Hello Everyone,

Thank you all for joining us for the December meeting held at Mimi’s Restaurant. We had a great educational presentation on the topic of “Release of Information: Patient Access Requests for 3rd Parties” the presentation was given by Ryan Hallman, the Director of Operations for DMRS. It was also a pleasure networking and socializing with everyone at the meeting.

After I left the meeting in December, I realized how much I enjoy networking and meeting new people. Networking allows you to connect with people who can help you develop your career, advice or assist to solve work problems and answer questions you may have as you grow in your profession. It is not always easy to connect with others; however, when you are in a setting that promotes and encourages connection, people tend to feel more at ease.

AHIMA had an interesting article on networking titled: “Networking: Your Pathway for Career Growth”. In the article, the author stated, “Networking can be one of your most powerful professional tools—and once you get started, it’s amazingly simple;” as well as, “strong networking skills may well be the key to landing your next position.”

(http://bok.ahima.org/doc?oid=58627#.XkzL0WhKg2w)
In addition, the article listed the “Top 10 Tips for Reluctant Networkers”. (Adapted from Networking for Everyone by L. Michelle Tullier)

1. Take baby steps
2. Don’t assume you’re being a pest
3. Think back to your successes
4. Get your competitive juices going
5. Leverage your strengths
6. Share what you have to offer
7. Manage “small talk” situations by asking questions
8. Rehearse
9. Practice when the stakes are low
10. Just do it

This article made me think of my own networking journey. When I first started in the profession, I was an introvert. I remember attending a CHIA Convention Conference and feeling lost because I did not know how to network. Every time I stood in front of a seasoned colleague I would freeze, I felt nervous and I would stumble when asking questions. Through the years, I realized networking was a skill I had to learn and practice often by building relationships with people.

Networking is now one of my favorite skills; I enjoy connecting with people and building long lasting relationships. Networking has opened doors in my career and has helped me advance in the HIM profession. Today, I want to encourage each one of you to come join the IAHIA Component Local Association (CLA) meetings. Be part of the growing HIM profession by networking with others.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 5th at El Torito Restaurant in Ontario and the educational session is titled “Patient Portals: Serving the Underserved” presented by Maria Alizondo, MOL, MLC, RHIT, FAHIMA, Director of HIMS for UCLA Health.

Thank you to CHIA for promoting and encouraging all members to network at the national, state and local level.

“CHIA ensures the personal and professional growth of our members and advances the health information management community through networking, education, shared knowledge, and advocacy.”

“CONNECT WITH OTHERS”

“STRONG NETWORKING SKILLS MAY WELL BE THE KEY TO LANDING YOUR NEXT POSITION.”
EDUCATIONAL MEETING:
RELEASE OF INFORMATION

By Patricia Smalls, RHIT, CCS

The December 5, 2019 membership meeting for the Inland Area Health Information Association (IAHIA) was held at Mimi’s Restaurant on Hospitality Lane in San Bernardino.

The meeting was attended by 30 people that included 4 students and 2 non-members. The menu included more than three entrees which were enjoyed by all.

IAHIA hosted the continuing education presentation by Ryan Hallman, the Director of Operations for Diversified Medical Records Services, Inc. The objectives of the presentation included what was, and how to, understand the history of Patient Access as well as how to navigate the gray areas of patient directives in HIM. The speaker touched on all areas of interest, including the misuse of patient access by commercial entities and its burden on Healthcare Providers. There is a difference between calculating the costs of medical records release under the HIPAA legislation requirements and those released under the HITECH legislation requirements. The burden most specifically discussed included increased time involved to process requests, the increased page volume and its increased labor costs.

The presentation showed the changes brought about by HITECH regulations and DOJ agency guidelines. It became apparent that “left unchecked, release of information will see a significant increase in time involved to process medical record requests, resulting in increased staff needs while exposing patients to privacy risks”. PowerPoint hand outs and supporting DOJ documents were distributed to those attending via email following the meeting.

A White Elephant auction, IAHIA’s student scholarship money making effort, had participation from all attendees with eight participants winning their auction and IAHIA making more than $200.00 for the scholarship fund. Auction items included Christmas decorations, bad beverage options, Christmas plate and crystal bowl.

IAHIA will host its’ next membership meeting March 5, 2020 at the El Torito Restaurant in Ontario.

JOIN US!

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Diversified Medical Records Services, Inc.
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United States

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**Loma Linda University, School of Allied Health Professions**

- Health Information Administration, Certificate & B.S. Degree  
  * On-campus or Online Course  
  Contact: Pauline Calla, MBA, RHIA  
  studyhiim@llu.edu

- Health Informatics, MSHI Degree  
  * On-campus or Online Course  
  Contact: Braden Tabisula, MBA, RHIA, CHDA  
  studyhiim@llu.edu

**AHIMA Coding Basics**

- Web courses  
  www.ahima.org/education/onlineed/Programs

**Santa Barbara Community College, Staff HIT CIM Department**

- Health Information Technology, A.S. Degree  
- Cancer Information Mgmt., Certificate & A.S.  
- Medical Coding Specialist Certificate  
- Healthcare Data Analytics Certificate  
  * Online Courses  
  Contact: info@sbcc.edu

**Shasta College Health Information Program**

- Health Information Technology, A.S. Degree  
  * Online Course  
  Contact: Steve Kim, Full-time Instructor  
  skim@shastacollege.edu

