

Keystoner

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September 2009

Sponsors



PHIMA President's Address

Submitted by Fran Guiles, RHIA, CTR
PHIMA President



I am honored and humbled to be the President for PHIMA this year. I am also very excited to be writing my first newsletter article for the membership. Much of this article will be directly quoted from my acceptance speech.

It is with great pleasure that I announce to you that the PHIMA Premier Membership has been eliminated. Your newly elected Board of Directors unanimously voted to eliminate this additional dues

assessment effective July 1, 2009. We wanted to give something back to all of our loyal membership during these challenging economic times. Hopefully this consideration will increase new membership and strengthen our organization. To receive complimentary membership you must maintain active membership with AHIMA and designate Pennsylvania as your state association. To join AHIMA, visit <http://www.ahima.org/membership/>.

Our first board meeting was just a few weeks ago; we set goals and plans for our "*Sweet New Adventures*" ride. There are many new adventures and exciting times on the HIM Radar. Our focus will be to provide as much quality affordable education as possible to the membership. A new committee, Clinical Documentation Improvement in supporting this goal, will join our two robust committees, Coding Roundtable and Education/Program this year. The committees are working very hard to prepare a calendar of education sessions throughout the year, and already working on the agenda for our annual meeting in May. I encourage you to read their articles.

We will continue to work with Pennsylvania Educators and HIM students. We have student participation on every PHIMA committee and projects will be assigned. There are (5) University of Pittsburgh and (3) Gwynedd Mercy College students.

Please be sure to read the article written by our Gwynedd Mercy College student Tiria Miller. Remember all students from any school or programs are encouraged to participate and submit an article to the Keystoner. Fran.guiles@jeffersonhospital.org

MENTOR A STUDENT: We all need to be good stewards of our profession by mentoring students and new graduates. These people represent the future of our profession. Caring professionals mentored us as we grew and developed. Now we must be committed to share our combined experiences to make the HIM profession better, stronger and more effective than it was yesterday. "It's time to pay it forward".

Look for PHIMA to be more visible and active with the Personal Health Record (PHR) Campaign as the year moves ahead. We are striving for presentations at local and state meetings and to college students. If anyone is interested in becoming a leader to promote the PHR within their community, please visit our website at http://www.phima.org/phr_TrainerRequest.html and then contactus@phima.org

We will continue our active involvement in the Pennsylvania e-Health Initiative through our Legislative e-Health Committee. With the passing of ARRA there has never been a more critical time for HIM professionals to be "at the table", as the healthcare industry continues its migration to the E-environment. This committee will keep us on target with developments in ARRA, Workforce Education, Regional Extension Centers and Local Health Information Exchange. **SAVE THE DATE:** Health Information Exchange Summit – Tuesday, November 10th, 2009, at the Philadelphia College Of Physicians. (19 S. 22nd. Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103). To learn more, visit http://www.phima.org/education_calendar.html

Your Delegates were busy at AHIMA Summer Team Talks in Chicago. We learned that AHIMA's major initiatives for this year are ICD-10; the Legal EHR; E-HIM; the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Data Quality. I hope you will find the time to read your Delegate's update in this newsletter for additional information that was discussed. During Summer Talks and Leadership Conference we learned AHIMA has started a search committee for potential candidates to fill the CEO position. Linda Kloss, after a fruitful and dedicated tenure will be stepping down next year when her contract is up.

That is all I have for now. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president this year. In working together, our "*sweet new adventure*" will be fun, exciting and full of opportunities for

everyone. There are many ways for you to participate. Please consider running for office or volunteering as a committee chair next year. If this kind of commitment is too large, you can still support PHIMA by participating in our education sessions, using the CoP, remembering to renew your membership, and planning to attend our Annual Conference in May at "Chocolate Town" (Hershey), PA

To say that Joe is only a plumber is sad. Our students and entry-level professionals are:

The Top! They're the Colosseum.
The Top! They're the Louvre Museum
They're a melody from a symphony by Strauss
They're Mickey Mouse
They're the Nile, They're the Tow'r of Pisa,
They're the smile on the Mona Lisa.

An HIM degree \$50,000?
A trip to Las Vegas \$5,000.
A walk in the park with your Honey \$0.
An eager new HIM professional **Priceless**.

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PHIMA August 13, 2009 Board Highlights

Submitted by Denise Dunyak, MS, RHIA



The PHIMA board held its first 2009/2010 meeting on 8/13/09 in Harrisburg, PA. All but three members were in attendance. We also were fortunate to have five students participating.

After introductions of all members, our new president, Fran Guiles, reviewed her goals and objectives for PHIMA for 2009/2010. Fran has set aside an ambitious but achievable agenda, including more student involvement, which was proven to be achievable at the first meeting with 4 Pitt students making the trek from Pittsburgh and one from Gwynedd Mercy.

The 2009 Annual Conference was a success. Some significant changes this past year: more vendor exposure time, increased food quality, all registration was on-line & went very smoothly, all handouts were provided on-line. This is becoming the norm with everyone's desire to go green. Over 90% of attendees completed an evaluation. Tying them to the CEs is a huge help. Nearly all speakers had above average evaluations. There are always positive and negative commentaries. Exhibitors were vocal about the slow traffic during education sessions. A task force with a few vendors will be established to discuss how to make it a win-win for PHIMA and the vendors. 2010 PHIMA Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 10 - 12, 2010 at the Hershey Lodge for the first time in many years, with the return of some prior year traditions, including a key note on the first evening.

Staying in the category of education: A one day Fall Retreat was discussed to provide education for supervisor level and higher for those who cannot get away for the 3 day event. There was also much discussion on whether as an organization we should offer CE credits to nurses. Also, our colleagues from WPHIMA are going to look into establishing a CDI in the western part of the

state. To date, the focus has been on Eastern part of state. Stay tuned for more these topics

Finances were a hot topic including review of the budget from 2009/2009 and things to watch in 2009/2010. In addition, a Financial Advisory Task Force was created to review several new reimbursement policies, including use of credit cards, reimbursement for AHIMA and host facility incentives. The financial reserve policy was also discussed. Speaking of finances, we learned the PA is one of only six states that still have Premier Membership. A vote was taken and these will be eliminated; the bottom line – YOUR PHIMA MEMBERSHIP is NOW COMPLIMENTARY as a by product of the AHIMA membership.

