

SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

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SVHIA President's Message

By William Roush, RHIT

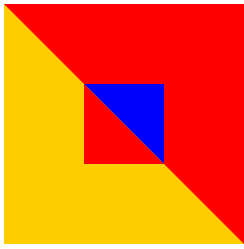
Hello SVHIA! I can't believe that I am already half-way through my term as your President. It has been a pleasure to serve such a diverse and dedicated group of people. The synergy when we all put our heads together is amazing! Thank you to the Board for your continued support and willingness to continue on the 2009-2010 Board when Lauri Beltrand becomes SVHIA President in July of this year.

Since our last newsletter (August 2008) the SVHIA has held the following educational events:
November – A combined Coding Roundtable/ICD9 Updates presentation and an OSHPD presentation on making the most of your data. This event was very well attended and beneficial to all attendees. I was very pleased to hear a frequent comment that night: "I learned something new!".

January – Coding Roundtable (with CPT Updates presentation). Cosumnes River College (CRC) Student Event – HIS Dept. Open House at Sutter General. Both events were very well attended and I was very pleased with our highly knowledgeable presenters. I was also especially pleased with Scott Hedge's willingness to open up his department (Sutter General/Memorial) to give CRC HIT students a chance to see how his department runs. Scott also shared the plans for relocating to a brand new facility next year. We also had some very seasoned HIM attendees that shared their unique career paths with students in a Q&A session. I plan to do this type of event annually for the students. Future events:

May – Open Forum for HIT Students at CRC.

President's message continued.



June – CHIA Annual Convention and House Of Delegates (HOD) meeting.

July – Betsy Moore (excellent speaker) on HIM related topic.

September – ICD9 Updates/Coding Roundtable.

Lauri Beltrand has been shadowing me as President-Elect and she will assume the President role in July. Thank you again for electing me SVHIA President for 2010-2011. Lauri and I will continue to work very closely together on SVHIA business for the next couple of years!

Not too long after starting as President, I had the feedback from a long term SVHIA member that we really need to get SVHIA back to “the good old days”. I take this to mean, more face to face meetings, educational sessions and networking opportunities!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at williamroush@hotmail.com if you have any questions or if you want to get involved in volunteering with the SVHIA.

Treasurer's Report by Maryn Mason, RHIT

SVHIA Treasury Report

3/19/09

<u>Account</u>	<u>Interest Srv Chrgs</u>		<u>Current Balance</u>
BOA Checking Account (12/08-2/09)	\$0.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 769.13
BOA Business Account (12/08-2/09)	\$ 5.63	\$ 0.00	11,842.77
BOA CD			6,322.93
Current Totals	\$ 5.63	\$26.00	\$ 18,934.83
<u>Income since last report</u>			
Sponsor Fee Coding Roundtable 1/09			150.00
Admission Fees Coding Roundtable 1/09			140.00
			\$290.00
<u>Total expenses since last report</u>			
Board Meeting Expenses		\$ 23.66	
Coding Roundtable Expenses			296.94
Ballot copies/envelopes		34.46	
Ballot postage			142.80
CHIA photocopy fees			20.00
CHIA label fees		24.72	
Conference Call Fees			47.54
			\$574.82

Respectfully submitted
Maryn Mason



THE 2008-2009 SVHIA BOARD MEMBERS:

President: William Roush III Contact at William.Roush@kindredhealthcare.com

Past President: Joan Demarce-Rutledge Contact at demarcj@sutterhealth.org

Secretary: Barbara Stroppiana Contact at stropb@sutterhealth.org

Treasurer: Maryn Mason Contact at Maryn.Mason@chw.edu

President Elect: Lauri Beltrand Contact at lauri.beltrand@kp.org

CHIA Board Liaison: LaVonne LaMoureaux Contact at LaVonne@californiaHIA.org



CHECK OUT CRC!

