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APRIL 2019- PRESIDENT LETTER

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

To My Fellow HIM Professionals,

I can't believe my tenure as President is coming to an end on June 30, 2019! It has been a great year, and we have accomplished much. The Education Committee has put together many webinars and workshops. The Communication Committee, along with Cheryl Rau, our Member at Large, have visited schools and educated students about our profession. The Legislative Committee has been working with the Massachusetts Hospital Association to try to refile bill HB 1205. A summary and text of this bill is as follows:

Summary

This bill implements the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy protections for accessing and sharing health information between providers and payers within existing state laws. The federal HIPAA requirements allows for the exchange of data between providers and payers in a confidential and secure manner to streamline treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. Unfortunately the state law is silent and in some cases may be confusing due to prior case law interpretations. The goal of this bill is to align federal and state standards that would also apply a uniform and consistent set of security and confidentiality criteria for clinicians, hospitals, laboratories, pharmacies, skilled nursing facilities, and health insurers. This bill would ensure that uniform standards for sharing of confidential and highly protected information between providers, including the receipt of test results from referring providers.

Bill Text

SECTION 1. Section 12G of Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as so appearing in the 2014 official edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end of the section the following new paragraph: Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the protections established under this section also shall apply to any disclosure of information by a physician, a health care facility as defined in section 9C of this Chapter, or any other medical provider or by an agent of any of the foregoing to another



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defined in section 9C of this Chapter, or any other medical provider or by an agent of any of the foregoing to another

healthcare provider or carrier, as such terms are defined in section 1 of chapter 176O of the general laws, as well as a government program so long as such disclosure is made in connection with the treatment, payment or health care operations, and such disclosure is in compliance with applicable federal privacy laws. The terms treatment, payment and health care operations shall have the same definitions as used in the federal privacy regulations, 45 C.F.R. § 164.501.

On March 25, 2019, Robin Andrews, the MaHIMA President-Elect, Laura Caravetta, the Director of the Legislative Committee and Advocacy, Linda Hyde, the Finance Chair, and I attended the 2019 AHIMA Advocacy Summit in Washington D.C. The summit focused on the following four topics:

1. Align HIPAA “Right of Access” with ONC Health IT Certification Functionality
2. Encourage Note Sharing with Patients in Real Time
3. Extending the HIPAA Individual Right of Access to Non-Covered Entities (NCEs)
4. Patient Matching

During our visit to Washington D.C., the four of us had the opportunity to visit the offices of Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Sen. Ed Markey, respectively. We also met with several of our Congressional leaders as well, including, among others: Rep. Stephen Lynch, Rep. Joe Kennedy III, Rep. Bill Keating and Congressman McGovern’s aide.

In addition to highlighting what our MaHIMA board members and committees have been doing, I also wanted to remind you of several upcoming MaHIMA events. Please consider attending our next Strategic Planning Meeting that will be held at the Norwood Hospital on May 3rd from 9:00 am -1:00pm. I encourage you to join us in person as we brainstorm for next year. All members of MaHIMA are welcome to attend!

The Planning Committee has worked very hard to come up with a great agenda for this year’s annual meeting at the Sea Crest in Falmouth, which will take place June 9 – 11th. I would like to invite all of you to the Welcome Reception on Sunday, June 9th from 5:30 pm- 6:30 pm. Not only will this be a great networking opportunity, it will also allow us to visit with old friends while enjoying the sunset. I hope to see everyone there!

As always, I challenge all of you to participate on a committee or task force. It is such a rewarding and fulfilling experience. If you are interested, click [here](#) for the volunteer page for more information. Best Wishes for a great year to come!

[Bibi Von Malder, RHIT, President MaHIMA](#)

FINANCE REPORT – FISCAL YEAR (OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2018)

Submitted by Linda A. Hyde, RHIA Finance Committee Chair

Income for the first six months of our fiscal year totaled \$51,035 with expenses of \$66,089. Fifty-one (51) % of our income for this period was generated from our educational meetings. Additionally, twenty-two (29) % of our income came from AHIMA member rebates and corporate partners and job bank fees.

Thirty-nine (39) % of our expenses are from educational programs including initial expenses for the Annual Meeting. The remainder of expenses were due to administrative costs and AHIMA Leadership and House of Delegates meetings.

The increase in expense over income for our year to date is primarily due to initial outlay of expenses for the 2019 annual meetings (deposits), and only thirty-seven (37) % of our expected AHIMA rebate income has been received so far. Typically in the third quarter we will see overall income exceed expenses as we generate additional income from annual meeting exhibitor and attendee registrations and a significant portion of AHIMA rebates. As of the end of December MaHIMA has \$ 106,774 in assets with eighty (82) % (\$87,695) in our investment accounts for reserves.



AWARDS & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE UPDATES

Submitted by Marianne Garfi, HIM, RHIA, CCS-P, Director of Communications

Lots of excitement from the Awards Committee this quarter! We celebrated the achievements of the following 3 individuals at the February 1, 2019 MaHIMA Winter meeting in Marlborough, MA:

Lynn Salois, RHIT, CDIP, CCS- [Mentor Award](#)

Ellen Butler Vaitkunas, RHIA- [Professional Achievement Award](#)

Georgette Wilson, RHIA- [Distinguished Member Award](#)

We recognize and acknowledge the many contributions of each of these members to the Health Information Management profession! During Health Information Professionals Week (March 24 -30, 2019), we also honored 3 facilities and their excellent teams! We applaud the following winners:

Partners Healthcare Partners Enterprise Health Information Management (HIM) Release of Information (ROI) and Audit Teams – Team Excellence for Best Practice

Emerson Hospital Coding Team - Team Excellence for Financial Impact

Cooley-Dickinson ED Coding Team– Team Excellence for Collaboration

The MaHIMA Board also attended a Meet and Greet with the students of Fisher College on Saturday March 23, 2019. The Board utilized this opportunity to promote the many benefits of volunteering and networking as a member of the Massachusetts AHIMA CSA. The meeting also served as an occasion to present the Fisher College **Student Achievement Award for 2019**. This year's winner was **Phiona Nangendo** (*pictured above*). Receiving the award at the Meet and Greet event allowed her to share the honor and excitement with her peers at Fisher College.

In the weeks ahead, the Awards Committee will be looking for student volunteers to help at the Annual meeting. The committee is also hoping to award additional student achievement awards to top students from each of the other Massachusetts health information programs.

As always, we have space for anyone to share a small or large task on the Communication Committee. There is always space for entries into the bi weekly StayConnected blog if you wish to share an article. Please also mark your calendars for Friday May 3, 2019, and plan to attend the MaHIMA Board Strategic Planning meeting! It will be held from 9am – 2pm at Norwood Hospital. More details are available on the MaHIMA website. We encourage the participation of all our members as we plan for the future of our organization. Enjoy your Spring! We hope to see you in June on the Cape!!!

APRIL MAHIMA MEMBER SURVEY – PLEASE RESPOND BY APRIL 26, 2019

Do you have 3 minutes? MaHIMA wants to hear from you! MaHIMA is your organization. Are we meeting your needs? Here is your chance to tell us how we can do a better job!

Please complete this [short survey](#) by Friday, April 26, 2019.

Don't hold back! All responses are kept anonymous. Results will be discussed at the upcoming Strategic Planning on May 3, 2019.