of professionals. APhA's YouTube channel showcases several informative video from APhA. Thus it is helping to be connected to other pharmacists and pharmacy community. APhA provides continuing education through online CE program and national professional associations like ASHP and APhA have their own blogs and Facebook pages that share valuable information which pharmacy students may not get through classroom learning.

The benefits of social networking in pharmacy are many fold, in that; it benefits both the pharmacy community as well as the lay public in many different ways. Social networking serves as an easy tool to keep oneself updated because as students and pharmacists, it is often difficult to update personal information databank through academic and professional experiences alone. The ideas and information posted on these social networking websites by the pharmacy community being accessible on the web acts as an open source of information for lay public thereby keeping them informed and aware. For e.g., the NMA was founded in 1998 with the idea of enhancing non prescription education, self care conditions and also fostering research and collaboration among pharmacy faculties. The NMA website regularly posts relevant information that supports educators, clinicians, students, and lay public alike. Social networking also helps pharmacy professionals to be aware of their professional choices and available opportunities through their online connections with people working in different areas of the pharmacy. Often professionals achieve their professional goals as a result of some social network connections.

In spite of the benefits reaped from social networking, it can often have an ill effect on healthy interaction and exchange of ideas. Some of the negative issues associated with social networking are breach of privacy, plagiarism, lack of monitoring authenticity of information, and possibilities of promoting myths and false information. Educational boards and institutions must take steps in educating students and professionals regarding problems and issues related to social networking and how it may affect them so that social networking may be used as a healthy and useful tool in the promotion of knowledge, information, and resources.

References:

- Educause. 7 things you should know about Facebook. Educause Learning Initiative; 2006. <http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7017.pdf>. Accessed February 14, 2011.
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- US Pharm, Social Side of Pharmacy by Harold E Cohen, 2009, http://www.uspharmacist.com/content/d/straight_talk/c/13848/. Accessed February 14, 2011.

Update on NVSHP 3rd Annual Meeting

NVSHP's 3rd Annual Meeting entitled "Establishing Excellence in Pharmacy Practice" was a success! Held at the Green Valley Ranch Resort in Las Vegas October 22-23, 2010, pharmacists, technicians, and students attended a wide variety of continuing education programs as well as an exhibit hall during the lunch break. Lynnae Mahaney, former ASHP President, was one of the meeting's amazing speakers.

In addition, an NVSHP Town Hall was planned to discuss NVSHP's efforts/brainstorming ideas and an outstanding welcome reception took place at "The Pond" in Green Valley Ranch. Recipients for NVSHP Awards and student scholarships were announced, including the Bowl of Hygeia, President's Award, and the Pharmacist of the Year Award.

A special thank you for everyone that assisted in making this meeting possible including the 2010 NVSHP Education Committee, the NVSHP Board of Directors, exhibitors/sponsors, speakers, and the University of Southern Nevada. Stay tuned for details on NVSHP's 4th Annual Meeting held in Northern Nevada in 2011!

Awards and Honors

Diana Quach received the Pharmacist of the Year Award
 Katie Craven received the Bowl of Hygieia Award
 Gary Brooks received the President's Award

Student Scholarship Recipients were:

- P1: Mohammad Samiei
- P2: Olivia Yang
- P3: Sloka Manvi



NVSHP Reception at "The Pond" at Green Valley Ranch Hotel and Casino



Kathryn Craven receiving Bowl of Hygieia Award from Beth Foster, Nevada State Board of Pharmacy President



Left to right: Katie Craven, Caryn Bing, Gary Brooks, Diana Quach



Adam Porath, Legislative Chair, at the registration booth



Adrienne Santiago (left) receiving a certificate from for her volunteer participation on the technician committee 2010

Perspectives on the Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative (PPMI) Summit

By: Jannet Carmichael, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCCP, FAPhVA
Sierra Pacific Network, VISN 21 Pharmacy Executive

It was a privilege to have attended the PPMI sponsored by ASHP last November in Dallas, Texas. Those in attendance were passionate about the opportunity to create a framework to examine what types of patient care-related services should be consistently provided by departments of pharmacy and pharmacists practicing in healthcare settings. The proceeding provide each of us with an action plan designed to examine our practice environment a little closer and to make sure that our processes allow each of us to meet our patient care responsibilities to the best of our abilities. It also provides support for us to look into the future and plan for a profession that will allow every pharmacist to practice at the top of their Scope of Practice. I know NVSHP will be using this backdrop to organize state-wide programming to continue these discussions at our local facilities and I invite each of you to participate in these programs with equal passion. It may be the most important legacy we can leave others who follow in our profession.