For anyone with a slight desire to advance their goals in HIT, Cosumnes River College is a great place to help enliven and motivate the Allied Healthcare - oriented newcomer.

Please check out the CRC website at www.crc.losrios.edu. The school's page has been updated with a fresh new look, spotlighting campus News and Upcoming Events. The website is very user-friendly and details many of the core items that a new student would value; such as: the College Catalog, Class Schedules, how to register for classes, and Distance Education. This brings the focal point to the online classes, an excellent advantage for busy individuals. A link is provided through the CRC website to this online learning environment.

Another wonderful thing about CRC is the focus they have given to providing a comprehensive and in depth HIT program. As highlighted in the course description in the schools website, this accredited program will provide training in the nation's tenth most employable career as well as requiring that classroom-based knowledge be applied in a non-paid clinical experience at affiliated health-related agencies.

A degree in the HIT program at CRC would give employment opportunities in the following settings:

- Ambulatory Care
- Long-Term Care/Rehabilitation
- State and Federal Health Agencies
- Insurance Companies
- Consulting
- Firms
- Mental Health/Chemical
- Dependency Acute Care

CRC's website also draws attention to the career opportunities that are available to the HIT graduate: Health Information Analyst; Health Information Abstractor; Release of Information; Health Information Supervisor; Consultant; Data Quality Manager; ICD/CPT Coder; Quality Improvement Coordinator; and Medical Staff Coordinator

So come check out the CRC campus or browse through their website at www.crc.losrios.edu and find out what your HIT future could be.

-Virginia Brunk





CHIA Programs and Benefits

By LaVonne LaMoureaux, RHIA CAE, CHIA Executive Director

CHIA's Active members can participate in the future direction for CHIA by taking the time to vote for CHIA Board Member and AHIMA delegate roles.

Several other important CHIA programs and member benefits include:

CHIA Member Recognition Awards. This year, a new award category, the Rising Star Award, has been added. Other Membership award categories are Distinguished Member, Professional Achievement, Educator, Literary, and Friendship awards. For complete details including criteria for each award category and nomination forms, go to http://www.californiahia.org/Content/CHIA_Awards_Program.cfm. Awards are presented at the CHIA Convention in June 2009 and February 28th is the deadline to nominate.

CHIA Scholarships. CHIA is committed to helping Health Information Administration (HIA) and Health Information Technology (HIT) students complete their education and enable them to successfully embark on their Health Information Management career path. CHIA's eligible Active members and Student members are encouraged to apply. At least eight \$500 scholarships will be awarded. For complete details and application form, go to http://www.californiahia.org/Content/CHIA_Scholarship_Program.cfm. Application deadline is March 1st.

RHIA / RHIT Exam Fee Reimbursement CHIA members who take their RHIA or RHIT credentialing examination within six months after graduation are eligible to apply for \$100 reimbursement of their exam fee from CHIA. Full information including eligibility criteria and an application can be found at http://www.californiahia.org/Content/RHIA_RHIT_Exam_Fee_Reimbursement.cfm. Applications are accepted year round.

Volunteer for CHIA or your Component Local Association.

Volunteers are CHIA's most valuable asset. The CHIA Board and Component Local Association (CLA) leaders recognize the importance of membership active involvement in building a strong Association that provides optimal educational, networking, resources, and leadership opportunities for our members. CHIA is continually seeking members to fill volunteer roles to help in this endeavor. Contact CHIA President-elect (Mike.Ball@stjoe.org) if you are interested in volunteering for CHIA; Mike is recruiting now for volunteers for the 2009-2010 fiscal year that starts in July. Contact your CLA President (williamroush@hotmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering at the local level. As a volunteer, you receive the benefit of strengthening your professional network, enhancing your leadership skills and developing new friendships, just to name a few.

For more information on many of CHIA's volunteer roles, go to <http://www.californiahia.org/Content/Committees.cfm>

*CRC online courses-
Submitted by Renee Roeschen*

According to the Bureau of *Labor* Statistics, *U.S. Department of Labor*, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition, "Employment of medical records and health information technicians is expected to increase by 18 percent through 2016—faster than the average for all occupations—because of rapid growth in the number of medical tests, treatments, and procedures that will be increasingly scrutinized by health insurance companies, regulators, courts, and consumers. Also, technicians will be needed to enter patient information into computer databases to comply with Federal legislation mandating the use of electronic medical records."

The Health Information Technology Program at Cosumnes River College Offers Online Courses

The Health Information Technology Program at Cosumnes River College offers online courses with instruction via the internet. The course instruction takes place online through the use of materials and activities posted on an internet site called Blackboard. Blackboard is a web-based course management system and includes features such as an electronic dropbox, automated grade book, discussion boards, and exams.

The internet-based courses are structured within the College's 16-week semester during the fall and spring sessions. There are no required meetings in a classroom or on campus. Deadline dates apply for submitting coursework and taking exams, however, students are not required to be on-line at any particular day or time. These online classes are not self-paced classes; there are due dates for documents and class participation and reflect those of a "regular" on-site class. Homework, course assignments, and discussion board participation must be completed by the indicated dates and times. Students should be prepared to spend at least the same amount of time, if not more than they would spend on a traditional class.

Taking a fully online course requires self-discipline, motivation, and the ability to complete required assignments on schedule. The most successful online students:

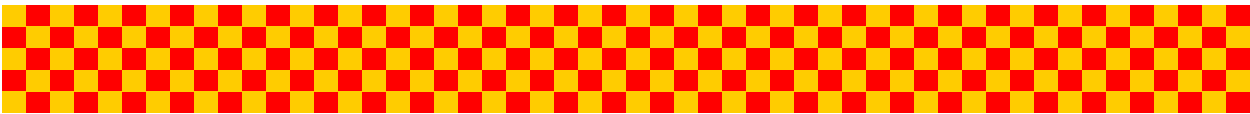
- Are highly self-motivated
 - Recognize, and commit to their learning goals and objectives
 - Have good organization and time management skills
 - Are somewhat familiar with the internet, web browser, email, and word processing
- Are familiar with how to open, create, save and send documents as attachments

Health Information Technology - A.S Degree

CRC's accredited Health Information Technology program is designed to train health information professionals with the knowledge and skills to process, analyze, disseminate and maintain health care information. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the national certifying exam to become a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT).

The Health Information Technology Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. For general education requirements please see the CRC college catalog.

Scholarships are available for qualifying students, including the George Hines Memorial Scholarship Fund which was established this year in honor of Mr. Hines, who was the program director and instructor for the CRC Health Information Technology Program until he passed away in February, 2007. The scholarship is for \$250.00, and is for full-time or part-time students with a GPA of 3.0, who are pursuing the A.S. Health Information Technology degree. If you have any questions about the program please contact the program director, Renee Roeschen-Bradley at (916) 691-7452, or by email at roeschr@crc.losrios.edu.



ICD-10-CM

Jennifer Teal, RHIA, CPC

Ok, so what is all the buzz about ICD-10 all about? For those of you that haven't heard, ICD-10-CM will be replacing ICD-9-CM Volumes 1 and 2, and ICD-10-PCS will be replacing ICD-9-CM Volume 3. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released a final rule with a compliance date of October 1, 2013 for implementation of ICD-10-CM. This rule does not impact the use of CPT or HCPCS codes currently used in most ambulatory settings. One of the main reasons for the transition is that ICD-9-CM has been around for far too long and is now running out of space to add new codes representative of today's medicine and technologies, not to mention the ability to compare data on an international level with ICD-10 since many other countries are already using today. According to the CDC, improvements over ICD-9 include, "the addition of information relevant to ambulatory and managed care encounters; expanded injury codes; the creation of combination diagnosis/symptom codes to reduce the number of codes needed to fully describe a condition; the addition of sixth and seventh characters; incorporation of common 4th and 5th digit sub classifications; laterality; and greater specificity in code assignment." While coders will need to learn this new coding system, the basic principles of coding are not changing. Coders will still select the most appropriate code based on the documentation contained in the health record. Coding professionals will however need to have a better understanding of anatomy and physiology than was needed for ICD-9-CM because of the greater level of specificity that ICD-10-CM allows for. This will also be dependent on a higher quality of documentation from the clinical staff. After all, coders will only be able to code as good as what is documented. If it isn't documented, it didn't happen! Haven't we all heard that before? Although more specific codes are available, there are still non-specific codes available for use when detailed documentation doesn't exist. For additional information on ICD-10, please visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/icd10fct.pdf>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/ICD-10factsheet2008.pdf>

