

President and Board Message

By Deb Dethlefsen, MBA, RHIA, CCS- SDHIMA President

It was a great pleasure and learning experience to attend the AHIMA Summer Team Talks and Leadership Conference in Chicago with Kristi Osthus - President Elect and Stacy Reck- Director of Education. Thank you to the SD CSA membership for allowing us to participate.

Also attending from SD was Renae Spohn and Jamie Husher as AHIMA board and staff members. The enthusiasm of all attendees and the sharing of personal experiences helped make each of the sessions very interesting.



Deb Dethlefsen, Jamie Husher, Renae Spohn, Stacy Reck and Kristi Osthus

Summer Team Talks and Leadership Conference

Our keynote speakers at Leadership Conference, Kathleen McClesky and Leslie May, shared several good thoughts on Volunteer Succession Planning and Inclusion as well as Diversity.

House of Delegates

AHIMA received positive feedback at Summer Team Talks for the HOD action items being proposed for electronic vote. The privacy and security resolution is being held until the face-to-face in October. This will offer an opportunity for healthy dialogue and idea sharing on the Community of Practice right now, and then allow us to utilize our face-to-face time in October to practice our generative thinking.

CSA Contest

The CSA's were challenged to grow their membership. The CSA achieving the highest percentage increase in membership, for their category, from June 30, 2008 - June 30, 2009 will receive convention registration and airfare. Joanne Powell, Director of PR is spearheading our membership and marketing efforts.



Joanne Powell

CSA Leadership and Delegate Vote

The HOD is scheduled for an electronic HOD vote in September on the following items:

- The 2008 Nominating Committee is proposing a bylaws amendment to:
 - a) specify the number of members appointed by the Board of Directors each year and
 - b) increase the terms of the appointed member position from one-year to two-year terms in order to keep consistent with the terms of elected members of the committee and also ensure appropriate continuity of membership to sustain the Nominating Committee processes.
- Revision to the Standards for Ethical Coding -- This has been updated and broadened to include reimbursement information and language
- 2009 Nominating Committee Members -Motion is not required - HOD action is to elect the committee and satisfies the AHIMA bylaw change. Candidate profiles will be available via the state leader HOC CoP.



Check Out the SDHIMA Members Section on the Website

By Dorine Bennett and Renae Spohn

We have been busy working with our website vendor to activate the "members" features on the website (www.sdhima.org). Included in the members portion of the website are the following functions: member directory, SDHIMA strategic plan, continuing education funding information, awards, bylaws, job bank (not yet activated), and SDHIMA expense voucher forms.

All members with an e-mail address should have received an e-mail with your username and password the last week in July. We apologize for any inconvenience the confusing e-mails may have caused while we were working to activate the members' section.

There are many features you can see without being logged into the web page. In order to use the features listed above in the members section, however, you will need to log into the website. Once you have logged into the website, you may click on your name in the upper right corner to manage your password.

The website uses your email address from AHIMA's member profile information in order to register you as a SDHIMA member for the SDHIMA website. If you are one of the members that have not put an e-mail address in the AHIMA profile, please be sure to do so if you intend to use the members section of the SDHIMA website.

As well, we will be updating information in the on-line member directory on a frequent basis, probably monthly, so it is important to update your AHIMA profile if it contains outdated information.

With the addition of the member features we will soon be updating documents that are changed yearly. If you have any documents that you think would be helpful to other SDHIMA members or ideas for links, please don't hesitate to send them to us.





And the Winners are.....

By Julie Plimpton, RHIA; Debbie Weets, RHIA; and Julie Knickrehm, RHIA

It is with great pleasure to tell you two members of SDHIMA have been recognized by their peers for their contribution to SDHIMA and AHIMA.

Val Royal, RHIT, CCS was awarded The Board Member/Committee Chair of the Year Award

This Award honors those individuals who put extra effort and volunteer time into the success of SDHIMA. This individual supports the vision of SDHIMA by "doing what it takes" to provide quality services for the members of SDHIMA by listening and giving back to the members. Val was nominated by her peers who said things such as, *"Her energy and enthusiasm that she has brought to the "nominating committee" this year has been exceptional!"*

Val, thank you and congratulations from SDHIMA.

