

News & Views

March 2005



President's Message

On April 27, 2004, President Bush established the position of National Health Information Technology Coordinator. On May 6, 2004, Secretary Tommy G. Thompson appointed David J. Brailer, MD, PhD to serve as National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. The purpose of this position is to develop a strategic framework for nationwide implementation of interoperable electronic health records within 10 years.

Dr. Brailer has recommended the creation of regional health information organizations (RHIOs). These organizations would facilitate collaboration among healthcare providers to ensure that a patient's information would be securely stored, but electronically accessible to those involved in providing care in the community.

Interconnecting each RHIO will require an infrastructure, known as a National Health Information Network, to allow medical information to travel anywhere with patients. If you live in Omaha but require medical treatment while vacationing in Alliance, your physician could electronically send the pertinent information to the treating physician. In order for this to happen, the electronic systems must be able to communicate with each other.

Many states, including Nebraska, have already begun development of RHIOs. Dennis Berens, Coordinator of the Nebraska Office of Rural Health, has brought together a group of healthcare professionals from across the State to begin discussions and planning efforts toward creation of an integrated electronic health information system. Members shared information regarding EHR projects already in progress throughout the State and drafted the following vision statement:

The Nebraska Health Information System Model will:

Create an all-encompassing, sustainable, reliable, real-time, seamless electronic health record and data transfer system; that protects all privacy and proprietary rights, that serves all stakeholders' needs, provides for connections with patients to all providers, that offers private enterprise the possibility of profit, eliminates inefficiencies, and offers the State of Nebraska and its people the opportunity to set the EHS standards for the state, nation, and world.

I am proud to report that several NHIMA members are involved in this project. I encourage as many other members to join as possible so that we may ensure Health Information Management professionals have an impact on this important initiative. The AHIMA's MyPHR web site fits so well with this initiative. Members can play a significant role in informing consumers of the importance of keeping personal health records while the infrastructure is developing for electronic transmission of PHI at the point of service.



The electronic age is upon us, whether we like it or not. I extend an invitation to all of you to get involved and shape the direction of things to come - don't let the changes sweep you away.



NHIMA President

Additional references:

<http://www.os.dhhs.gov/healthit/goals.html>
Federal Register / Monday, November 15, 2004 /
Department of Health and Human Services
<http://www.hhs.gov/onchit/framework/>
dennis.berens@hss.ne.gov
dkglover@charter.net

Congratulations to Newly Credentialed Health Information Professionals

RHITs –

Susan Hamilton
Jessica Stabnow
Laura Stuck

CCAs –

Gloria Belt
Heather Schneider
Barbara Shald
Lisa Weinmaster

RHIAs –

Andrea Faber
Pamela Moore

CCSs –

Marcella Bucknam
Jennifer Martinez
Melissa Ryder

CHPS –

Colleen Simianer

The NHIMA Membership List will not be included in News & Views as in the past. However, the NHIMA membership list can be emailed to NHIMA members. Request your list by emailing the NHIMA Central Office at kim@consulthi.com.



April 10-16, 2005

Welcome to New NHIMA Members

Marilyn Keilig
Linda Weeks, MBA, MS, RHIA
Nancy Newhouse
Kathryn Riggs
Elizabeth Moreno
Carmella Schroeder
Dan Munhall
Louise Amsk

Jessica Kamler
Theresa Owen
Robin Jones
Julie Fechner
Jessica Nitsch
Joan Thalken, RHIA
Theresa Hall
Tanya Hamit

AHIMA Considers Dues Increase for 2006

In March, the NHIMA will be sending two delegates to Winter Team Talks in St. Louis. The AHIMA Board of Directors has notified us that one of the topics for discussion will be the issue of a dues increase for our members. Delegates from each state will be asked to vote on this proposal in early May.

Please direct your questions/concerns to the State Leaders and HOD Community of Practice. Questions posted in the discussion threads will be answered by members of the Business and Audit Team of the AHIMA Board of Directors and staff.

