

Executive Council Meeting

January 19, 2015

Minutes

Attendees

Drs. Jose Jimenez (President), Steven Barna, Thomas Bernasek, Eva Crooke, William Davison, Michael Levitt, Richard Lockey, Husain Nagamia, Radhakrishna Rao, Bruce Shephard, and Deborah Trehy; also Mr. Bill Butler (Alliance President).

Others Present

Dr. Michael Cromer, Ms. Elke Lubin (HCMA Executive Assistant), Dr. Anthony Pidala, and Ms. Debbie Zorian (HCMA Executive Director).

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Dr. Jose Jimenez, HCMA President.

Introductions

Dr. Jimenez welcomed the Council members as well as new member, Dr. Michael Cromer. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION MADE AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2015 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

Excused Absences

The following Executive Council members and ex-officio members requested to be excused from the meeting: Drs. Erfan Albakri, Fred Bearison, Rebecca Johnson, Charles Lockwood, David Lubin, Katherine Macoul, Ashley Maru, Anand Parekh, Jayant Rao, Anoop Reddy, Malcolm Root, and Brett Scotch; also Ms. Audrey Hopkins.

Brandon Regional Hospital Residents' Conference

Dr. William Davison reported that he and Dr. Ralph Nobo (FMA President) visited Brandon Regional Hospital (BRH) on January 11, 2016 to address residents in the newly formed resident program. His report included:

- Twenty residents comprise the first class. BRH expects twenty students to enter the program each year.
- Although all of the residents are international medical graduates, many plan to remain in the Tampa area.
- The presentation topics included the importance of organized medicine at the state and local levels and national politics in medicine.
- The resident physicians were very interested and welcomed future presentations from HCMA members.

HCMA Staff is working with leadership and BRH staff to coordinate future presentations.

Membership Report

Dr. Thomas Bernasek, Vice President, reported:

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- HCMA's current membership count is 1,606; HCMA gained fifteen Active members and six In-Training members since the previous report. Of the 1,606, 306 remain unpaid; 265 of the unpaid are Active members (@\$370 each).
- Dr. Bernasek reported he spoke with Dr. Devanand Mangar, TeamHealth Anesthesiology (formerly FL Gulf to Bay Anesthesiology) to encourage him and other physicians in the group to renew their memberships.
- Ms. Zorian reported that each member of the TeamHealth Anesthesiology group has been sent a personal letter and a renewal notice to their home addresses. She asked the Council members to continue to encourage the physicians at TeamHealth Anesthesiology to maintain their HCMA membership.
- Ms. Zorian stated that retention of membership will be a thoroughly vetted topic on the upcoming Leadership Retreat agenda.

President's Report

Dr. Jimenez reported:

- HCMA's 22nd Legislative Luncheon was held December 9, 2015 at the Centre Club. Eight of the fourteen members of our delegation were represented with twelve attendees. This annual event continues to provide a beneficial avenue that allows HCMA leaders to communicate with many of our legislators, in person, regarding medicine's issues. The turnout was lower than previous years due to the Florida Legislative Session being moved up nearly two months.
- FMA Board of Governors met January 8-10, 2016. The 2016 Florida Legislative Session (January 12 – March 11) and the FMA priority issues for the session were the main focus of the meeting.
- Legislative topics discussed included: balance billing, NICA rate increase or request hospital contributions, fail first protocol, retroactive denials, streamlining referrals, ARNP prescribing controlled substances, OBG hospital closures, and the needle exchange program developed by SE Florida medical students.
- Dr. Jimenez attended the Osteopathic Medical Society dinner in December.
- He also reported the HCMA/USF MCOM partnership is moving forward.
- The HCMA's first dinner meeting at the Centre Club is being held Monday, February 8th. Well known Tampa entrepreneur, Mr. Richard Gonzmart, will be the featured speaker. Dr. Jimenez encouraged attendance.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Zorian reported:

- Ms. Zorian reported that, as a follow-up to the last Executive Council meeting, the FMA, AMA, nor Board of Medicine have policies in place to encourage or require physician competency testing for physicians over a certain age. FMA staff will monitor the issue.
- She reminded the Council that the Nominating Committee will meet on February 17th and that nominations for HCMA officers and representatives are needed. Ms. Zorian reminded the Council members to be sure the members they nominate are in fact willing to serve.
- HCMA's newest Benefit Provider, as of January 1st, is the healthlaw team at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP. Ms. Zorian disseminated the Shumaker Benefit Program for HCMA members which listed the various topics they address. In addition, members are able to call or email a legal

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question to Attorney Erin Aebel and receive a complimentary return call or email no later than the next business day.

- Ms. Liz Brady, with the Florida State's Attorney's Office/Department of Justice, has contacted the HCMA to request assistance in obtaining feedback from physicians concerning insurance company mergers. The DOJ is putting forth efforts to stop the anti-competitive nature of the mergers and request the thoughts, concerns, and input from physicians in varying scenarios. The following motion was made:

MOTION MADE AND CARRIED THAT UPON OBTAINING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FROM LIZ BRADY, WITH THE FLORIDA STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE/DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, HCMA WILL EMAIL MEMBERS REQUESTING THEY COMPLETE A SURVEY PERTAINING TO INSURANCE COMPANY MERGERS.

- All HCMA members who were on a list provided by the Board of Medicine of medical doctors whose license to practice would expire on January 31st, were notified by HCMA staff on January 15th. This reminder is appreciated by members each year.

HCMA Alliance Update

Mr. Bill Butler, HCMA Alliance President, reported:

- At the FMA Alliance board meeting, bylaws were amended to increase Alliance membership categories.
- HCMA Alliance is hosting a "Go Red" fundraiser on February 20th at the home of Dr. Madelyn and Bill Butler to benefit the Judeo Christian Health Clinic.
- Alliance membership is up 10%.
- The HCMA Alliance is working with the FMA legislatively and with the Department of Health to promote STD awareness among young people.
- Dr. Jimenez added that the Alliance assists in promoting the HCMA.

Other Business

- Ms. Zorian reported the HCMA partnered with the FMA to offer an Insurance Summit and Opioid Prescribing and Prevention of Medical Errors CME seminars, on April 8th and 9th, at the Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel. Details will be emailed to HCMA members.
- Dr. Steve Barna asked if the HCMA will support SB 212 which proposes to increase the surgical stay/recovery time in outpatient surgical centers to 24 hours. Currently, patients must be released by midnight or transferred to a hospital. It is argued that this change will ultimately save healthcare dollars and lower the rate of infections. This increase is in effect across the country. Florida is one of the few that requires the patient be released or transferred by midnight. Dr. Barna reported that the Florida Orthopaedic Society (FOS) is a proponent of the bill and is seeking additional support. HCMA staff was instructed to reach out to the FOS and the FMA for details. The following motions were made:

MOTION MADE AND CARRIED TO SUPPORT SB 212, PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONFIRMATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE FLORIDA ORTHOPAEDIC SOCIETY AND THE FLORIDA

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MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. AFTER CONFIRMATION, THE HCMA WILL EMAIL THE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION CONCERNING SB 212 AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTACT THEIR LEGISLATORS TO SUPPORT THE BILL.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM.

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