A series of consensus-based beliefs, assumption and recommendations were developed by participants that can be found on the PPMI@ashp.org website. Some of the topic that resonated for me include:

Beliefs and Assumptions for an Optimal Pharmacy Practice Model

There is opportunity to significantly advance the health and well being of patients in hospitals and health systems by changing how pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and technology resources are deployed.

Recommendations

All patients should have a right to the care of a pharmacist and resources should be allocated according to the complexity of patients' needs and organizational needs. While all participants realized financial pressures on health systems will be considerable over the next 5-10 years, it will be imperative that pharmacists be tapped to meet the quality, safety and cost-effective objectives of medication management in these same systems.

Therefore, pharmacist-provided drug therapy management should be prioritized using a patient medication complexity index. This index should be developed and include factors such as severity of illness, number of medications and comorbidities. To complete our task, pharmacists must have privileges to write medication orders in the health-care system. Through local credentialing and privileging processes, pharmacist should include in their scope of practice prescribing as part of the collaborative practice team. Then pharmacists must be allowed to document recommendations and follow-up notes in the patient's medical record.

A number of characteristics and activities were considered essential for pharmacist-provided drug-therapy management in optimal pharmacy practice models. These and many others are included in the Summit documents:

- Accountability for development and documentation of medication-related components of the patient care plan
- Review of medication orders before the first dose is administered
- Daily patient-specific medication review
- Monitoring of the patients response to medication therapy
- Adjustment of medications doses based on response and characteristics of the patient
- Monitoring of medication serum concentrations and laboratory analysis
- Authority to order medication serum concentrations and laboratory analysis
- Authority to adjust dosage for selected medications
- Health system level credentialing and privileging processes

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National Movement to Support the Education and Certification of Pharmacy Technicians

By: Adrienne Santiago, CPhT

Various agencies and organizations have taken a stand to support the formal education and certification of pharmacy technicians across the country. This has become a nationwide movement to help prevent medication errors, ensure patient medication safety, as well as standardized the education and training of pharmaceutical technicians.

The vital role of the pharmacy technician has expanded from simple retail and hospital pharmacy technician. We can now find pharmacy technicians in compounding pharmacies, oncology offices, home health, insurance companies, nuclear pharmacies, dispensing technicians in physicians' offices, clinical technicians, operations managers, technician supervisors and educators.

Here are some of the recent activities with respect to this national movement:

A 2007 poll commissioned by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) showed that 91% of American consumers surveyed support strong regulations across the country to protect patient safety by requiring that pharmacy technicians be trained and certified.

In November of 2007 the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners (JCPP) issued their documentation on the future vision of pharmacy practice stating: "All state pharmacy practice acts authorize pharmacy technicians who have been certified by a nationally recognized credentialing organization to perform all functions associated with fulfillment of medication (prescription) orders in all practice settings, following the clinical review and approval of those orders by a pharmacist."

In May of 2009 the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) Task Force recommended, and the NABP Executive Committee approved that NABP amend the Model Act to a recommendation that all boards of pharmacy require pharmacy technicians to be certified by 2015, in accordance with the JCPP Future Vision of Pharmacy Practice.

Results from a recent Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) sponsored survey in June of 2010 find that lead pharmacists perceive pharmacy technician certification as an essential component in reducing medication errors, ensuring patient safety, and increasing positive health outcome.

Recently, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the requirement of Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) certification for VA pharmacy technicians employed at grade GS-6 and above. VA's decision came after formal recommendations from the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

As the call is made to mandate education and certification of pharmacy technicians, many companies have also taken a stand to either hire only certified pharmacy technicians or require certification within a given time of employment. In August of 2010, Walgreen's pharmacy issued this statement regarding their nationwide campaign to immunize during the 2010 flu season: "the involvement of CPhTs is critical to our campaign's success."