Kathy Dorale, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P was awarded Distinguished Member

The Distinguished Member Award is AHIMA's highest honor. This award celebrates individuals with a long, exceptional history of contributions to HIM. This award will allow us to send a nomination to AHIMA for National recognition. Kathy was nominated by her peers who said: *"I'm so glad Kathy Dorale is nominated for SDHIMA's Distinguished Member Award. Kathy is a mentor to Health Information managers in this region..... She is definitely an SDHIMA Distinguished Member!"*

Kathy, thank you and congratulations on the prestigious award. We will all be voting for you at the National Level.

These members will be presented their awards at the Awards Luncheon at the Fall Convention on September 25th, 2008. Please plan to attend and show your support for these outstanding members of SDHIMA.

That being said, you all could be winners. These and other awards, as outlined in the March 2008 newsletter, are available every year. It is so fun to present awards such as these to our members, I would encourage you to review the criteria and consider submitting nominations for your peers and/or colleagues.



Council on Certification Recommends an Alternative Path to the RHIA Exam

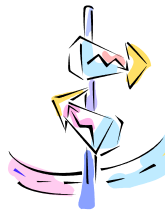
By Stacy Reck, MBA, RHIA

I had the privilege to attend AHIMA Summer Team Talks in Chicago. One of the Action Items recommended by the Council on Certification is to propose a change to the eligibility requirements for the RHIA exam. This was quite a 'hot' topic at Team Talks with a wide variety of opinions and comments from various members. The proposal was brought forward because of the unmet workforce demand for HIM professionals at a managerial level.

They are proposing to expand the pathways to be eligible to sit for the RHIA. I have listed these alternative paths below.

Route 1:

- Education: Minimum of bachelor's degree
- Experience: Five years of full time management level work in HIM field or as an educator in a college or university accredited by CAHIIM or in candidate status
- Endorsement: An endorsement of two RHIA credentialed professionals will be required



Route 2:

- Education: Master's degree in HIM related curriculum or education
- Experience: Two years of full time management level work in HIM field or as an educator in a college or university accredited by CAHIIM or in candidate status
- Endorsement: An endorsement of two RHIA credentialed professionals will be required

What these pathways will do, is eliminate a two-tiered structure that we currently have to obtain an RHIA credential and open it up to those who have any type of baccalaureate degree with related HIM work experience. The COC has determined that one year of academic study is equivalent to 2.5 years of work experience.

There are mixed feelings about what this will do to our profession. I have listed below different reactions and comments from HIM professionals.

Comments against the proposal:

- "Fundamentally wrong"
- "The RHIA exam should not stand alone. The Body of Knowledge (education) is crucial to understanding our profession."
- "Opening up the RHIA exam is taking us down the wrong path"
- "Soon, questions will now be, 'Did you get your RHIA the 'real' way or the 'fake' way?'"
- "Essentially this proposal infers that the domain of HIM knowledge is not unique and consequently reduces HIM to an occupation or a job"
- "The RHIA designation becomes reduced in value along with devaluation of the professional status of HIM"

Comments for the proposal:

- "I know an RHIT that is an expert in this field and has been working in the HIM profession for years. I feel that it should be her right to sit for the RHIA exam because she has that knowledge base"
- There are some individuals who cannot afford to go on to school to get their RHIA, but they have worked in HIM and have that background and on the job experience. They should be eligible for the RHIA exam because of their experience
- Suggest RHIT's, even though they don't meet the criteria of a bachelor's degree, who have worked in HIM have the body of knowledge and would increase our RHIA certifications

Update: As of August 3, 2008, the COC has decided to not go forward with this motion on changing the RHIA eligibility requirements. Marion Prichard, M.Ed., RHIA the Chair, AHIMA Council on Certification stated that the discussions from everyone showed the 'passion and esteem of the membership for our credentials' which helped in making this decision.



Huwe Earns Corporate Compliance Advocate Award!

By Jamie Husher, RHIA, CHPS



Julie Huwe, RHIA and SDHIMA member was awarded the Corporate Compliance Advocate award for 2008 from Avera McKennan Hospital. Julie is the LCD/NCD Specialist and Outpatient Coding Educator. Congratulations Julie!



Dakota State Update

By Dorine Bennett, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA

Rose Goeden, who has been an instructor for the DSU HIM Programs since the fall of 1996, left DSU to pursue other career opportunities. While at DSU she taught a number of HIM courses as well as courses for the College of Business and Information Systems in addition to serving as an advisor for students and assisting with various committees and projects. In the Spring 2008 semester, she became an adjunct instructor, teaching only one distance course for DSU. Rose was recognized as one of the pioneers in DSU's distance education program and was recently honored with a Distance Education Faculty award for her online HIM 130 Medical Terminology class. We extend our best wishes to Rose!