The proposal currently reads as follows:

Dues would increase \$20 per year for active and associate members (from \$135 to \$155). Student and new graduate dues would not increase. Senior member dues would increase \$10 per year (from \$50 to \$60).

This is a business decision by the AHIMA Board of Directors. Today, AHIMA has a number of opportunities that did not exist in 2001. As

movement toward a national health information infrastructure and e-HIM grows, there is more pressure than ever on AHIMA to take advantage of these opportunities for the HIM profession and provide new products and services. Despite stringent expense management, the price of member benefits and services continues to increase, thanks to inflation. To meet current demands and still balance the association budget, a dues increase is necessary.

The March and April issues of the AHIMA Advantage newsletter will also include a notice about the dues proposal. In addition, discussions will be held in the Geographic Nebraska CoP so that we may obtain your views on this subject. I encourage each of you to make your views known to the Nebraska delegates - Charlene Tilson, Janet Dooley, Kim Hazelton, and myself.

Nancy Kinyoun
NHIMA President



HIM College Spotlight – College of Saint Mary

The Professional Promotions and Recruitment Committee will be "spotlighting" a HIM educational program in each issue of News and Views. The first spotlight is on College of Saint Mary (CSM) in Omaha. CSM is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education.

CSM celebrated 50 years of HIM education in 2004 and currently offers 3 HIM programs: Medical Coding & Reimbursement Specialist Certificate, Associate Degree, and Bachelor's Degree. The Medical Coding & Reimbursement Specialist Certificate is unique in that classes are offered in an every other weekend format. The Associate and Bachelor's Degree programs include professional practice experience classes where the students complete practicums at acute, ambulatory, and long-term care facilities. A recent addition to the practicum experience is completing a project under the supervision of an HIM professional in a non-traditional role such as billing compliance and insurance organizations, cancer registry, managed care, etc. The Bachelor's Degree students provide the professional community with workshops each spring. Two workshops will be presented in March 2005, with the topics being Coding Concepts and Transitioning to an Electronic Health Record.

The HIM program focus is to empower HIM students, developing and encouraging leadership skills. The programs offer small class sizes, the opportunity to develop contacts and networks within the professional community, and activities to stimulate life-long learning. The program is appreciative of their community support, as many HIM professionals serve as adjunct faculty, guest lecturers, practicum supervisors, and members of the Advisory Committees.

To learn more about the HIM programs at CSM, refer to the website at www.csm.edu or contact Enrollment Services at 399-2405.



HIM Student Spotlight

The Professional Promotions and Recruitment Committee will be "spotlighting" a current HIM student for each issue of News and Views. Janice Sandquist, a senior at College of Saint Mary, is our first student spotlight.

Janice will graduate in May 2005 with a Bachelors in HIM, minor in Business. She hopes to work in the data quality arena upon graduation, someday continuing with a Masters program. What excites her the most about HIM is the variety of opportunities, the challenging environment, and the dynamic HIM leaders who encourage and mentor new professionals.



Janice graduated from Lincoln Southeast in 2001 and discovered HIM through a fellow HIM student and the CSM Career Center. Through college, Janice has been an active leader in the CSM Student Senate, HIM Club, Student Orientation Staff, Service Day events, and served as a student representative on the selection committee for a new Vice President of Student Development. In the fall of 2003, she was excited to attend the AHIMA National Convention and enjoyed networking with fellow students and professionals from across the nation.

In the fall of 2004, Janice was selected as one of four CSM Distinguished Scholars. Through this scholarship opportunity, she has created recruitment tool kits focusing on high school students, developed classroom lectures on E-health and statistical presentation of data, partnered with a fellow student to create a HIM Professional Portfolio fact sheet for new HIM students, assisted with the HIM program reaccreditation process, and helped revise the CSM website. Janice has also had the opportunity to learn about the HIM career of education by attending advisory meetings and discussing curriculum management with faculty.