<http://www.ahima.org/icd10/>

Computer Assisted Coding

Jennifer Teal, RHIA, CPC

With the advancement of technology, the development of computer applications known as computer assisted coding (CAC) are becoming more common. As more healthcare facilities adopt electronic health records (EHR), it becomes plausible to automate the practice of assigning diagnostic and procedural codes from clinical documentation. As it is today, coders are already utilizing encoder software products to assist with the assignment of codes. CAC takes it a step further by having the application search through the clinical documentation and determine appropriate code assignment based on the documentation. There are two types of technology available for computer-assisted coding; natural language processing (NLP), and structured input. In natural language processing, NLP engines use either semantic rules or computer-based reasoning to identify specific words within the transcription, analyze their context and then convert the words to codes. In this scenario, the coder would still be utilized to review the recommended codes, make changes if appropriate, and finalize the coding selection. With a rules-based NLP engine, the facility defines the coding rules it wants the engine to apply; with a reasoning-based system, the engine builds its ability to read text as documents are coded, using reports that have already been coded to create a baseline allowing the software to then guess

Computer Assisted Coding cont.,

how to code new reports based on how similar reports were previously coded. This new technology begs the question of what will become the role of the traditional coder. While automation of coding will replace some functions; the knowledge, skills, and abilities that a coder possesses cannot be entirely replaced by machine. Coders will be able to utilize their expertise in other areas as well as develop new skills to take on new roles. CAC will still require the skills of a coder to provide oversight in the review and validation of assigned codes and can perhaps be used to supplement coding staff in a field where we are already facing a shortage of coders.

References:

AHIMA e-HIM™ Work Group on Computer-Assisted Coding. (2004). Delving into computer-assisted coding [Practice brief]. *Journal of AHIMA*, 75(10). Retrieved April 15, 2008, from http://library.ahima.org/xpedio/groups/public/documents/ahima/bok1_025099.hcsp?dDocName=bok1_025099

MedQuist. (2005). *The impact of computer-assisted coding: Coding technology* [White paper]. Retrieved April 19, 2008, from <http://medquist.com/pdf/coding/Coding%20Productivity%20Whitepaper.pdf>.



AHIMA Delegate Report

Brian Faust RHIA

Once upon a time AHIMA delegates made annual pilgrimages to the AHIMA Annual Convention where they debated professional issues of the day; voted on resolutions and bylaws amendments; and conducted the other collective business of the association's representative body.

The AHIMA House of Delegates operates very differently today. Two important changes in recent years are primarily responsible for the dramatically changed way the HOD now conducts business.

The first of the changes was the decision to make the HOD a year around body with the ability to conduct official business between the annual conventions with on-line deliberations and voting by House of Delegate members. The issues voted on long distance are typically routine matters such as electing members of the Nominating Committee.

A more recent change in the operations of the HOD was the establishment last year of six delegate "teams" each with an assigned area of focus. Currently the six HOD teams are:

Best Practices & Standards Team
Credentialing & Professional Development Team
Environmental Scan Team

AHIMA delegate report cont.,

HIM Higher Education & Workforce Team
HOD Operations Team
Volunteer & Leadership Development Team

All delegates are assigned to serve on one of the six teams. Each team has a formal “charge” or work plan and meets by teleconference at approximately two month intervals between annual conventions.

The AHIMA HOD team structure is similar to the committee system used by state legislatures and the United States Congress to conduct their business.

Best Practices and Standards was the team to which I was assigned. The Best Practices team was given four charges this year: to collaborate with Practice Councils, Professional Ethics Committee, etc. in developing professional guidelines, to review resolutions submitted for consideration, to develop resolution concepts and, most recently, to participate in identifying research initiatives.

The Best Practices Team recently completed a review of twenty-two resolutions passed by the House of Delegates in the past ten years. The review was an interesting and informative exercise.

Team members were reminded that resolutions are a “formal expression of opinion, will or intent by an official body or assembled group”. Members were asked to assess the continued relevancy of the resolutions, identify examples of actions taken at the state and national level to advance the intent of the resolutions, suggest what further actions could be undertaken to further the intent of the resolutions and, as appropriate, identify steps that could be taken to renew the relevancy of the resolution.

The resolution I was assigned was, “Embracing Lifelong Learning: The Guiding Principle of Professional Development”. This resolution reads in part, “Resolved, that AHIMA members make the commitment to lifelong learning and professional development so that HIM professionals continue to be vital in ensuring quality healthcare through quality information.”

Do I think this resolution continues to be relevant? I certainly do! As someone who recently began his twenty-eighth year as an HIM professional and as someone who has experienced the entire arc of the profession’s transformation from “record keepers” to “health information managers”, lifelong learning has been an absolutely essential component of my professional journey.

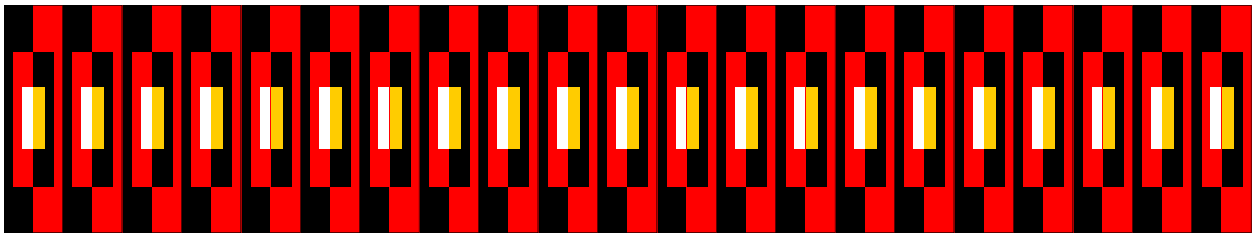
A summary of the assessments completed on all twenty-two resolutions is currently being compiled. The Best Practices Team has also had tentative discussions on developing future resolutions on inter-operative standards for EMR systems and a resolution dealing with adherence to HIM best practices and standards.

In other areas of focus, the Best Practices Team has been asked to participate in the review of a planned toolkit for amending and correcting electronic records and secondly to consider new products and services for the HIM profession.

California has a total of five AHIMA delegates, the maximum allowed from a single state. The other California delegates and their assigned team responsibilities are: Diane Premeau, Credentialing & Professional Development; Mike Ball, Environmental Scanning; Linda Russell, Higher Education & Workforce; and Deborah Collier, Volunteer & Leadership Development.

Brian Faust, RHIA is the AHIMA HOD liaison for SVHIA. He may be contacted at: bfaust@co.sanmateo.ca.us

March 2009



Congratulations to our newest
SVHIA
Sacramento Valley Health Information Association
Board of Directors
and
Delegates 2010

President - Elect: **William Roush**
Secretary: **Barbara Stroppiano**
Treasurer: **Maryn Mason**

Delegates:
Gail Aruta
Diane LeMire
Diane Miller
Joan McCullough
Jennifer Teal