As this nationwide movement continues and as a state with "on the job training (OJT)," we must look at the training we are offering our registered technicians. We must develop training plans for our career technicians that will help them obtain certification. As the scope of practice increases for career pharmacy technicians, short of counseling, we must also increase the rigor and level of training in our facilities. Together with this organization, we can achieve the standard in education and certification for pharmacy technicians to achieve the common goal of patient safety.

***Our Mission:** The mission of the Nevada Society of Health-System Pharmacists is to advance and support the practice of pharmacy in the health-systems and serve as a collective voice on issues related to medication use and public health.*

Perspectives on the Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative (PPMI) Summit

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There were other sections of the Summit programming that were devoted to advanced application of Information technology in the medication-use process and advancing the use of pharmacy technicians. In addition, time was devoted to ideas for successful implementation of this new pharmacy practice model.

I hope you will all take time be part of some process to learn more about the opportunities and challenges we will all face to make these ideas a reality for every pharmacist in Nevada. You might start by organizing a gap analysis of your healthcare system to see how far from these recommendations your practice site is. Then stay tuned for more opportunities from NVSHP or ASHP to participate in implementing those improvements you identify and telling your story to your patients, administrators, and other pharmacists in Nevada and across the country.

Article Review: Pharmacist's Role in Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)

By Corrine Bailey

Original article published by ASHP in January, 2011:

<http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Advocacy/PolicyAlert/ACO-Policy-Analysis.aspx>

Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) are yet another method of decreasing healthcare costs and improving patient outcomes. Because the role of pharmacists will most likely follow the path we are already on, namely applying clinical skills that we are using in integrated acute care settings, ambulatory care settings, and collaborative practice settings, it is my recommendation that we make an effort to include this as a topic of interest/discussion at the annual meeting. Since hospitals, clinics, and physician's offices are encouraged to become part of ACOs, and because the measurement tools for success or lack thereof have not yet been developed, a clearer understanding of the pharmacist role in ACOs would be timely, as well as helpful to our members.

Specific considerations for organizations and individuals seeking participation in ACOs have been outlined in the article:

- Building on existing programs
- Identifying patient outcomes data currently collected/analyzed
- Identifying high-need patients
- Creating an integrated medical record for inpatient and ambulatory care settings
- Development and expansion of medical homes
- Creating a personal health record for patients
- Collaboration with other health systems, hospitals, physician groups
- Working with private insurers to add patients under the ACOs

Safe Medication Disposal in Clark County

By: Paul Oesterman, Pharm. D.

The Drug Abuse Awareness Team at USN in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies have conducted a series of 5 successful "Operation Medicine Cabinet" events where patients could anonymously drop off unwanted or expired medications. These events were able to safely collect and destroy more than 2000 pounds of unwanted and expired medications. Because law enforcement is required for possession of controlled substances and increased demand for such events, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department partnered with Clark County's Water Reclamation District and have launched a "no-questions-asked" program allowing disposal of unwanted medications at all Metro Police substations.

With DEA approval, police installed drop-off boxes in the lobbies of the following Metro Police substations:

- Bolden Area Command, 1851 Stella Lake, Las Vegas 89106
- Convention Center Area Command, 750 Sierra Vista, Las Vegas 89169
- Enterprise Area Command, 6975 W. Windmill, Las Vegas 89113
- Northeast Area Command, 3750 Cecile, Las Vegas 89115
- Northwest Area Command, 9850 W. Cheyenne, Las Vegas 89129
- South-central Area Command, 4860 Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas 89119
- Southeast Area Command, 3675 E. Harmon Ave., Las Vegas 89121
- Laughlin Substation, 101 Laughlin Civic Way, Laughlin 89029
- Overton Substation, 320 N. Moapa Valley Blvd., Overton 89040

For additional information, please contact any of the Metro substations or Paul Oesterman, at USN.

