

## Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Partnerships

January 8, 2020

Peter H. Vlasses, PharmD, DSc (Hon.), FCCP  
Executive Director Emeritus  
Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)

Convener  
Health Professions Accreditors Collaborative (HPAC)

Dear Dr. Vlasses:

On behalf of the Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages (ACICBL), I am writing to recognize the work of the Health Professions Accreditors Collaborative (HPAC) and National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education (National Center) in creating the *Guidance on Developing Quality Interprofessional Education for the Health Professions*. This guidance serves to “support the development and implementation of quality [interprofessional education] (IPE)” and “facilitate communication and collaboration across accreditors.” While the ACICBL strongly supports this work, we encourage HPAC to consider a further modification to integrate age-friendly, interprofessional principles and competencies to prepare the future health care workforce to deliver high quality team-based care *across the life cycle*, including the care of older adults.

ACICBL, a federal advisory committee, provides advice and recommendations concerning policy, program development, and other matters of significance related to interdisciplinary, community-based training grant programs authorized under Title VII, part D, sections 750–759, of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act. These programs work to enhance access to high-quality, culturally competent care for rural and other medically underserved communities and populations through a focus on training and interprofessional education and practice. ACICBL also oversees workforce training and enhancement programs through the Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) and in the areas of rural health, geriatrics, social work, graduate psychology, and a variety of allied health professions. ACICBL recognizes that our health system is moving toward an integrated team-based approach to care.

The consensus guidance by 24 endorsing HPAC members “recognizes the societal importance of IPE and the value of education, communication, and commitment among accreditors to facilitate the achievement of quality IPE.” Core competencies and related accreditation standards requiring curricular competencies in interprofessional collaborative practice have been essential to preparing the future healthcare workforce for team-based care. This recent HPAC guidance fosters the ability of institutions “to develop, implement, and evaluate systematic IPE approaches and IPE plans.”

The ACICBL recognizes the historically important role of this consensus guidance. In addition to preparing health professions students for interprofessional team-based care, we believe these students should also be prepared to deliver interprofessional team-based care appropriate to the changing care needs of individuals across the life cycle, across the continuum of care, and through care transitions.

Currently “the U.S. health care system does not effectively meet the complex needs of the aging population, despite multiple initiatives to create programs and services to provide safe and highly effective care of older adults...Creating such a system involves understanding and respecting the needs, values, and preferences of older adults and educating health professionals to focus on a 4Ms Framework (what Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility). (ACICBL 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, page 9, <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/advisory-committees/community-based-linkages/reports/seventeenth-2019.pdf>.)” While addressing the care needs of older adults, adoption of the 4Ms informs care across ages and life stages.

Specifically, we are formally requesting that HPAC endorse the following recommendations from the aforementioned ACICBL report:

**Recommendation 3.** ACICBL recommends that health professions programs integrate age-friendly, interprofessional principles into their curricula to prepare a current and future workforce competent to deliver age-friendly health care.

**Recommendation 4.** ACICBL recommends that HRSA, in collaboration with health professional organizations, academia, and other federal agencies, develop competencies to advance interprofessional practice in Age-Friendly Health Systems.

As a result of the Committee’s work, Age-Friendly Health Systems principles have been incorporated within the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). “Progress made over the past decade to develop competencies for interprofessional practice and education can inform the process of developing interprofessional competencies to prepare the current and future Age-Friendly Health Systems workforce.”

The Committee strongly supports the work of HPAC. We understand the importance of the consensus process that led to the creation of this guidance. We believe that HPAC can further enhance this work by considering these recommendations. The Committee stands ready to provide further information or clarification regarding age-friendly, interprofessional principles and competencies, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

/s/James Stevens  
James Stevens  
Chair, ACICBL