Enrollment statistics for Spring 2008 included 49 health information administration students, 31 health information technology students, and 6 coding certificate students; of these students, 44 are South Dakota residents and our distance students are in 20 different states, including South Dakota. Two students went through the HIA Admission Process in Spring 2008, and the May/August graduates include eight HIT students (seven in South Dakota and one in Mississippi) and three HIA students (one in South Dakota, one in Oklahoma, and one in Minnesota).

Two SDHIMA members joined Dorine Bennett, Rose Goeden, and Joyce Havlik on the faculty at DSU in the Spring 2008 semester. Serving as adjunct instructors were Jamie Husher, RHIA, who taught HIM 170 Legal Aspects of HIM and Teresa Simons, RHIT, who taught HIM 260 Fundamentals of Human Disease. These instructors provided quality teaching

while at the same time offering a non-academic perspective to the classroom. We are appreciative of their willingness to share their expertise and knowledge with the students.

For more information about the DSU Health Information Management Programs, visit www.departments.dsu.edu/him.



Using AHIMA's CoPs

By Jamie Husher, RHIA, CHPS

Are you familiar with AHIMA's Communities of Practice? If not, read the following to learn about a CoP training opportunity. You can earn 1 CEU by viewing the Webinar. Along with our Web site, SDHIMA has a Geographic: South Dakota CoP available for SDHIMA member discussions, sharing and collaboration.

Direct link: <https://cop.ahima.org/COP/GeographicSouthDakota/>

Adapted from the July 31 issue of AHIMA's e-alert, "CoP News You Can Use"

It is not too late to reap the benefits of AHIMA's free Communities of Practice (CoP) Webinar, now available in archived format. Simply log on to your computer (speakers, sound card, and Internet Explorer are required) to maximize the value of the CoPs with Navigating the CoP, a stimulating walk-through of the CoPs most useful features. If you haven't used CoPs, or haven't used them much, you'll get the skills you need to make CoPs an important resource for you, especially when it comes to easily getting the information needed to do your job and network with peers.

To view the seminar now, click <https://www110.livemeeting.com/cc/ahimaweb/view>. You will be directed to the Live Meeting View Recording screen.

To view the recording:

Enter your name

Enter recording ID: cop1219

Click "View Recording"

On the View Recording Info screen

Install Live Meeting 2005 Replay Wrapper, if you do not have it. Click the icon below View Recording in Replay format. The Webinar will now download (this may take a few minutes). At the beginning of the audio portion, you will hear an operator and some music, then the Webinar will begin. If you require Live Meeting Assistance, please refer to the Live Meeting Assistance Center at <http://www.webconferencesupport.com>.



South Dakota eHealth Collaborative

By Dorine Bennett, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA

The SD eHealth Collaborative is a stakeholder group whose mission is to collaboratively develop a long-range plan and facilitate the implementation of interoperable information technology to drive improvement in the quality, safety, and efficiency of healthcare in South Dakota. There are a number of SDHIMA members involved with eHealth Collaborative projects.

One project is to develop recommendations that will be used to guide the state's efforts in health information exchange. There are four workgroups for the project. Joyce Havlik is facilitating a Provider and Payer Data Consensus Workgroup to identify a method of data exchange to facilitate the provision of healthcare, Dorine Bennett is facilitating a Patient and Provider Education and Outreach Workgroup to examine the educational and out-reach efforts necessary to move SD forward toward electronic health record usage and electronic health information exchange, and other DSU faculty members are facilitating the legal and technical issues workgroups.

SDHIMA members Jennifer Gholson, Deb Kolda, Linda Maas, Mary Nelson, and Dawn Reinicke are also members of the workgroups. The second annual Health Information Technology (HIT) Summit will be held October 7-8, 2008 in Sioux Falls and the SD eHealth Collaborative Workgroups will be reporting on their recommendations as a part of the event's program. Visit www.sdhitsummit.com for more information about the Summit.

The SD eHealth Collaborative group submitted a successful application for a national Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Demonstration Project related to electronic health record use by physicians. This project will provide Medicare reimbursement incentives to physicians utilizing electronic health records. Joyce Havlik is part of the subgroup leading the planning for education and recruitment efforts.

The SD eHealth Collaborative is also the steering committee for a grant from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) for a Health Information Security and Privacy Collaborative (HISPC) project. We will be working with Iowa, New Jersey, North Carolina, Alaska, Guam, and Puerto Rico to develop model inter-organizational agreements (IOA) for health data exchange. South Dakota and Iowa will pilot the agreements by exchanging immunization data between the public health departments. These inter-organizational agreements will be shared and used as templates by other states.



A Possible New Credential in Health Data Analytics

By Kristi L. Osthus, RHIA

At the AHIMA Summer Team Talks and Leadership Conference, it was discussed that AHIMA may be offering a new credential based on Health Data Analytics. The Council on Certification (COC) was given the project in 2007 to determine a need for this new credential to help increase the AHIMA-certified HIM workforce and non-certified members at the professional level.

The COC did perform a needs analysis with an outcome of a Health Data Analyst Job Analysis Task Force. There were fourteen subject matter experts that met for a two-day meeting to identify the domains, tasks, and knowledge that would be important for the tasks completed by this credentialed individual. The job competencies that would need to be met are data management, data analytics, and data reporting.

It is open for discussion for the proposed standards for the initial certification. The proposed requirements are:

- I. Baccalaureate degree or higher and a minimum of five (5) years of healthcare data experience; or
- II. Healthcare Information Administration credential (RHIA) and a minimum of one (1) year of healthcare data experience.

This will either be voted upon electronically in September or at the National AHIMA Convention at the House of Delegates. The proposed timeframe for the credential exam to be available is April 2009.



Could You be a Fellow?

By Dorine Bennett, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA

The AHIMA Fellowship Program is a program of earned recognition for AHIMA members who made significant and sustained contributions to the profession. Individuals who earn fellowship may use the designation Fellow of the American Health Information Management Association (FAHIMA). The Fellowship program has two designations: fellowship and candidacy for fellowship.

Fellowship is open to any individual who is a regular, honorary, or senior member of AHIMA, and who has a master's or higher academic degree, at least 10 years full-time professional experience in HIM or related field, at least 10 years continuous AHIMA membership at time of application, and evidence of sustained and substantial professional achievement that demonstrates professional growth and use of innovative and creative solutions.

Candidates must be an individual who is a regular, honorary, or senior member of AHIMA, has a master's or higher academic degree, has at least 5 years full-time professional experience in HIM or related field and at least 5 years continuous AHIMA membership at time of application, and beginning evidence toward significant contributions to the advancement of the HIM field.

SDHIMA members who have been awarded fellowship status are Dorine Bennett and Renae Spohn. Dorine is the 2008 chair of the Fellowship Review Committee, after being a member of the committee during 2007. This committee is charged with reviewing applications to award fellowship status to deserving AHIMA members who have made significant contributions to the HIM profession.

For more information about AHIMA's Fellowship Program, visit www.ahima.org/fellow/





LEGISLATIVE/LEGAL CHAIR

By Deb Dethlefsen, MBA, RHIA, CCS

There is an opening for the Legislative Chair and if you have been thinking of becoming more involved with your association and keeping abreast of the legal events pertaining to HIM this may be the opportunity you have been looking for! Listed is a brief overview of chair duties:

1. Keep abreast of legislative/legal happenings in relation to the health information profession and make recommendations for changes with board input.
2. Monitor the SD Legislative Session closely for issues relating to the health information profession. Communicate happenings with the President and SDAHO legal representative.
3. Participate on committees as requested that are working on Legislation of interest to health information management professionals.
4. Send e-mail blast to seek assistance from other SDHIMA members and share information with them.
5. Submit a progress report to your board liaison prior to the scheduled board meetings.

Please contact Deb Dethlefsen if you are interested or would like more information at ddethle1@good-sam.com or 605-362-5408.





Advisory Board Is Important

By Dorine Bennett, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA

The Health Information Management (HIM) Programs have benefited from having an advisory board ever since Dakota State first started offering educational opportunities in health information (or medical records, as it began in 1975.) The volunteers on the advisory board include health information management professionals as well as a variety of others who provide important input.

The HIM faculty and staff from the school report to the group about activities, statistics and issues related to curriculum, students, and processes for our programs. The advisory board reviews the accreditation reports for the programs, as well as the goals, standards and outcomes for a number of assessment measures. Comments and recommendations from the advisory board are valuable in making improvements and keeping the programs current and relevant.

The advisory board meets twice a year, usually in about May and December, although communications are welcomed at any time. A number of SDHIMA members have been a part of the advisory board over the years and their time and contributions have been appreciated.

SDHIMA members currently serving on the advisory board are LeAnne Bouma, Patti Brooks, Jennifer Gholson, Julie Huwe, Julie Knickrehm, DeAnne Kribell, Julie Plimpton, Renae Spohn, and Christi Walz. Thank you to them and all of you who have been a part of this group in the past!

We invite everyone, whether on the advisory board or not, to contact the DSU HIM Programs if you have any questions or suggestions for us, and please let us know if you would be interested in being a part of the advisory board.





South Dakota Health Information Management Association

2008-2009 Strategic Plan

Submitted by Deb Dethlefsen - SDHIMA President

Industry Leadership -- Advance e-HIM practice and the migration to the EHR.

- Advance e-HIM practice in our state
- PHR
- Legal EHR
- Increase communication about e-HIM
- Develop e-HIM leaders in our state
- Increase e-HIM educational opportunities
- Changed the RHIO committee name to the e-HIM committee
- Train new CEC
- Have an e-HIM educational session at our state meeting
- Support E-Health Collaborative
- Query a listing of e-HIM experts within our state and surrounding area in various practice settings and on various topics.
- Plan an education and mentoring program that utilizes their talents -run reports from AHIMA-ACE program Education Committees

Workforce Readiness -- Provide relevant, accessible professional development

- Support students and academic programs
- Increase education offerings on pertinent topics
- Support coding members with current information and introduce future roles
- Improve Educational Funding program for SDHIMA members
- Support members in obtaining further education in EHR or e-HIM
- Provide scholarships
- Increase our student recruitment activities - Health Fair - MyPHR
- Insure support of our academic programs
- Encourage recent grads to sit for certification exam
- Invite a student member to board meetings (DSU HIM club President)
- Have tracks at our annual meeting on data quality, terminologies, and legal EHR
- Offer one day session on HIPAA/ROI topics to include information on legal EHR
- Offer coding roundtable meetings in 4 locations around the state this year

- Rework program guidelines to encourage members to apply
- Develop scholarship program to send one SDHIMA member to an AHIMA EHR or e-HIM program
- Continued education on legal e-health record
- Improve student participation in the scholarship program or consider redirecting monies to member continuing education scholarships
- Enhance Each One Reach One activities by having 3 documented recruitment activities by members
- Continue having SDHIMA members serve on the DSU Advisory Board
- Continue to fund the certification exam reimbursement fee lottery Spring Education Committee

Membership Value -- Provide HIM leadership on state issues through advocacy and collaboration and support AHIMA national leadership advocacy issues.

- Insure active participation in HIM topics that arise in the state.
- Increase recognition of HIM profession in SD clinics
- Increase recognition of HIM issues with State and Federal legislators
- Reach out to Consumers in our state through the Consumer education campaign
- Appoint contacts for E-HIM project within the state
- Monitor state legislative and regulatory activities
- Promote HIM profession to SD Clinics
- Participate in draft legal EHR legislation development
- Hold 10 CEC activities in 2008/09
- Insure 5 active/trained CEC presenters
- Train one new CEC presenter located in the western part of SD

Grow and Strengthen AHIMA

- Increase communication with members
- Attract credentialed professionals not currently members
- Increase membership
- Insure positive volunteer experiences
- Welcome new members with personalized packet
- Offer new member benefits ** one free meeting opportunity within the year of becoming a member
- Publish an e-newsletter quarterly
- Maintain the state COP - Each board member to post information on a rotating monthly basis
- Update the website
- Deliver my AHIMA presentation at the annual meeting
- Provide clear orientation for new volunteers

- Insure understanding of strategic plan and responsibilities
- Encourage broad volunteer participation
- Provide Board Liaisons to each Committee and task force with effective communication
- Membership Committee
- Newsletter Committee and Board



SDAHO Annual Convention – Reminder!

The registration packets have been mailed out by SDAHO for the 82nd Annual Convention. The convention will be at the **Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, SD** and begins Wednesday, **September 24th** and concludes at noon on Friday, **September 26th**. One of the highlights of the convention - **April D. Robertson, MPA, RHIA, CHP, FAHIMA**, Corporate Compliance Officer, ChartOne, Inc. and AHIMA Board member will be speaking Thursday, September 25th on Medical Identity Theft. The SDHIMA business meeting will also be held on Thursday.

Looking forward to see you at the convention!