



Newsletter

March 2002

2002 Winter Team Talks by Val Royal, RHIT, CCS

LeAnne Bouma, President-Elect, and myself will be attending the 2002 Winter Team Talks on Saturday, March 23, 2002, in St. Louis, Missouri. The following items are on the agenda: **AHIMA Focus: Strategy Overview** – mission and vision; recent accomplishments; and four strategies for 2002; **CSA Focus: Strategy** – coding roundtables; membership recruitment & retention; and grassroots efforts in HIM education; **AHIMA Credentialing Initiatives** – entry level coding and privacy; 2002 Awards Committee Nominations; **CoPs: What We Have Learned** – CSA Communities: Board & Member Uses and State Leader/HOD Community: Delegate Role; **Open Discussion** – AHIMA; Professional Practice, and Looking Ahead-AHIMA in 2003-2005; and **2002 Programs & Activities** – expedition update; advocacy & public policy priorities; workforce assessment; & HIT and HIA accreditation standards. As one can see, this will be a very full, exciting day. If you have any comments/concerns regarding any of the agenda items and would like us to be your voice at Team Talks, please don't hesitate to contact LeAnne (ridenl@siouxvalley.org or 605-328-6455) or myself (vjroyal@hotmail.com or 605-353-6228). We are here to serve our members and would appreciate your input. Look for more information about the Winter Team Talks at the spring meeting in April.



American Health Information Management Association Foundation of Research and Education (FORE) Announces Best Practice Award

Congratulations to Mary Nelson, Supervisor of Technical Services at Sioux Valley Hospital & USD Medical Center, on being selected as the Best Practice Award winner from the American Health Information Management Association for her creativity and development of a valuable "Ongoing Medical Record Review Program". Mary's idea to break the review into manageable pieces, involve the users of the information in the collection of the information, and truly have a process that brings value to the organization was groundbreaking in its approach to this process. This program increased the provision of meaningful trended information, added more focus to clinical pertinence, and increased documented performance improvement in response to a Joint Commission review. Congratulations, Mary!!

Please Note:

Registration Materials For Spring SDHIMA Meeting Are Included In This Newsletter!

A Day At the Capitol



Submitted by: Mary H. Stanfill, RHIA, CCS-P
Practice Manager, Coding Products and Services, AHIMA
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Have you ever spent a day in the capital when the legislature is in session? I had my first opportunity to do just that during this most recent legislative session and it proved to be a fascinating day. On January 29th I tagged along with the South Dakota Medical Group Management Association (SDMGMA) on their annual trip to Pierre for what they call “legislative day”. Their purpose was to network with legislators on healthcare issues that affect physician practice management. My own objective was a little broader with an interest in general health information management issues and a keen curiosity to see our legislative process in action. Both objectives were accomplished and I’d like to relay what I learned. Along the way I hope to whet your curiosity to make the trip to “Capitol Hill” yourself someday.

The day began early with briefings from Dean Krogman, a lobbyist for the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA), and also from a representative from the South Dakota Department of Health. The briefings consisted of a review of current bills that each organization is tracking. They included information on who sponsored the bill and what effect the bill may have, as well as their position and the bill’s current status. The bills covered a wide range of issues, from whether or not a particular drug should be sold over the counter without a prescription, to what qualifications are needed to conduct certain reviews for Worker’s Compensation. Here is a synopsis of a few of the bills that I found particularly interesting.