- Health Information Management, B.S. Degree  
  Contact: Andrew Dowgiert, Program Dir.  
  * Online Course  
  adowgiert@shastacollege.edu
IAHIA, Patient Portals: Serving the Underserved
Event Date(s): Thursday, March 5, 2020
Location: El Torito, Ontario, CA
Speakers: Maria C. Alizondo, MOL, MLC, RHIT, FAHIMA

Unique Situations Involving Disclosure of Minors’ Mental Health Records
Event Date(s): Wednesday, February 26, 2020
Location: Webinar
Presenters: Charles Onunkwo MHA, RHIA
Olga Birov MS, RHIA, CCS, CHDA

Interventional Radiology: Peripheral Revascularization of the Lower Extremity
Event Date(s): Tuesday, March 10, 2020
Location: Webinar
Speakers: Taryn Henley, CCS
Lisbey Rivas, CIRCC, CCS, CPC

Legal Health Records 2020 Update
Event Date(s): Tuesday, March 17, 2020
Location: Webinar
Speakers: Kelly McLendon, RHIA, CHPS

IAHIA JOAN ZIEGELMAYER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

The IAHIA Joan Ziegelmayer Scholarship is funded by the proceeds of the White Elephant auction held at each educational session. The number and amount of awards are determined by the IAHIA Board of Directors and available funds. Applicants are evaluated based on GPA, personal essay, and letter of recommendation.

The IAHIA Student Scholarship recognizes IAHIA Student Members and aims to help support them to complete their journey in CAHIIM-accredited HIA or HIT programs and career paths.

Eligible applicants must be a student member of CHIA and a member of IAHIA or an active member of IAHIA pursuing an advanced HIM certification (CCS to RHIT, RHIT to RHIA), currently enrolled in a CAHIIM accredited HIA or HIT program; as well as a minimum GPA of 3.0 in final quarter/semester of program and submit a personal essay of 500 words, letter of recommendation from supervisor, instructor or HIM professional and an unofficial transcript.

Scholarship application deadlines has been extended to March 31, 2020. Award recipients will be announced by mid-April 2020. The award(s) will be presented at the May 2020 IAHIA installation meeting.
On Wednesday, January 29th, I had the pleasure to attend CHIA’s eHIM Operational Best Practices: The Road to Health Information Integrity. This symposium was held at The California Endowment Center in Los Angeles. A second presentation was held later in the week at a location in Northern California. There were wonderful speakers that presented on topics ranging from patient registration and maintaining a clean Enterprise Master Person Index (EMP), challenges with Copy/Paste, patient portals and HIEs, Personal Health Record Integration (PHR), revenue integrity and submitting clean claims, and finally, clinical documentation integrity as a means for driving quality data.

These topics created quite a buzz with audience participation, questions, and sharing of ideas. I enjoyed every session and came away with some new ideas and contacts. Additionally, I always love the opportunity to network with professional friends, both old and new. CHIA has been putting on similar symposiums like this for the last few years and will continue in the future. I encourage everyone to make time and attend at least one of them. I guarantee you will not be sorry!
The CHIA Convention & Exhibit is California’s premier event for health information management (HIM) professionals. Health care and the role and opportunities for HIM professionals are on the cusp of unprecedented change. This one-stop event will address today’s most important topics and offers networking opportunities to a broad spectrum of HIM professionals. Discover innovative ideas and strategies for tackling day-to-day issues as leading industry experts discuss challenges facing today’s HIM professionals in electronic health record best practices, patient access/release of information, compliance, organizational leadership and management, data integrity, clinical documentation improvement, consumer/patient engagement, coding, compliance and more.

**Reasons to Attend**
- 40+ educational sessions organized into learning tracks
- Attendees can tailor the convention to their educational and professional needs
- Earn up to 18 hours of continuing education
- Industry Innovation presentations by CHIA Corporate Partners
- Exhibit Hall featuring state-of-the-art solutions
- Collaborate and share ideas with HIM professionals across California

**Pre-convention Tutorials**
Several half/full day Pre-convention Tutorials will be planned for Sunday, June 14, 2020. These hands-on, interactive sessions offer specific topics and exam preps in a small-group setting.

**Lodging**
The negotiated CHIA room rate(s) will be announced and made available in March 2020. CHIA warmly invites attendees to stay at:

Marriott Riverside at the Convention Center
The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa
IAHIA FINANCIAL REPORT

Report dates: January 1, 2020 until February 10, 2020

Balance as of December 1, 2019 = $12,651.25
Deposits: = $0.00
Subtotal: = $12,651.25

Expenses: Catering Expenses = $200.00

Ending balance as of December 31, 2018 = $12,451.25

CHIA 2020 ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

CHIA Nominating Committee and CHIA Board of Directors are pleased to announce the results of the 2020 CHIA Election. Please join us in congratulating CHIA’s 2020-21 Incoming Board Members and thanking each of the members who graciously stepped forward and permitted their name to be placed on this year’s ballot.

CHIA President-elect
Larry Smith, MHA, RHIA (SCHIA)

CHIA Director
Kamar Braish, MS, RHIA (GOCHIA)
Daniel Castañon, RHIA (SDHIA)

CHIA Delegate to AHIMA
Roberta Baranda, MS, RHIA, CHP (SHIA)
Maria Caban Alizondo, MOL, MLC, RHIT, FAHIMA (SCHIA)

CHIA Alternate Delegate
Vilena Boussarova, MS, RHIA, CHDA, CCS (SDHIA)
Sandy Hames, RHIA, CHP (NCHIA)

Each HIM professional who steps forward to seek a leadership role within a CLA, CHIA, or AHIMA contributes to the strength and success of CHIA. Learn more about CHIA volunteer opportunities and consider becoming a valued CHIA volunteer today.