

SUNFLOWER

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SUNFLOWER (KANSAS) CHAPTER

A QUARTERLY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Winter 2007

Annual Meeting

April 27, 2007

At

Marriott Hotel

Wichita, Kansas

Kansas Governor's Taskforce Working on Electronic Health Plan ID Cards

One-third of every health care dollar is spent on administrative costs, and a lack of standardized electronic health plan ID cards is an important part of the problem. The Mid-America Coalition on Health Care (Coalition) conducted a study of physician claims that were rejected first pass by health plans and found one half of the rejections were due to incorrect patient ID number on the card. Recently, Governor Kathleen Sebelius highlighted the opportunity to use technology to reduce health care administrative costs with ID cards, "Most insured Kansans carry around one or more health insurance cards in their wallet. But unlike ATM cards, credit cards, or even grocery store discount cards, these medical ID cards aren't electronic. That means more time spent doing paperwork, and more money being diverted away from patient care."

To address rising health care administrative costs, Governor Sebelius created the Kansas Health Care Cost Containment Commission (H4C) in December 2004. The H4C has focused their efforts on health information technology and information exchange to improve the quality, safety and cost-effectiveness of health care. In early 2006, the H4C appointed a taskforce, facilitated by the Coalition, to develop state-wide standards for advanced technology ID cards. The **Kansas Advanced ID Card Taskforce** represents the first time anywhere that all of a State's stakeholders have gathered in a collaborative forum to address the importance of standardization and emerging technological issues surrounding advanced ID cards.

Interviews with Kansas stakeholders suggest broad interest in reducing health care administrative costs by exploring the use of advanced ID card technology. All groups agree a standardized electronic health plan ID card would significantly reduce administrative burdens, but several questions remain such as: Will the universally adopted ID card technology be magnetic stripe like credit cards, or a bar code as on merchandise? (continued page 3)

Table of Contents

- ◆ President's Comments.....Page 2
- ◆ Certification CornerPage 2
- ◆ Tax Relief ArticlePage 3
- ◆ New MembersPage 4
- ◆ Education.....-pg6



**President's
Comments
by
Terry Pound**

I want to say thank you to all the members who responded so quickly with their ballots. I again apologize for the short notice and do appreciate your help in this matter. At the Board Meeting in Junction City, we completed the new by-laws we will be governed under once we have incorporated. For the most part there is little difference between the new bylaws and the current ones we have. Our Chapter has done very well in the past with adhering to the ways National expects Chapters to govern and operate. It is only to narrow down the liability exposure to National that has led us to this incorporation issue. I really expect our Chapter to be pretty much business as usual. I will submit our new bylaws to National for their approval and then plan to send every member a copy upon their approval.

LTC is coming up soon and our officers, led by Angie Martin, President-Elect, are making plans to attend and prepare us for the next fiscal year. Strategic planning exercises will begin and I'm sure we are headed for another great year. This is also the time for our members to consider volunteering to serve on a committee or even as a Board member and/or officer. As I wind down my final year as an officer I have really enjoyed serving the chapter in this way. We have many members who have lots of talents to offer and I hope you will consider serving where you can.

CERTIFICATION CORNER

Did you know.....

HFMA's certification programs lead to the designation **Certified Healthcare Financial Professional (CHFP)** and **Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (FHFMA)**.

Certification has it's Advantages

Survey results indicate a strong relationship between certification and career advancement. Certified members of HFMA tend to earn a higher annual salary and are more likely to be hired for upper-level positions in healthcare finance. Check out <http://www.hfma.org/certification/chfp/> for additional information about certification contact Elgin Glanzer (eglanzer @ mhsks.org) or Becky Newton (becky.newton@newmedctr.org)

As we look forward be sure to mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting on April 26th & 27th to be held in Wichita. The program committee, led by Mike Metro, continues to provide us with quality programming as we experienced in Junction City recently. This will also be an exciting time as we install our new officers who will lead us in the next year. And to our new members that we recognized in Junction City I again say welcome to our Chapter and I hope you will find your membership to be a great investment for the work that you do. Stay safe everyone and see you in April.

Terry

(continued from page 1)

Clearly this issue will have to be resolved at the national level, but Kansas is well positioned to act as national standards emerge. Also to be addressed is what type of data will be exchanged (i.e., “dynamic” or “static”) and how providers will receive eligibility data from payors.

The efforts in Kansas are being watched closely by national groups who are, in turn, helping to shape the state-wide consensus building process. The **Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI)** charged with developing a national implementation guide for advanced ID card technology is a national consultant for the Taskforce. Also, the **Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH)** has completed standards for electronic eligibility transactions through its **Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CORE)** and has presented these standards to the Taskforce. If the Coalition’s collaborative model can drive stakeholder consensus around these questions in 2007, it will have a positive impact for the citizens of Kansas as well as contribute to the national dialogue.

If you have questions or would like to become part of the Taskforce, please contact Teresa Titus-Howard, vice president of the Mid-America Coalition on Health Care by email at ttitus-howard@machc.org or by phone at 816-753-0654. Your comments and participation are welcome.

Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006

The 109th Congress ended in December with both houses passing by comfortable margins the [Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006](#). On December 20, President Bush also signed this “tax extenders” bill that includes provisions to extend tax relief for American families and small businesses. The Act includes some provisions for health care as summarized below.

Laboratory and Pathology Services. The bill extends for one year a provision that requires Medicare to continue paying independent labs directly for the technical component of physician pathology services furnished to hospital patients (*NOTE: See [Change Request 5468](#), dated January 5, 2007*). In addition, the bill extends reasonable cost reimbursement for outpatient lab payments for rural hospitals with fewer than 50 beds.