Help ASHP Members Build Support for Drug Shortages Legislation

The ASHP Medication Safety SAG is calling on all members to contact their Senators to gain support for the passage of the Preserving Access to Life Saving Medications Act (S. 296), which is currently in the Senate. This bill would assist the FDA in providing them the tools needed to help minimize the impact of drug shortages.

ASHP is asking members to use the resources below and on ASHP's online ASHP Advocacy Center to contact your senators and let them know about the impact of drug shortages on the patients you serve. Please customize the letters to add how the shortages are actually impacting you and your state.

Call to Action (letters, district meetings, site visits)

[http://app6.vocusgr.com/WebPublish/controller.aspx?](http://app6.vocusgr.com/WebPublish/controller.aspx?SiteName=ASHP&Definition=Home&XSL=Home&SV_Section=Home)

[SiteName=ASHP&Definition=Home&XSL=Home&SV_Section=Home](http://app6.vocusgr.com/WebPublish/controller.aspx?SiteName=ASHP&Definition=Home&XSL=Home&SV_Section=Home)

ASHP Legislative Analysis

<http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Advocacy/GAD/Preserving-Access-to-Life-Saving-Medications-Act-.aspx>

Legislation

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112s296is/pdf/BILLS-112s296is.pdf>

Announcements

Call for Resolutions:

ASHP has put forth a call for policy resolutions in preparation for the 2011 House of Delegates Session. The House of Delegates will meet on June 12 and June 14, 2011, and all resolutions must be submitted no later than March 14, 2011. Please click on the following link for additional information and submission procedures: <http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Policy/HOD/CallforResolutions.aspx>

Medication Drop-Off Event in Reno, Nevada

Date: April 30, 2011

Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Locations:

Save Mart, 10500 N. McCarran, Reno

Scolari's, 1300 Disc Dr., Sparks

Scolari's, 8165 South Virginia St., Reno

Scolari's, 200 Lemmon Valley Rd., Reno

Walgreens, 750 N. Virginia St., Reno

Sponsor: Truckee Meadows Water Authority

For more information on the roundup, contact **Join Together Northern Nevada** at (775) 324-7557 or visit www.jtnn.org.

Membership Committee Update

These are the items that the membership committee has been working on:

- May will be the designated Month for a Membership drive. A social event is being planned for the Northern and Southern Nevada on the same day. More details will be available soon on our Facebook page and at NVSHP.com
- Membership cards are being developed and will hopefully be provided to members for the upcoming renewal cycle.
- NVSHP embroidered polos and pins are also being developed. Details on the availability of these items will be forthcoming.
- We are planning for 2-3 community service events per quarter. Please check the NVSHP calendar for these events.

VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

“A Culture of Caring!”

Jobs are lost. Health insurance is lost. Right now, as many as 400,000 people in Southern Nevada lack access to even basic health care. You may not know how to help or what you can give, but the greatest gift you can give is yourself, your compassion and your time. The pharmacists and physicians who donate their time to Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada are helping provide our uninsured neighbors with the regular medical care and medications they critically need.

Established in 2008, Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada (VMSN) opened the doors of its first free clinic in January, 2010. Since that time they have served hundreds of patients, with 1,900 patient visits in their first year of operation. Still, that number falls short of the need, and the capacity of the clinic. The only thing that the clinic needs in order to serve more patients is – you guessed it – more physicians and pharmacists.

The clinic uses both active and retired professionals to provide primary care, pediatrics, and prenatal care. Volunteer pharmacists and technicians provide free medication to patients through the clinic’s medical dispensary, taking advantage of numerous Patient Assistance Programs to obtain needed medications.

Your time will never be worth more than it is to the patients at Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact the VMSN Volunteer Coordinator, Amy Schmidt, at 702-967-0530.

VOLUNTEER PHARMACISTS & TECHNICIANS WANTED!

Nonprofit medical clinic seeks qualified, licensed pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to volunteer in its Medical Dispensary.

For more information, please log onto www.vmsn.org

or contact the clinic’s Volunteer Director

at (702) 967-0530 or amy@vmsn.org



Volunteers in Medicine
of Southern Nevada