- House Bill (HB) 1106 would modify the peer review statute currently in effect to extend protection for peer review activities to physicians and clinics. The bill had passed unanimously in the House committee and on the House floor. The statute currently in effect, which was passed a couple of years ago, protects peer review and quality assurance documents from discovery. Apparently its specific language however did not provide protection for physicians and clinics. This bill is intended to rectify that oversight.
- HB 1044 proposes tightened restrictions for access to vital records (death, birth, adoption) but would loosen restrictions after 50 years. The intent of the bill is to prevent identity theft without frustrating the efforts of genealogists. The bill appeared to be tabled.
- Senate Bill (SB) 45 is referred to as the “telemedicine bill”. It would require that physicians providing treatment to patients in SD have to be licensed to practice medicine in SD. The bill specifies that a license would not be required if the physician is merely acting as a consultant and attempts to clarify what activity constitutes “consulting”. There was quite a bit of discussion on this among the medical group managers. Most were concerned that the bill would create a problem for lab work that is routinely sent to Pathologists in labs located out of state. Whereas the original intent of the bill was to prevent physicians out of state from taking over the primary care of patients in SD utilizing telemedicine technology.

- SB 93 would establish criteria for genetic testing labs. For example they would have to meet specific credentialing requirements.

Following these briefings, and armed with lists of proposed healthcare bills, we headed over to the capitol building. On this particular day, the legislators spent the morning in various committee meetings and both the House and Senate were “in session” in the afternoon. We took advantage of the relative availability of the legislators in the morning to speak with them regarding the various healthcare bills. I was surprised to see how receptive the legislators were to our perspective on the various issues they would soon be debating. As one would hope, they were genuinely interested in the effect a bill might have.

The best part of the day was observing the House and Senate in session. I especially enjoyed listening to the legislators debate the various bills, it was very informative. For example, I learned that my auto insurance is probably insufficient as they debated, and subsequently voted down, a bill that would mandate additional coverage. As I observed, I was struck by the formality of the proceedings. It soon became apparent how important this formality was as they accomplished more in two hours than I have ever seen any Board, Committee or Task Force accomplish in twice as much time.

I got a glimpse of just how important it can be for our legislators to be informed on the issue under debate when HB 1006 came before the Senate. This is one of the bills we had been briefed on that morning. It would provide protection from discovery to physician peer review activities. The bill was almost nullified as one senator attempted to add an amendment. It was clear that his concern about a “cloak of secrecy” was largely because of an ignorance of the purpose of peer review and the type of information it generates. Fortunately many other senators were better informed and the bill was passed, without amendment, by a majority vote.

Though few of the bills related to healthcare were addressed by the House and Senate that day, I feel time spent “on the hill” was very worthwhile. I gained knowledge of our legislative process through observing our legislators at work, and valuable insights into healthcare in South Dakota by reviewing current proposals and issues under debate. In addition, I came away with a renewed of how critical it is that we keep our legislators well informed. If you’ve never spent a day in the capital the legislature is in session, I encourage you to an opportunity to do so. I hope I’ve sparked at least little curiosity to see our legislative process in action.

SD Tech Summit 2002
 Speakers will include national leaders in the areas of information and technology. This free event is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 26, in the Great Hall at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls. You may learn more about this event and register online now by accessing the website at <http://www.sdtechsummit.com>.

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News from Dakota State University
 From Dorine Bennett, RHIA

Things are busy at Dakota State University, as I am sure they are at your facilities as well. Understanding that you have so many demands, we certainly have appreciated all of the cooperation and support that we find when we ask for your assistance. Thank you!

Some major projects for the Health Information Management Programs this year have involved accreditation and program reviews. In April of 2001 we had an external site review by Bob Garrie, Director of Education and Accreditation from the American Health Information Management Association. He provided a very positive report and we were very happy to have his feedback. In November of 2001 we submitted our Report of Current Status for the accreditation process for our programs. The results of that evaluation will be provided later this spring or summer.

We were very pleased that one of our students, Lynn Breiter, was the recipient of the 2001 AHIMA Rita Finnegan Memorial Scholarship. Congratulations to her!! Her selection for this national recognition is well deserved! In 2001, 30 undergraduate scholarships from AHIMA were awarded to HIM students from across the nation. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and are awarded based on assessment of grade point average and academic achievement, volunteer and work experience, commitment to the HIM profession, suitability to the HIM profession, quality and suitability of references provided, and clarity of application. Lynn was also one of the recipients of a SDHIMA scholarship in 2001, as was Angela Powell. Thank you to SDHIMA for your support of the students as well!