Provider Taxes. Under the current Medicaid regulations, states can tax hospitals, nursing homes and pharmacies as much as 6 percent of their gross revenue. Beginning on January 1, 2008 and ending October 1, 2011, the tax rate will be reduced from 6 percent to 5.5 percent for that period. After October 1, 2011, the maximum tax rate will return to 6 percent. President George W. Bush’s administration had proposed reducing the maximum tax rate from 6 percent to 3 percent.

Hospital Wage Index. The bill extends the special reclassification under Section 508 of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 that allows geographic reclassification for an additional six months so that hospitals receiving this reclassification would receive the special payments for all of FY 2007.

(continued page 4)

NEW MEMBERS

Angel	Dan	Director PFS	Via Christi Regional Medical Center
Askren	Cecelia	Accounting Coordinator	Ellsworth County Medical Center
Baalman	Lisa	Cost Management Analyst	Salina Regional Health Center
Brown	Cindy	VP of Finance/CFO	Memorial Hospital
Cappuccilli	John	Marketing Consultant	Meditech
Carson	Vicki	Patient Account Manager	Scott County Hospital
Dick	David	CEO	Mitchell County Community Hospital
Dolan	Brian	Assistant Administrator	Physicians Surgery Center
Dunning	Nita	Patient Account Manager	Rooks County Healthcenter
Eck	Glenda	Accountant	Community memorial Hospital
Eichenberger	Julie	Controller	Mercy Health System of Kansas
Girk	Stuart	Account Executive	The Midland Group
Goodno	Janell	CFO	Stafford District Hospital Four
Harris	Quintin	Senior Analyst	Lancaster Pollard & Co
Hawkinson	Curtis	CEO	Community Memorial Healthcare
Hoy	Lisa	Accounting Supervisor	Newman Regional Health
Koepke	Eldon	CFO	Mitchell County Community Hospital
Levine	Susan	Director of PFS	Labette County Medical Center
McGhee	Susan		
Mohr	David	Director of Managed Care	Via Christi Health System
Mousley	Robin	Audit Manager	Chan Healthcare Auditors
Nitch	Nancy	Controller	Mitchell County Community Hospital
Patterson-Nazar	Kelsy	Attorney	Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP
Reiff	Loise	Operations Manager	The Midland Group
Rein	Roberta	Business Office Director	Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital
Schauer	Ryan	Health Professions Recruiter	U.S. Air Force
Schmeidler	Brian	Accountant	Great Plains Health Alliance
Stover	Ryan	CFO	Norton County Hospital
Urban	Danny	CFO	Ellsworth County medical Center
Vanhorn	Jeffrey		Harlingen Medical Center
Walker	Christy	Patient Access Manager	North Kansas City Hospital
Whitcher	Stephanie	Manager	CBIZ
Wolfe	Dean	Senior Consultant	BKD

(continued from page 2)

CMS is also required to propose area wage index changes for FY 2009 inpatient PPS based on a mandated MedPAC report.

Quality Reporting for Outpatient Hospital and ASC. Starting in 2009, the bill reduces the annual update by 2 percentage points for outpatient services provided by hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers that fail to report certain quality measures. The Secretary is required to develop outpatient quality of care measures (including medication errors), which may also include the inpatient PPS quality measures. The Secretary is also required to establish procedures for making

the submitted data available to the public to ensure that a hospital and ASC has the opportunity to review data prior to being made available to the public.

Physician Payments. Physician payment cuts for 2007 were prevented by freezing the conversion factor that determines payment rates for physician services at the 2006 amount. It also implements a 1.5 percent bonus incentive for physicians who participate in a voluntary quality reporting system.

**SUNFLOWER
(Kansas)
Chapter Officers
2006-2007**

TERRY POUND
President

ANGELA MARTIN
President Elect

ANGELA MIRATSKY
Vice President

ASHLEY SIMON
CLIFTON
Secretary

MARTIN WILLIAMS
Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MIKE METRO
Term Expires 2009

LARAINÉ GENGLER
Term Expires 2009

JANE POSTIN
Term Expires 2008

KEN JOHNSON
Term Expires 2008

ELGIN GLANZER
Term Expires 2007

TISH Hollingsworth
Term Expires 2007

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
MARK HOFFMAN
Audit

ELDON SCHUMACHER
By-Laws

LORI LACKEY
Founders Awards

JUDY SCOTT
History

VICKI MILLS
Nominating

ANGELA MIRATSKY
KEN JOHNSON
Membership

Elgin Glanzer
Becky Newton
Professional Excellence

KECIA KESLER
Sponsorship

Debbie McDaniel, Jane
Postin, Kim Mehuron
Communications

ANGIE MARTIN
MIKE METRO
Program

**2006-2007 Educational
Events**

APRIL 26-27, 2007
Annual Meeting and Banquet
Marriott Hotel, Wichita, KS

July 20, 2007
Quarterly Chapter Meeting
Doubletree Hotel, Overland Park, KS

JULY 18-19 2007
Cost Report Workshop,
Doubletree Hotel, Overland Park, KS

RURAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Rural Assistance Program is designed so that members from rural areas of the state have the opportunity to attend one quarterly meeting each year at no cost. The chapter will waive the registration fee and reimburse the member for meals, lodging and mileage. For more information about this program, contact any officer or board member.



**Sunflower Chapter Sponsors
for 2007**

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Silver Level



Bronze Level

- Berlin-Wheeler
- Central States Recovery
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