In her free time, Janice enjoys cooking, sewing, scrapbooking, gardening, and spending time with family and friends. She keeps busy balancing a part-time job at the Nebraska Medical Center as a Medical Records Analyst, attending classes, and spending time with her husband Eric and dog Oscar.

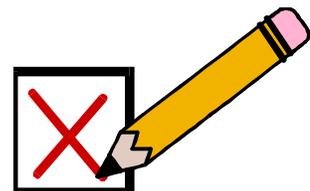
We congratulate Janice on a successful college career and wish her well in her future HIM endeavors!

It Is Time to Vote!!

Once again, it is time to elect new Board and Committee members for our State Association. We have some excellent nominees for the President-Elect, Treasurer, Director, and Nominating Committee positions this year. You will be receiving the ballots in the very near future as well as the nominees' resumes. Also enclosed with the ballots will be a Distinguished Member of NHIMA Award nominating form and some proposed NHIMA Bylaw amendments. At our Annual meeting in Alliance, April 7-8th, the newly elected will be announced, the Distinguished Member Award presented, and the proposed bylaw amendments will be voted on.

This is the time you can voice your preferences, so please take time to mail back your ballots before the deadline. – Charlene Tilson, RHIT, NHIMA President-Elect

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!!!



Virtual Team Talks – March 30

Would you like an opportunity to earn 2 free CEU's? How about the chance to interact with other HIM professionals, get up-to-date with what's happening within and around AHIMA, and give your input on AHIMA's strategic decisions? Coming up on Wednesday, March 30, you can participate in the first Virtual Winter Team Talks meeting.

Signing up is easy. Just log on to the Communities of Practice at www.ahimanet.org, then go into the "State Leaders and HOD community". Within the community, go to the Community Links section and click on the "Virtual Winter Team Talks Meeting Registration Link". Click on "Event Manager" under Set Up on the left-hand side of the screen, and follow the steps. Then click on Enroll to fill out the registration form. You will receive a snail mail or e-mail response, depending how you submit your registration. This response will include the event number and passwords that you need in order to participate. You must register for this event by March 25. Take advantage of this opportunity to take part in your professional association!

NHIMA Scholarship

To download the Scholarship Fund Policy and Application Form, go to www.nhima.org. Applications are due May 1.

NHIMA Policy & Procedure Revisions

The following policies were revised at the February 4, 2004 Board of Directors meeting.

3.31 NHIMA Delegates to AHIMA Team Talks

This policy was revised to better clarify which board members attend the Summer and Winter Team Talks.

1.10 President

This policy was revised to better clarify the duties and responsibilities of the President. (Do we need to get more specific? There is just a variety of changes here and I think as long as we tell them it was revised, they can go look at it if they want.)

1.20 President-elect

This policy was revised to better clarify the relationship between the President-elect and regional HIM organizations

2.70 Nominating/Credentials Committee

This policy was revised to clarify the qualifications required by President-Elect nominees.

3.14 Distinguished Member Award

This policy was revised to clarify the purpose of the Distinguished Member award.

2.51 NHIMA Guide for Privacy, Retention & Disclosure of Health Information Task Force

This policy was updated to reflect the new name of the guide.

To see the complete revised policies, go to the Nebraska Geographic Community of Practice and click on "View All" in the Resources section.