The HOD voting this year will be primarily surrounding the restructuring of the number of delegates to the HOD, which could impact our board with the need to increase our delegate count by one.

Reports were submitted by all board members and committee chairs prior to the meeting ending at 3:50 PM.

Next meeting is Friday 11/20/09 at 10:00am in Harrisburg PA.

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AHIMA Summer Team Talks – Chicago, July 2009

Chris Parfitt, RHIT - PHIMA President-Elect

As President-Elect I had the opportunity to attend the AHIMA Summer Team Talks and Leadership Conference in Chicago in July. I was accompanied by Fran Guiles-President, Eve-Ellen Mandler-Past President, Joyce Garozzo-Coding Roundtable Co-Chair, Kathy Arner and Karen Czirr-Delegates, and Lorri Luciano, Executive Director.

The Leadership Conference – **i Lead** - began with a great and energetic keynote speaker, Stacey Hanke, she challenged the leadership members with hands on exercises and presented the message "*Speak To Be Heard! Influencing Others To Take Action!*"

PHIMA was acknowledged during the 2009 CSA CORE Service Achievement Awards held during one of the luncheons. Eve-Ellen Mandler -Past President, accepted the following awards on behalf of PHIMA

Continued Education Programs related to HIM topics- 1stPlace, Tied

Continuing Education Programs related to Coding Roundtable – 2nd Place

Support for Local Accredited HIM education Program – 2nd Place

We are all very proud of the Association's achievements

The AHIMA strategic goals were discussed, the main focus being on the ARRA and the Upcoming ICD 10 implementation. AHIMA is in the forefront and will be providing the most pertinent information to the membership as it becomes available.

Multiple concurrent leadership sessions were provided to enable communication not only with the specific AHIMA strategic goals but also the opportunity to discuss successes with other CSAs. The Pennsylvania team had split up in effort to obtain the optimal information from each of these sessions. I personally had the opportunity to attend six different breakout sessions, my most interesting and the one which I felt provided the most benefit was the Board of Directors Best Practices. This session had focused mainly on team building, presiding over board meetings and lots of ideas from CSAs on successes as well as failures, specifically with strategic issues.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to expand my awareness during this Leadership meeting and Team Talks. It was a great experience to share with representatives from around the country and exchange ideas was exceedingly rewarding.

Team Talks Chicago Summary - July 17, 2009

i Lead

Submitted by: AHIMA Delegates

The following bullet points are what were discussed at Summer Team Talks:

Designing the Future Organization

- o Scenarios of the Future: HIM 2015
 1. Ground Hog Day: lack of standardization & innovation in delivery; fragmented market reform; low or no growth economy; consumer trust; competition
 2. The Little Engine that Could: coordinated market; incremental information integration; diversified delivery of care; recognition of HIM profession
 3. Free Market Baby: healthcare market reform; high information integration; economy is market driven/efficient; advanced workforce; healthcare delivery is non-traditional
 4. Stairway to Heaven: universal coverage/coordinated care; leveling of HC spending; evidence based medicine supported by systems; active consumer; increase in delivery models.

Industry Update

- o **ARRA** – Governance – areas that are effected

DOA	HRSA
DOE	OCR
HHS	OIG
ARQ	ONC

CDC

DOL

CMS

NIIA

- o Office of the Coordinator is now Dr. Blumenthal
- o Policy Committee – set the groundwork
- o Standards Committee
- o Privacy Officers – Others as well
- o Meaningful uses

Incentives

Philosophy of Draft

- o ARRA – Regulatory Extension Centers
 - Technology Research Center
 - Technology Regional Extension
 - AHIMA Activities
 - AHIMA comments
 - ARRA – Education
 - ARRA – Privacy
 - From Law to Regulation
 - AHIMA Analysis
 - Breach Notification
 - Further Analysis – Don't ignore giving your comments in a final rule – it is important that you respond.
 - ARRA – Health Reform
- o ISO 10 – 781 – Entire world has adopted EHR standardization.
- o Fraud and Abuse - \$210 Billion is being left on the table – Fraud and Abuse is a key

Component of Regulations

- o CAC – Computer Assisted Coding – is this a good thing?
- o Legal EHR Summits – everyone should at least attend one session

Mary Stanfill from AHIMA updated us on the following:

- o AHIMA Resources
- o Respond to ARRA
- o Facilitating HIM Practices
- o Ensuring Privacy
- o ICD-10 Website – new article also coming in the AHIMA journal
- o Consistent Coding Practices
- o Clinical Data and Documentation Improvement
- o Copying and Pasting in the EHR
- o Nowhere with SnoMed Terminology at this time- The challenge is no uniform plan on how to implement and no consistency in the plan
- o Watch what vendor you use for EHR– look for standard signatures on EHR

Reports from HOD Teams:

- o Environmental Scanning: Survey developed for students presented at AOE in July
- o Best Practice/Standards: Products and Services – Future needs – E-Him
- o Professional Development
 - COC Bylaws Amendment
 - Idea Brief
 - Relationship with a COC
 - Continue Education
- o Higher Education & Workforce: Clinical Practice Guide give at Winter Team Talks
- o Volunteer & Leadership Development – Resolution...“strong volunteers in leadership roles and a leadership model are critical and necessary to the success of AHIMA”
- o Operation Team: Delegate Training Toolkit & HOD Performance Measures developed; charged with presenting recommendations for delegate apportionment
 - There are 227 Members for the HOD for 2009
 - 33 CSAs have reached the maximum number of delegates allowed