I am working hard right now on setting up supervised professional practices for our students. I have approximately 32 students going to over 40 different sites. I'm looking forward to making some site visits and reading the reports to learn more about what's happening in your facilities. The students always have great experiences and finish their supervised professional practices ready to take on the HIM world! Thank you for providing these opportunities for the students.

We were very pleased with the results of the AHIMA certification exams given in the six-month period of July 1 – December 31, 2001. All of our graduates who tested during that time passed their certification tests for a 100% pass rate for both the RHIA and RHIT exams! We welcome these students as credentialed practitioners.

This year the HIM Programs will be graduating twelve HIT and three students. Five of the HIT students will be continuing their education HIA program. Many of these graduates have already found employment and we continue to have a very successful placement rate. that we would be able to find employment opportunities for even more graduates, and your assistance in recruiting students is welcomed and appreciated!



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I'd like to also take this opportunity to thank those of you who participate in assisting the HIM Programs with the HIA admission interviews and who are members of the Advisory Board for the HIM Programs. We welcome comments and suggestions from each and every one of you!



HIM Recruitment – Let's All Spread The Word!!

Each One Reach One

SDHIMA has instituted the Each One Reach One recruitment incentive program again for 2002! All HIM practitioners are encouraged to take some time to speak to prospective HIM students. Talk to school groups, give tours of your department, help at career fairs, or whatever you are comfortable with doing to help spread the word about health information management.

Resources such as brochures and videos are available from Dorine Bennett at Dakota State University – just send her an email at dorine.bennett@dsu.edu or give her a call at 605-256-5137. All HIM practitioners who have notified Dorine of their recruitment activities will be eligible for a cash drawing at the Spring SDHIMA meeting. For more information about the Each One Reach One program, contact Dorine Bennett.

2002 Health & Fitness Fair

SDHIMA will once again be participating in the annual Health & Fitness Fair at the Empire Mall in Sioux Falls. This event will be held on April 5 and 6, 2002, from 10 am to 9 pm each day. The SDHIMA booth will have brochures for consumers on understanding their health information as well as information about the HIM careers. Please try to fit some time into your schedule and volunteer to assist with the booth! Contact Jane Klemme at jklemme@dtgnet.com or 605-767-2655.

Updated Recruitment Resources Now Available

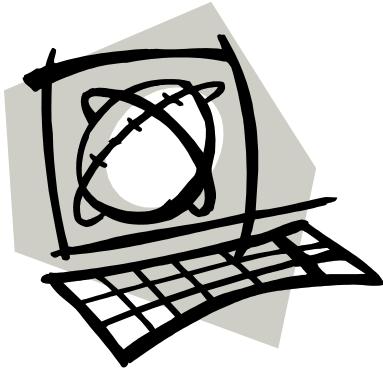
AHIMA has updated the “Career and Recruitment” section of the Association’s Web site. Additional resources include updated information on education and job hunting as well as an expanded Recruitment Toolbox. This online resource is available to anyone interested in student recruitment efforts. The Recruitment Toolbox provides public relations and marketing tools designed to attract both traditional and returning students. Tools include PowerPoint presentations, fact sheets, sample press releases, member success case studies, articles, brochures, and posters—all available to download at no cost. Visit the updated site today at <http://www.ahima.org/careers/intro.html>.

Bennett Named to AHIMA Committee

Dorine Bennett, MBA, RHIA, Director of HIM Programs at Dakota State University has been named to AHIMA’s new HIM Education Strategy Committee. This committee is to provide the AHIMA Board of Directors with strategic recommendations to further the goal of a strong academic base in Health Information Management. The committee will also be responsible for insuring that the recommendations related to the strategic issues outlined in the White Paper “The Health and Well-Being of Professional Education in the Health Information Management Discipline,” are being addressed and are moving forward.

What's New! Have You Looked On-Line?