Spring 2005 Conference

THE MANY HATS OF HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

April 7-8, 2005

Alliance Country Club Alliance, NE

Contact: Judy Meyer, RHIT, CCS – (308) 762-4357 x3397 – jmeyer@bbgh.org

Thursday, April 7 - 6 CEUs available

8:00-8:30 a.m.	Registration	Continental Breakfast
8:30-8:35 a.m.	Welcome	Judy Meyer, RHIT, CCS
8:35-9:30 a.m.	"From Housewife to Medicare Manager"	Malinda Stanley, RHIA, MPA, CPC
9:30-10:30 a.m.	The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission – What Do We Do?	Terri Nelson
10:30-10:45 a.m.	<i>BREAK</i>	
10:45-11:30 a.m.	ICD-10 Preview and Update	Marcella Bucknam, CPC, CCS-P, CPC-H, CCS
11:30 – Noon	W.H.I.M.: What Hats Involved in Medical Records	Vicky Bantam, RN
Noon – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch & Annual Meeting	Nancy Kinyoun, RHIA, NHIMA President
1:15-1:45 p.m.	Screening for Early Lung Cancer with CT	Tom White, MD, FACS
1:45-2:15 p.m.	Forging Partnerships with HIM Professionals	Julie Garrett, Odyssey Research
2:15-2:30 p.m.	<i>BREAK</i>	
2:30-3:30 p.m.	Progress to Paperless	Colleen Simianer, RHIA, CHP, CCS Karen Schmidt, RHIT Denise Thompson, RHIT
3:30-4:30 p.m.	<i>Break-out Sessions</i>	
	Coding Roundtable	Marcella Bucknam, CPC, CCS-P, CPC-H, CCS
	E.H.R. Implementation Roundtable	Colleen Simianer, RHIA, CHP, CCS Jeff McGraw, RHIT Carol Spencer, RHIA
4:45 p.m.	Reception & Entertainment – "Mark Twain"	Country Club Wally Seiler as Mark Twain

Friday, April 8 - 3 CEUs available

7:45 a.m.	Registration	Continental Breakfast
8:15-9:15 a.m.	Update on AHIMA/NHIMA Issues	Charlene Tilson, RHIT
9:15-9:30 a.m.	<i>BREAK</i>	
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Spotlight on HIMS Programs in Nebraska	CCC, Clarkson, WNCC & College of St. Mary
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Four Qualities of Outstanding Leaders	Chuck Richardson, Peak Performance
11:30 – Noon	Your "Code" to a Successful Career	Carla Stein, Assistant Dean of Student Services, Career Assistance & Internship Director, WNCC

Full brochure and registration form available at www.nhima.org.

President (Delegate)	President-Elect (Delegate)
Nancy Kinyoun, RHIA 101 S. Clay Ave. Clay Center, NE 68933 Work: (402) 460-3116 Fax: (402) 460-3133 Email: nancy.kinyoun@hhss.ne.gov	Charlene Tilson, RHIT 805 Ontario Ave. Elwood, NE 68937 Work: (308) 324-8309 Home: (308) 785-2905 Fax: (308) 324-8311 Email: ctilson@atcjet.net
Past President	Secretary
Wanda Cantrell, RHIA 323 N. Sears Road Minden, NE 68959 Work: (308) 865-2395 Home: (308) 832-1124 Fax: (308) 865-2792 Email: wandacantrell@catholichealth.net	Kim Hazelton, RHIA 4756 N. 149th Circle Omaha, NE 68116 Work: 402-559-4709 Fax: 402-559-9991 Email: khazelton@nebraskamed.com
Treasurer (Delegate)	1st Year Director
Monica Seeland, RHIA 4050 South 35th Street Lincoln, NE 68506 Home: (402) 486-1406 Work: (402) 458-4914 Fax: (402) 475-4091 Email: mseeland@nhanet.org	Janet Dooley, RHIA 26546 Wirt Plz Waterloo, NE 68069 Work: (800) 458-4262 Fax: (402) 476-1335 Email: jdooley@neqio.sdps.org
2nd Year Director (Delegate)	NHIMA Central Office
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2004-2005 Chairpersons:

- Legislative Committee Mary Miller**
- NHIMA Guide for Privacy, Retention & Disclosure of Health Information..... Pam Koch**
- Nominating Committee Andrea Faber**
- Archivist Retha Hudkins**
- Spring 2005 Conference Committee Judy Meyer**
- Fall 2005 Conference Committee..... Kari Eskens**
- Coding Roundtable..... Marcella Bucknam**
- Professional Promotions Alison Harms**