- As AHIMA membership grows the number of delegates grows
- 3 recommendations with pros and cons of each were presented:
 1. Continue with the current 100 member base formula
 2. Adopt a 300 member base formula with a minimum of 2 and maximum of 6 delegates per CSA
 3. Adopt a 500 member base formula with a minimum of 2 and maximum of 6 delegates per CSA
 4. See grids on separate sheet

Key 2009 Initiatives

- o Sandra Fuller provided an update on the following:
 5. Guest BLOG Editor
 6. Lots of Newsletters by AHIMA
 7. Extending the HIM Reach
 8. Posters
 9. Books
 10. Patient Bill of Rights - Working on 10 items – Everyone should be treated the same way
 11. Education International – Global Service office opened in Brussels the day before Team Talks – too early to tell if this is a help. Want to expand to more European outreach
 12. Courses – on line
 13. Virtual Lab
 14. Educational Conferences
 15. ICD – 10 Summit – 200 attendees that was held in April

400 people have signed up for future training
 16. ICD-10 – In the future we may need to report CEU's just for attending ICD-10 session – this has not been set up that we need to at this time – it just in the discussion stage
 17. AHIMA Foundation – Valerie Watlaf PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA gave a detailed review of the Foundations activities.

18. Scholarship – “Give back to the Future”

19. Next Generation CoP demo

- AHIMA Election Results:
 - President – Elect – Bonnie Cassidy, MPA, RHIA, FAHIMA, (GA)
 - Directors – Cassie L Birnbaum, RHIA, CPHQ (CA), Chrisann K. Lemery, MS, RHIA, FAHIMA (WI); Lois M. Yoder, RHIT, CCS (FL)
 - Commission on Accreditation for HIM and Information Management Education (CAHIIM)
 - CAHIIM Associate Level Educator – Bonnie L Hemp, MBA, RHIA, CPHQ (OH)
 - CAHIIM Baccalaureate Level Educator – Melinda Wilkins, PhD, RHIA (AR)
 - Commission on Certification
 - HIT Educator – Carolyn J. Gaarder, MLA, RHIA (ND)
 - RHIA Professional – Amanda S. King, RHIA (TN)

The number of votes was an increase in 2008 (From 7% to 12%).

Congratulations to Mervat Abdelhak , PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA as Distinguished Member of AHIMA. This is a wonderful accomplishment.

A nice reception followed Team Talks. The day was well organized with a lot of information given.

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Auction at PHIMA Annual Meeting



PHIMA returned to having their (NO SO SILENT) bid auction again this year. The bidding started out slow but became fast and furious in a short period of time. As usual Bob Thomas coaxed a few extra dollars out of some of the bidders, for a good cause. The incoming President Fran Guiles a.k.a. Vanna did a great job showing all the donated items to the crowd. This years total was \$1638.00 PHIMA wanted to thank all vendors that contributed to the auction. PHIMA would like to give a special thanks to A Life Hospital for their most generous donation. The Gettysburg get away bed and breakfast received the highest bid of \$268.

A Life Medical will be featured on the PHIMA website for having the highest bid. We hope everyone that attended had fun and will join us next year in Hershey on May.

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Spotlight on your President-Elect



Chris Parfitt, RHIT –Coding Supervisor for St. Clair Hospital for the past 4 years. I have more than 25 years of experience working in the medical record department. Previous to working at St Clair I had worked for three other acute care facilities in coding as well as transcription and also worked

for a major vendor as Manager for ROI in the Pittsburgh area. I have been active with WPHIMA for many years serving in many different capacities including Publications Chairperson, Publications Committee, Education Committee, President-Elect as well as the honor of WPHIMA President. Also have been involved on the state level (PHIMA) on the Arrangements Committee and Co-Chair for the Coding Roundtable.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year serving as President of PHIMA and the new challenges that it brings and I thank all of you for this opportunity to be such an active participant in this great association!

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Spotlight on your Past President

Eve-Ellen Mandler, MS, RHIA, CCS



This is the flier PHIMA submitted for my candidacy for the AHIMA Nominating Committee in August 2009. It really sums up who I am. I am a HIM professional who has been fortunate enough to have a variety of GREAT positions in the HIM world- Director, Consultant, Adjunct Faculty, Lecturer/Presenter, Coder, etc.

My time involved in PHIMA has been so rewarding. I have enjoyed being part of the process to continue our growth and provision of education to our members. We are in exciting times- EHR/HIE's, PHR, ICD-10, ARRA. PHIMA is looking at ways to promote our profession with High School Guidance Counselors. I look forward to my continuing involvement in our profession!

- Over 30 years of HIM experience
- Director, Health Information Management Department/ Privacy Officer, St. Clair Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA (9 years) (Current activities)

HIM Contributions:

- *Member, AHIMA eHIM CDI Task Force*
- *President, PHIMA*
- *Co-Chair, AHIMA HOD Operations Task Force*
- *Member, PA eHealth Initiative-PHIMA Representative*
- *Member, Privacy & Security Practice Council, AHIMA*
- *Member, AHIMA Patient Identification in RHIOs Work Group*
- *ACE Member*

- *Student Mentor, CoP, AHIMA*
- *President, Western PA HIMA*
- *Chairman, Nominating Committee-PHIMA*

Experience:

- *Adjunct Faculty, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh*
- *HIM Consultant, Lutheran Affiliated Services SNF*
- *16 Years National Consulting Roles- Coordination of numerous Hospital Consulting projects/Interim Management*
- *Numerous speaking engagements for State HIM Associations and HIM Classes re DRG Optimization Strategies, HIPAA and Productivity; and for various Non-HIM Organizations*

Education:

- *Nova University- MS - Health Services Administration*
- *York College of Pennsylvania-BS -Medical Record Administration*

Eve-Ellen is PASSIONATE about HIM and has experience in numerous roles and responsibilities in the HIM field. She pursues solutions for the Education to Employment goal, and has mentored many people in the field.

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PHIMA Officer Nomination

The PHIMA Nominating Committee is currently soliciting candidates for the 2010 PHIMA ballot for the Executive Board offices of the following positions:

- President Elect (a three year responsibility)
- Secretary (a one year responsibility)
- Treasurer (a two year responsibility)
- First Year Director (a two year responsibility)
- Delegate (one) and Alternates

Due to the critical nature of these positions and their resulting impact on not only the future of PHIMA but AHIMA as well as our profession, we would like to have at least one candidate for each

office from each of the local associations. As an officer of our Board of Directors, you have the opportunity to network with the other leaders of the Board and apply your unique talents towards our profession. There is also reimbursement for travel, meals, and lodging available for members of our Executive Board.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in running for one of these positions, please review the brief descriptions of the duties and guidelines for these positions. If you think you qualify to run for an office, you can call your Nominating Committee representative or Regional President for additional guidance or own online Nomination Application.

Nominating Committee members are:

PHIMA Nominating – Bonnie Heim
bheim@iodincorporated.com
Committee Chairperson

CPHIMA – Carol Houlihan, MHA, RHIA
choulihan@hmc.psu.edu

LVHIMA – Yeva Zeltov, RHIA
yzeltov@gmail.com

NEPHIMA – Jane Ryan, RHIA
jryan@allied-services.org

SEPHIMA – Wanetta Edwards, MS, RHIA
wedwards@precysesolutions.com

SEPHIMA – Tiria Miller, CCA
tmiller1@mercyhealth.org
Student Member

WPHIMA – Eve-Ellen Mandler, MS, RHIA, CCS
eve-ellen.mandler@stclair.org

Please note: the Nominating Committee will verify Membership status and willingness to run before a name is placed on the ballot.

As we look forward to an ever changing profession involved in electronic health record initiatives, ICD-10, Quality Reporting Initiatives, Joint Commission, RACS and other regulatory and accrediting body agendas, this year will likely be challenging for all of us.

Please consider placing your name on the 2010 PHIMA's ballot. We look forward to your participation in this exciting leadership opportunity! Deadline for submission of a nomination form is Friday, November 13, 2009.

Please visit the online officer nomination form at http://phima.org/about_officernomination.asp

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Legislative/eHealth Committee

Co-Chairpersons: Stephen Young and Andrea Thomas-Lloyd



Members of the Legislative/eHealth Committee attended the PA eHealth Initiative (PAeHI) meeting August 26, 2009 in Harrisburg. The attendees noted that the pace of health information exchange (HIE) activities has increased dramatically over the past year.

Pennsylvania Health Information Exchange (PHIX)

Phil Majistro, Deputy Director from the Governor's Office for Health Care Reform, presented the status of Pennsylvania Health Information Exchange (PHIX). Governor Edward Rendell signed an executive order creating the Pennsylvania Health Information Exchange March, 2008. The goal of PHIX is to create a statewide system for improving the authorized access to electronic health information for all Pennsylvania's health care providers, payers, and patients. The use of a secure statewide information exchange can offer necessary electronic health information to health care practitioners providing services at the point of care, improve patient safety, reduce redundant tests and procedures, and lead to a reduction in overall health care costs while gaining efficiency in public health monitoring and tracking. The PHIX Advisory Council, comprised of stakeholders from across the Commonwealth, provides input on strategies, issues and recommendations.



PAeHI is recognized as an advisory resource to PHIX, but does not have membership on the PHIX Board.

Mr. Majistro noted that the PHIX will be applying for federal grants as part of the State Cooperative Agreements to Promote Health Information Technology. Awards will be made in the form of cooperative agreements to states or qualified State Designated Entities (SDEs). The purpose of this program is to continuously improve and expand HIE services over time to reach all health care providers in an effort to improve the quality and efficiency of health care. Cooperative agreement recipients will evolve and advance the necessary governance, policies, technical services, business operations and financing mechanisms for HIE over a four year performance period. This program will build off of existing efforts to advance regional and state level HIE while moving towards nationwide interoperability. Total funding for this initiative is \$564,000,000. States (including territories) or their non-profit SDEs may apply, as designated by the state. No more than one award will be made per state.

Several HIEs were reported in various stages of development throughout PA. Dr. Arif Ali provided a brief update on the HIE initiative he is leading in northwest PA. Mark Stevens provided an update that a HIE in northeast PA is in development. Two HIEs in central PA were mentioned, though no specifics were provided.

HIE Summit

The PAeHI, DVHIMSS, and other organizations are sponsoring a HIE Summit on November 10, 2009 at the Philadelphia College of Physicians.

Other legislative updates:

On June 10, 2009 Governor Rendell signed four health care bills that will reduce costs, improve

access and quality. Three of the bills were part of the Governor's 'Prescription for Pennsylvania'.

The House and Senate had passed almost identical health care bills and the Governor had urged them to work in a bipartisan manner to enact the bills since there was no disagreement on substance.

The information below is from the Governor's office press release, dated 7/1/09:

Senate Bill 189: This bill was part of the Governor's Rx for PA and will allow uninsured, single, adult children up to age 30 to be covered by their parents' health insurance plan. Parents must pay the premiums and the coverage hinges on the employers' willingness to offer the benefit to parents. This bill will go into effect in six months and coverage will be available on a rolling basis after that as contracts are renewed.

According to a 2008 survey by the Insurance Department, there are 383,298 uninsured Pennsylvanians between ages 19-29, which accounts for 40 percent of the total uninsured population. While not all of these Pennsylvanians would be able to be covered by a parent's policy, estimates are that this bill will increase access to health care for approximately 15,000 young adults

The Senate bill was sponsored by Sen. Jake Corman (R) and the HB 838 which mirrored it was sponsored by Rep. Mark Longietti (D).

House Bill 84: Also part of Rx for PA, this bill prohibits health care providers from seeking reimbursement for a serious, preventable medical error, often called "never events."

Approximately 140 patients who experience an adverse medical event that might be both serious and preventable die each year in Pennsylvania hospitals. The total charges for the hospital stays in which these deaths occur amounts to approximately \$21.8 million dollars. Approximately 3,500 other patients a year survive an adverse event for which charges are an addition \$316 million a year.

In January 2008, the Department of Public Welfare implemented a policy to prohibit hospitals to bill Medicaid for 27 "never events," such as operating on the wrong patient, medication errors that result in death or disability and bad blood transfusions.

The House bill was sponsored by Rep. Tony M. DeLuca (D) and a similar bill was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Donald C. White (R).

House Bill 1089: Federal COBRA law, which allows those who lose their jobs to continue paying for health insurance through their former employers for a period of time, applies to all employers with 20 or more employees. The concept of providing continuation coverage to small businesses with fewer than 20 employees was initially proposed by Sen. Corman as SB 189. This bill, which was sponsored in the House by Rep. Robert F. Matzie, allows employees of small businesses who lose their jobs to continue receiving their health insurance at their expense for up to nine months.

This is particularly important because the federal stimulus plan permits employees who lose their

jobs and who qualify for COBRA to receive a federal government subsidy of 65 percent of the premiums for the coverage, so long as the employee pays the remaining 35 percent. So, in Pennsylvania, any employee of a small business who is terminated after July 10, 2009, and before Jan. 1, 2010, will be eligible for the subsidy. Because of the high cost of individual and continuation health care coverage, this financial assistance is critical to helping these individuals to afford to continue their former employer-based coverage under Mini COBRA.

Senate Bill 89: This bill, also supported in the Governor's Rx for PA, reauthorizes the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, or PHC4, which is broadly acknowledged as the nation's premier agency of its kind. The work of PHC4 is critical to the Rx for PA initiatives for tracing patient safety and health care quality outcomes, as well as the cost of hospital acquired infections and avoidable mistakes. Health care purchasers, such as businesses and labor unions, use PHC4 data for plan design and cost and quality improvements. The agency had sunset last year without legislative reauthorization and was kept in operation through an executive order by Governor Rendell.

A study in the August 2008 American Journal of Medical Quality estimated that PHC4's public reporting process prevented 1,500 deaths in one year in just six disease and treatment categories. PHC4's own findings show improvements in hospital care over the past 12 years of public reporting have saved an estimated 49,000 lives and \$1.7 billion in hospital charges. Since PHC4's public reporting of heart surgeries began, the mortality rate for heart bypass surgery in Pennsylvania has dropped 51.7 percent.

PHC4's first-in-the-U.S. public report quantified the cost and associated deaths from hospital-acquired infections, and resulted in Act 52 of 2007 which addressed infection prevention and reduction. After the first year of implementation of Act 52, the infection rate in Pennsylvania hospitals dropped 7.8 percent resulting in an estimated savings of \$372 million.

SB 89 was sponsored by Sen. Patricia H. Vance (R) and a similar bill, HB 173, was sponsored in the House by Majority Leader Rep. Todd A. Eachus (D).

The Governor originally signed all four bills on June 10, 2009.

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RHIT/RHIA Reimbursement Exam Fund

By Dawn Criswell, MS, RHIA



PHIMA is pleased to continue the PHIMA RHIT/RHIA Reimbursement Exam Fund this 2009-2010 fiscal year. Because PHIMA strongly encourages students to take the RHIT/RHIA exam as a demonstration of their commitment to the HIM field, the Board of Directors will again reward those students who do!

All students who are PHIMA members and graduating from an approved HIM school between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009 AND who have successfully completed one of the exams are eligible.

The application form and details can be found on the career center link at www.phima.org/careercenter_examreimbursement.html.

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Clinical Documentation Improvement Committee

Submitted by Paula Frost, RN, CTR

The 2009-2010 year brings with it a new PHIMA committee in the format of the Clinical Documentation Improvement Program. Maintaining tradition to stay engaged with new and evolving programs, PHIMA will now be offering educational CDIP symposiums throughout the year and will provide a CDIP track during the May 2010 annual PHIMA meeting.

The alignment between PHIMA and CDIP came to fruition after PHIMA became aware of the quarterly CDIP educational symposiums being held throughout southeastern and central Pennsylvania. In May 2008, The Reading Hospital and Medical Center originally established and hosted one of the first organized CDIP symposiums in Pennsylvania in an effort to create coordinated educational and networking processes within the state. Attendees of various hospitals from the Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lehigh, Philadelphia and York areas were invited. Due to the success of this launch quarterly educational symposiums have since been held at Well, Jefferson and Pinnacle Hospitals during the months of August, November, February and May. Over the past two years, the CDIP symposiums have grown in attendance and the program continues to gain the interest of an ever growing number of clinical documentation specialists and coders.

Since the alliance with PHIMA the program has expanded to a state level with notification of educational opportunities via e-mail and the PHIMA home page. Our first PHIMA aligned symposium was held on August 2009 at Abington Memorial Hospital, Abington, PA. Topics included The Role of the Physician Champion, Performance Outcomes and their Role with a CDI Program, Final Rule for the ICD-9-CM October 2010 Updates, Identifying Infections in the Medical Record, and How to Identify Nutrition Issues in the Medical Record.

The CDIP committee goals for the next year include educating members through quarterly traveling symposiums and a CDIP track at the annual PHIMA meeting, expanding the CDIP symposiums to incorporate the western and northern regions of the state, developing a CDIP networking service and being a professional resource to its members.

The CDIP executive committee members include Paula Frost, Michele Johnson, Terry Backowicz, Stephen Bradley, Chris Garey, Lori Lafaver, Vicki Marth, and honorary member, Brittany Bianco representing the PHIMA student extern from the University of Pittsburgh. The co-chairs are Paula Frost RN, CTR Reading Hospital and Medical Center and Michele Johnson RN, BSN Well Health.

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Student Highlight - Tiria Miller, CCA



When I received the PHIMA student representative position, I was honored to be given the opportunity to serve.

During the first board meeting of the year, student representatives were asked to give their opinions on topics such as the student recruitment contest and the completion of RHIT/RHIA surveys. At that moment I knew that if students felt like there was no connection between them and PHIMA, this is the farthest thing from the truth. PHIMA wants student involvement now more than ever. PHIMA wants to know what can be done for students today for them to reach a greater potential in their careers. As a student representative, my obligation is to inform students of how important their relationship is to PHIMA. And in order for PHIMA to create opportunities for students to grow, students need to communicate their ideas and opinions as much as possible.

Being a Gwynedd-Mercy HIT graduate and continuing onto the HIM program, I am able to see, on a consistent basis, how strong relationships make strong futures in the lives of students and faculty. The small class size and the dedicated instructors has made all GMC's HIT/HIM students excited, prepared, and willing to go farther and work harder in their educational and professional endeavors.

As an employee and a student in HIM, I have the opportunity to use what I have learned so far and put it into practice on a daily basis. As an HIM Physician Liaison at Mercy Philadelphia Hospital, I am focused on chart completion, maintaining the chart delinquency rate, and assisting doctors in completing their delinquent records. My instructors have given me a well-rounded background of every area of HIM to handle any task in a real hospital setting. While completing my training sessions, I was nervous but not unknown to the tasks given to me. Every question that I have, I ask while never being afraid to want to learn more. And as an employee and a PHIMA student representative, I can use my experiences, such as the RAC audits and EHR implementation to inform others about what can be accomplished.

Being a student in HIM, having the chance to work in the field and being involved within PHIMA are all rewarding experiences. I am eager and ready for anything that the future will bring.

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Health Information and Technology Week

November 1–7, 2009, is Health Information and Technology (HI&T) Week



HI&T Week is a showcase for the thousands of health information management (HIM) professionals who perform their duties masterfully throughout the year. The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) is honored to provide support, representation, and training to HIM professionals for these valuable contributions to the healthcare industry.

AHIMA proudly partners with the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) in promoting our shared goals. We thank the members and facilities that make each HI&T Week a memorable addition to our rich history and for supporting HI&T Week 2009.

The theme for this year's event is, "Precision in Practice, Excellence in Care." Technology can improve data quality and efficiency in consumer healthcare, but management of that information is one of the most complex challenges facing healthcare organizations today. HIM professionals are vital to the healthcare system's ability to collect and manage health records, and deliver timely, accurate data to care providers. This improves patient care and safety.

"Health information management spans the entire continuum of healthcare," said AHIMA President Vera Rulon, MS, RHIT, CCS. "HI&T Week is an excellent opportunity to recognize the contribution of the health information management professionals who make quality healthcare through quality information happen."

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Save the Date!

72st PHIMA Annual Meeting

Hershey Lodge
May 9 – 12, 2010



Mark your calendar and join us for the 72nd PHIMA Annual Meeting. We have selected a new location to hold this three-day event – **The Hershey Lodge located in Hershey Pennsylvania.** We have begun planning a power-packed program that will sure give you the incentive to attend the 3 day conference as well as earn a minimum of 20 CEs for less than \$200!!

Continue to watch on the PHIMA website (www.phima.org) for more details.

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AHIMA Convention



AHIMA's Convention and Exhibit offers education and networking opportunities to a wide spectrum of professionals, from entry-level to middle and senior management, plus those involved in areas like information systems.

Gain great resources at a great value, at the 81st AHIMA Annual Convention and Exhibit.

Relevant education, valuable networking opportunities, and an informative exhibit experience are offered economically, all in one location. Sharpen your knowledge through educational sessions and growth opportunities, [before, during and after convention](#). Plus, get a BIG taste of Texas hospitality at the [Gaylord Texan Resort!](#) Experience authentic Texas style on the shores of Lake Grapevine, just six minutes from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

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Keystoner Links of Interest

PA RAC:

<http://www.dcsrac.com/portal.html>

CMS RAC:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/rac/>

ARRA/AHIMA:

<http://www.ahima.org/arra/documents/TheHIMRoleinAssistingRegionalExtensionCentersJuly09.pdf>

<http://www.ahima.org/arra/>

PA eHealth Initiative:

www.paehi.org/

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Temple University College of Health Professions and Social Work (CHPSW)

Life is Great....

Academic Programs

The B.S. in Health Information Management program continues to grow. As of Fall 2009, we have 33 seniors and 38 juniors; 21 males and 50 females. At our May 2009 graduation ceremony, we awarded the Academic Achievement Award to Nikola Saponja, the Human Relations Award to Joshua Share and the Professional Excellence Award to Sovoeun Vann. Our seniors traveled to California, New York, Michigan, Florida (among other places) this year for their management internship and their projects included Cost of Document Imaging, RAC Audits, Process Improvement, and Incentive Pay Plans, to name a few. Thank you so much to all of our HIM colleagues who continue to make a commitment to educate our "next generation." We could not have the successful program that we do without your time and expertise.

The M.S. in Health Informatics (MSHI) starts in Fall 2009 and we have 18 students enrolled and have already started to process our Fall 2010 applicants. The MSHI is a collaborative program for the College of Health Professions and Social Work (CHPSW), Department of Health Information Management, and the Department of Management Information Systems (MIS) in the Fox School of Business. The first class includes students from HIM, health care, business and information technology professions. The Advisory Board has representatives from Fox Chase Cancer Center, Children's Hospital, Wyeth, Veterans Administration, Catholic Health East, Siemens, Thomas Jefferson Hospital and Temple faculty from the medical school, Fox School and CHPSW. Cindy

Joy Marselis, MBA, MS, RHIA, a graduate of the HIM program and an associate professor in MIS at Fox, is the Director of the masters program. Please visit our website at <http://www.temple.edu/HIM> for more information about these programs.

Research

The faculty recently participated in the development and submission of two stimulus grants. In April 2009, Laurinda Harman participated in the development of an NIH Challenge Grant, Project Title "Electronic Health Information Sharing: Current and Future Ethical Challenges". It was a collaborative project with Temple University, The Ohio State University and Texas State. It was not funded but is already being resubmitted to an alternative funding source.

We are actively involved in preparing a grant proposal for the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 - Widespread Adoption of Health Information Technology (HIT)". It is a Workforce Training grant which is due in October 2009. Maggie Foley and Cindy Marselis are the primary authors for this grant, although Cathy Flite and Laurinda Harman are active participants, as well as many other faculty at Temple and organizations in the community.

Faculty – The HIM faculty are active with publications, presentations and professional service activities. Here are some highlights of last year's activities, although I haven't included all the activities:

Margaret M. Foley, Ph.D., RHIA, CCS:

- Completed AHIMA's ICD-10-CM/PCS Train-the-Trainer Workshop
- Worked with a team to validate the mapping of commonly used SNOMED CT concepts to ICD-9-CM terms as part of a larger project of the National Library of Medicine
- Contributed to PHIMA publication: Legal Reference Manual for Health Information Management in Pennsylvania.
- Co-published a journal article: Cook, J., Foley, M. M., Giannangelo, K., Paterno, M. D., Scichilone, R. A., & Schwarz, K. M. (2009). Universal Adapters: Terminology Standards Enable Meaningful Data Exchange. *Journal of the American Health Information Management Association, 80*(1), 36-40.
- Wrote three chapters for textbooks:

Foley, M. M. (2010a). MEDCIN. In K. Giannangelo (Ed.), *Healthcare Code Sets, Clinical Terminologies and Classification Systems* (2nd ed.). Chicago: AHIMA.

Foley, M. M. (2010b). SNOMED. In K. Giannangelo (Ed.), *Healthcare Code Sets, Clinical Terminologies and Classification Systems* (2nd ed.). Chicago: AHIMA.

Greene, M. J., & Foley, M. M. (2009). Clinical Classifications and Terminologies. In K. M. LaTour & S. Eichenwald-Maki (Eds.), *Health Information Management: Concepts, Principles and Practice* (3rd ed.). Chicago: AHIMA.

- And many more things, as you can imagine....

Laurinda B. Harman, Ph.D., RHIA

- Co-published a textbook chapter and a journal article: Harman, L. B. & Nielsen, C. S. (2008). Research and ethics. In Layman, E. & Watzlaf, V. (Eds.). *Health informatics research methods: Principles and practice*. Chicago: AHIMA, pp. 333-393

VonderLuft, G., Harman, L. B., Koenig, K., Nixon-Cave, K., Gaughan, J. (2008). Cross validation of a self-concept tool for use with children with cerebral palsy. *Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities, 20*, 561-572.

- Made several presentations on the topic of Medical Identity Theft for Western Pennsylvania, Southeastern, Ohio and Mississippi Health Information Management Associations and at Rider University in New Jersey.
- Served on an Ethical-Legal informatics panel at the Healthcare Informatics Symposium: Translating research in clinical practice, Advancing health through informatics, April 2009.
- Served on a panel at the AHIMA Convention in Seattle on "New developments in personal genetic information and its impact on HIM professionals: A participative panel with polling."
- Married Gilbert Lee Hoffer, Ph.D. on December 6, 2008 and we are very happy....

Cathy A. Flite, M.Ed., RHIA

Cathy is enrolled at Fielding Graduate Institute and will begin her doctoral research during this next academic year. In addition to her doctoral course work and teaching, she:

- Co-authored, with the AHIMA Work Group on Security of Personal Health Information, "Ensuring Security of High-Risk Information in EHRs" *Journal of AHIMA 79*, no.9 (September 2008): 67-71.
 - Presented to the Maryland and Pennsylvania HIM Associations on *Managing Virtual Employees*.
- Co-presented with D. S. Sherifi on *Your Personal Health Record* for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association.
- Presented at the AHIMA national meeting in Seattle on *Moving Beyond Virtual Offices: Employees and Managers Perspectives on Virtual Offices*.
- Was a guest speaker on *HIPAA Training: A Practical Guide to Understanding Privacy and Security* for the Occupational Therapy Class at Temple University.

Cathy has been and will be active in professional association activities, as follows:

AHIMA

Member, Privacy & Security in RHIO/HIEs Workgroup, Health Information and Management Systems Society and American Health Information Management Association

Member, Electronic Health Record Systems Vital Records Functional Profile Workgroup

Member, eHIM Workgroup: Security Schema

PHIMA

Elected, 2nd Year Director, Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association, 2009-2010

Member, Business Analysis and Technology Committee, Pennsylvania e-Health Initiative, 2009-2010

Elected, 1st Year Director, Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association, 2008 - 2009

SePHIMA

Elected, President, 2009-2010.

Chair, Nominating Committee

Kesa Bond, MHA, RHIA, PMP

Kesa Bond is also enrolled at Fielding Graduate Institute and is completing coursework for the doctoral degree. In addition to teaching the informatics courses in the programs (BS and MS), Kesa made two professional presentations and served on several college committees:

- *Electronic Health Record Systems: Are We There Yet?* For the Alumni and Site Supervisors and at the Maryland Health Information Management Association (MDHIMA).
- Member, College of Health Professions and Social Work: Sustainability Committee; Website Design Committee and Research and Study Leave Committee.

We look forward to another excellent academic year.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laurinda B. Harman, Ph.D., RHIA
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Health Information Management
College of Health Professions and Social Work

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CPHIMA Regional Report

Submitted by Jennifer Zimmerman, RHIA
Public Relations Chairperson

CPHIMA held its final education session of the 2008-2009 year on June 12, 2009 at Normandie Ridge, York PA. The event was co-sponsored by Central Pennsylvania Association for Health Care Quality. The following topics were discussed; Chronic Care Model and the Patient Centered Medical Home - efforts to improve the quality of medical care in our communities, PHS-Connect – A Health Information Exchange, Highmark Blue Shield Updates and HAP Updates.

Following a great 2008-2009 year CPHIMA is ready to gear up for 2009-2010! The CPHIMA board has been hard at work planning for the upcoming year. CPHIMA will hold its first education session of the 2009-2010 fiscal year on September 18, 2009 at Burle Business Park in Lancaster, PA. Kathy Rivera, RHIT, CCS, CPC of Rivera Health Information Consulting, Inc. will present the October 2009 ICD-9-CM diagnosis code, procedure code and DRG payment system updates. Kathy has over 20 years of experience in Coding and Prospective Payment systems. She has experience as an Associate Director of Coding and Data Quality for a large teaching facility for over 10 years.

Upcoming Events:

- CPHIMA will hold its annual holiday education session at the beautiful Hotel Hershey on Friday, December 18, 2009.
- CPHIMA will hold its winter education session on Friday March 19, 2010 (location to be determined)

Additional information about CPHIMA, our newsletter and registration information for upcoming educational sessions and Coding Roundtable information can be found on our website!

www.phima.org/CPHIMA.htm

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SePHIMA Regional Report

Greetings from SePHIMA. It's hard to believe that school starts tomorrow and football is just around the corner. Where did the summer go? The new SEPHIMA board met on August 27 to define our plans for the year.

The Executive Board for the 2009-2010 includes:

President: Cathy Flite, M.Ed, RHIA

President-Elect: Wannetta Edwards, MS, RHIA

Past President: Fran Guiles, RHIA, CTR

Secretary: Renee Silverman, RHIT, CCS

Treasurer: Dasantila Sherifi, MBA, RHIA

Committee Chairpersons:

Bylaws: Joyce Garozzo, MS, RHIA, CCS

Education/Arrangements: Kim Felix, RHIA, CCS

Finance: Wannetta Edwards, MS, RHIA

Membership: Geralynn Bryers, RHIA, CTR

Nominating: Fran Guiles, RHIA, CTR

Public Relations: Denise Duniak, MS, RHIA

Advocacy: Dina Nedorost, RHIT, CCS

If you are a SePHIMA member, interested in participating in or learning more about any of the

committees, please contact Denise Duniak at 610-219-9530 or Denise.Duniak@siemens.com. If you have any ideas for education topics for our regular meetings, please contact Kim Felix kfelix@turn2meca.com

We had a spirited first board meeting with much discussion surrounding education and advocacy, membership and budget. Our first Education session will be held on September 16th and will include Coding Updates and a Revenue Cycle discussion. Kim Felix, our new education chair, has some great ideas on how to reach out to the membership at large including potential virtual education sessions for those that have a hard time getting out of the office. Also look for another holiday education session coupled with a board meeting. More details will be at the SePHIMA website and in our fall newsletter due out a little later in the month.

Dina Nedorost, our new Advocacy chair, is working on ideas surrounding Hill Day and trying to increase our presence, not just as a local association, but as a state. The SePHIMA members that went to Hill Day last year STRONGLY encourage ALL PHIMA members to consider taking the day and joining us in Washington DC in March 2010. It is an amazing experience. You need not be nervous about what to say or how to say it as AHIMA staff provide us with talking points at the orientation held the day prior.

Our Nominating Committee is chaired by past president, Fran Guiles, RHIA, CTR who will have assistance from Gerry Harter, Lily Kao and Gloria Davis. It's never too soon to join the fun and consider a run for office in 2010/2011. SePHIMA members, if interested, contact Gerry (gerard.harter@jeffersonhospital.org), Lily (Lily.Kao@siemens.com) or Gloria (davisgl@einstein.edu)

SePHIMA has joined Facebook. For those of you who are Facebook junkies, feel free to follow up on Facebook. If you are NOT that technical, stay tuned to the next edition of the Keystoner for more exciting news from SEPHIMA or visit our website at www.SePHIMA.org.

Submitted by Denise Duniak, MS, RHIA

Public Relations Chair, SePHIMA

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LVHIMA Regional Report

2009- 2010 LVHIMA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs:

President

Yeva Madden, RHIA
YevaMadden@gmail.com

Past President

Mary Beth McFadden, RHIA
RRA2nursinghomes@aol.com

President-Elect

Stephanie Donovan, MBA, RHIA
donovan.s@gmc.edu

Secretary

Michelle Mendez, RHIT
mlmendez@live.com

Treasurer

Cynthia Ohrberg, RHIT
cindyohrberg@yahoo.com

By-Laws Chair

Ed Mink, RHIA, CCS
Hirola61023@hotmail.com

Program Chair

David Van Doren, RHIA, CCS, RAC-CT
dvd@hsiadvisors@aol.com

Credentials Chair

Sylvia Kokolus, RHIT, CCS
skokolus@rcn.com

Education Chair

Barbara Thompson, RN, RHIT
Jthomps4@comcast.net

Nominating Chair

Christine Staropoli, MS, RHIA, CCS
staropoli.c@gmc.edu

Technology Chairs

Dawn Criswell, MS, RHIA, FAHIMA
Dawn.criswell@siemens.com

Lily Kao, RHIA

Lily.Kao@siemens.com

Goals:

LVHIMA's transitional meeting took place on June 14, 2009 at which time three major goals were identified for the coming year.

1. Focus on ways to attract new members and volunteers willing to serve on the Board and/or Committees. Critical to sustaining and growing our membership involves querying members in order to determine and meet their needs. LVHIMA Board and Committee members are prepared and eager to meet this challenge head on!
2. Foster existing and create new relationships with area HIT and HIM programs. LVHIMA seeks to solicit increased applications for the *Kathleen Lynch Scholarship* from all area programs. In addition offering the student scholarship, an invitation has been extended to students to not only attend, but also present at educational sessions. What a wonder way to share current information and bridge the gap between students and practitioners!
3. Bring LVHIMA to the forefront. This includes updating the website to offer greater functionality and enhanced content. Focus is also placed on attracting sponsors and establishing an identity for LVHIMA via appropriate marketing.

Educational Sessions:

October 1st Topic: Coding Changes session Location: Lehigh Valley Hospital

December 1st Holiday Dinner Location: TBD

February 6th – Topic: TBD ½ day Saturday session Location: Reading Hospital

April (date tbd) - Networking and student oriented session Location: Gwynedd-Mercy College

June 4th – Annual meeting Location: Hotel Bethlehem

LVHIMA is on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lehigh-Valley-Health-Information-Management-Association/107203984145>

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