From Mary Nelson, Chairperson SDHIMA Membership Committee



By now each of the SDHIMA members should have gotten your password and login ID for the new SDHIMA On-Line Directory. This is a really nice member benefit that you should tap into. We invite you to visit the SDHIMA website - just go to www.sdhima.dsu.edu and take a look at your membership profile, update your own demographic information or search the directory for other member information.

We are very proud of this on-line directory! It was created through the cooperative efforts between Mary Nelson, Chairperson of the SDHIMA Membership Committee, Dorine Bennett, HIM Program Director at DSU and Chris Thames, DSU Computer Information Systems Technology Fellow. SDHIMA was very fortunate to have the services of Chris to work on our website. He did a wonderful job! If you have any comments or suggestions about the on-line directory, please feel free to contact us at (nelsonm@siouxvalley.org) or (dorine.bennett@dsu.edu).

SDHIMA Spring Meeting

The SDHIMA Spring Meeting is coming!! It will be held at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel at Watertown, SD on Thursday and Friday, April 18 and 19. We hope that you will be able to attend – the agenda and registration information are available in this newsletter.

Room rates for hotels/motels in the area are provided for your convenience. All rates listed do not include tax:

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|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| Best Western Ramkota Hotel | 605-886-8011 | \$55, block of 50 rooms reserved, this price is only if reservations are made by 4/1/02 |
| Comfort Inn | 605-886-3010 | \$59 single, \$69 double |
| Days Inn | 605-886-3500 | \$56 double |
| Country Inn and Suites | 605-886-8900 | \$62 single with a king size bed or a double bed (unsure if queen or full) |

If you have questions please call Julie Anderson, Education Committee Chair at (605) 333-6575 or Kristi Osthus, Arrangements Committee Chair at (605) 882-7920.

SDHIMA Spring Meeting
Watertown, SD

Thursday, April 18, 2002

- 0800-0830 Registration with muffins and juice
- 830-1000 Personality Testing with Renee Schulz (Sioux Valley Hospital)
- 1000-1015 Break
- 1015-1200 Personality Testing continued
- 1200-1300 Lunch- included in registration fee
- 1300- 1400 Computerized Medical Record- Dawn Reinicke, RHIA (Director of Medical Records and Admitting, Avera McKennan Hospital)
- 1400-1415 Break
- 1415-1630 AHIMA CSA update and HIPAA- Monica Pappas (AHIMA Board of Directors)
- 1630-1730 Open Forum- Carol Person, MS, RHIA (Director of Medical Records, Sioux Valley Hospital)
- 1730-1830 Social Hour

Friday, April 19, 2002

- 830-930 Dr. Steven Feeney, Internal Medicine, Bartron Clinic, Watertown
- 0930-1030 Jeopardy Game (Health Information Management Version)
- 1030-1045 Break
- 1045-1215 SDHIMA Business Meeting

There will be 9 CEU's for attending all sessions of the SDHIMA Spring meeting.

Registration Form for SDHIMA Spring Meeting
April 18-19, 2002
Best Western Ramkota Hotel, Watertown, SD

Please complete this form and mail it with your payment by April 1st to: Kathy Dorale, Avera Health, 3900 W. Avera Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57022.

Name: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Registration fee is \$80 for members, \$100 for non-members, and \$20 for students.

Change of Address Form

In order to maintain an accurate database of the SDHIMA membership, please update the following information as needed. This information can be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to: Mary Nelson, Sioux Valley Hospital & USD Medical Center, 1100 S. Euclid Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57105; fax: (605)333-1575; email nelsonm@siouxvalley.org You may also update this information at the SDHIMA website by logging into the SDHIMA on-line directory.

(Please Print)

Name _____ Credential _____

Home Mailing Address _____

Street City, State Zip (+4 if known)

Employer _____ Job Title _____

Work Mailing Address _____

Street City, State Zip (+4 if known)

Contact Numbers

| Location | Telephone | Fax | E-mail |
|----------|-----------|-----|--------|
| Home | | | |
| Work | | | |

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter!