



hfma[™] northwest ohio chapter
healthcare financial management association

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President's Message

MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION



At the last meeting, the Board was discussing the potential reasons for lack of attendance at the last few HFMA educational programs. Some thought it was the fact that financials were tight and institutional spending on educational needs was being limited to help. Others thought that it was because our members are too busy to attend, citing everything that they are currently trying to deal with. We primarily heard about time and resources dedicated in the areas of Corporate Compliance programs and Sarbanes-Oxley initiatives. Our last program topic was "Strategies to Identify & Monitor Compliance Risks". It was an informative program that could have benefited many members and helped them deal with the very issues that are occupying their time.

Everyone is aware of the historical facts that brought us to have to expend considerable resources on these topics. It often comes down to personal gain and outright greed. It reveals intentional acts of deceit and corruption that are immoral and illegal. The result is additional rules and regulations designed to protect the public from self-serving individuals. Those additional rules and regulations end up costing the public millions of dollars, but it is thought of as necessary because we cannot count on our leaders to not be influenced by the potential power and money.

The amazing part to all this is that there is no end in sight. I picked up the newspaper this morning and scanned through the headline articles. I read about local political fundraisers who may have made illegal political contributions in order to influence a national election to ultimately garner themselves more power and money. I read about a high-ranking government official lying to a grand jury to hide the facts surrounding the compromise of a federal agent. I read about oil company profits that have skyrocketed at a time when millions of Americans and many of our own institutions have opened up their hearts and wallets to help ease the pain suffered by the victims of the Gulf hurricanes.

As members of HFMA remembering our Code of Ethics in practicing honesty and maintaining personal integrity, we need to be committed to our actions. We need to examine every pressure to make sure we are not compromising our values. If you feel pressured to make a decision based upon personal gain, whether it is yours or your superiors, you need to step back and think of our code of ethics. If you are being persuaded under the guise of what is best for the industry or institution, you need to step back and think of our code of ethics. The concept of the end justifying the means does not excuse any individual for their actions.

It is important for each of us to be well educated on the issues surrounding our business and our job duties. This education is important to reach down to all levels that may be subject to making even small detailed decisions in order to ensure that the search for power and personal gains are not influencing those decisions. Make the right decision!

Kim McClure



Mark Your Calendars...

Upcoming Events Not to be missed

January 19

Promedica will be hosting our annual Medicare/Medicaid update with Ohio's very own Charles Cataline. Plante Moran will be updating gus on DSH and the wage index as well. Any meeting with Charles is always entertaining and enlightening, so don't miss this one!

March 16

Our ever popular March Madness Event will be held at the beautiful Maumee Theatre. It's a great venue for watching basketball, tipping back a few brews, and giving recognition to some wonderful volunteers in our chapter.

May 15

We will be back at the Toledo Botanical Gardens for a CFO Forum. This will give us an opportunity to hear from our top financial executives about some of the timely topics that keep us up at night.

More details will be sent closer to the meeting dates, but for now, you can block out the time on your calendars.



HFMA Chapter Leadership 2005-2006

Officers

Past President: Darrell Topmiller, Fulton County Health Center, Wauseon, 419-335-2015 ext 2106, dtopmiller@fulhealth.org

President: Kim McClure, Promedica Health System, Toledo, 419-291-5750, kim.mcclure@promedica.org

President elect: Samantha Platzke, Mercy Health Partners, Toledo, 419-251-2046, samantha.platzke@mhsnr.org

Secretary: Amy Gill, Fisher Titus Medical Center, Norwalk, 419-668-8101, ext. 6280, agill@ftmc.com

Treasurer: Todd Howell, Seneca Medical Inc, Tiffin, 419-447-0222 ext 304, thowell@senecamedical.com

Board Members

Robert Goshia, Paulding County Hospital, Paulding, 419-399-1106, rgoshia@saa.net

Dawn Balduf, United Collection Bureau, Toledo, 419-866-6227, ext. 6426, debalduf@ucbinc.com

Hayley Studer, Promedica Health System, Toledo, 419-291-0260, hayley.studer@promedica.org

Chairpersons

Diane Walther, Program, Wood County Hospital, Bowling Green, 419-354-8652, waltherd@woodcountyhospital.org

Christine Rizzo, Membership, Masters Associates, Toledo, 419-534-2852, chris@mastersassoc.com

Todd Howell, Certification, Seneca Medical Inc, Tiffin, 419-447-0222 ext 304, thowell@senecamedical.com

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Rob Goshia, Website, Paulding County Hospital, Paulding, 419-399-1106, rgoshia@saa.net



Compliance Issues

An Entertaining Look at Compliance Issues September 22, 2005 – Toledo Botanical Gardens

The Northwest Ohio Chapter was fortunate once again to be presented with an amusing and highly relevant look at compliance issues from different perspectives.

Keith Barber (who defended us last year in the mock trial), Scott Taebel, and David Snow, attorneys from Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, regaled us with stories and skits to drive home their points on the do's and don'ts of compliance-related topics.

Keith talked about "The Power and Art of Self-Disclosure." Disclosure questions involve high potential risk, including criminal charges, and require individual evaluation of the circumstances and issues involved. There is no set rule for when and how to disclose.

Because of the risks, guidance from counsel, protected by the attorney client privilege, can be vital in determining whether and how to disclose noncompliance with government rules and guidelines.

Keith left us with this deep advice: "Semper ubi sub ubi" (Always wear underwear!)

David and Scott used skits to drive home their points, and your fellow chapter members were able to hone their thespian talents, and no, none of us quit our day jobs!



Alan Ganzi with "The Feds"



Dr. Beth with her dreaded compliance officer

her compliance officer's issues, and Frank Bartoe was a CEO, far more interested in his putting prowess than his hospital's compliance program.

In the segment "What happens when the feds come calling and what you can do about it", the role playing showed conclusively that it's important for hospital representatives and hospital counsel to be aware of their options when investigators show up. Alan Ganzi and Kim McClure showed two different perspectives as CFO's dealing with the feds appearing in their offices. Dawn Balduf played a Patient Accounts Manager confronted by agents at her home, and believe it or not, that's a common tactic. Whole cases can turn depending on how hospitals respond to initial contacts.

David ended the afternoon with interactions of various aspects of compliance programs. Beth Hickman was the VP of Medical Affairs; she was resplendent in her scrubs and stethoscope showing disdain for the compliance officer's concerns regarding her hiring practices. Amy Gill was a CFO, not terribly interested in

These skits showed the difficult time compliance officers often face as they walk the fine line between protecting their organizations and retaining senior management support as they do so. Without this support, programs cannot be effective and provide no support for organizations. It is critical to maintain the momentum gained by effective compliance programs, particularly in an environment of enforcement initiatives all over the country.



Membership News

I am delighted to announce that five new members have joined the Northwest Ohio Chapter of HFMA since the last newsletter went to print. Please join me and the Membership Committee in welcoming the following new members:

Kent M. Holdcroft (eff. 8/22/05)
Regional Director – Operations
AIM Healthcare Services, Inc.
(419) 215-6968
kholdcroft@aimhealth.com

Chad Fitzwater (eff. 8/31/05)
Charge Audit Specialist
Upper Valley Medical Center
(937) 440-7183
cfitzwater@uvmc.com

Amanda Giesige (eff. 9/1/05)
Systems Analyst
Wood County Hospital
(419) 354-8964
giesigea@woodcountyhospital.org

Carol Schroeder (eff. 8/23/05)
Fiscal Administrator/CFO
Filling Memorial Home of Mercy, Inc.
(419) 592-6451
cschroeder@fillinghome.org

Thanks to Shelly Walters who sponsored Chad's membership!

Jeremy Kraft (eff. 10/3/05)
Reimbursement Analyst
(734) 240-4523
jdkraft2000@yahoo.com

Please look for these members at chapter programs and events and introduce yourselves. We have now added a total of nine new members since our chapter year began on May 1, 2005.

Membership Directory

The Northwest Ohio Chapter of HFMA member information is available through the chapter website, www.nwohiohfma.org. Click on the link for "Membership", and then click on "Click Here for Membership Directory". This will link you to the national HFMA website log in page. Once you log in, click on "HFMA Directory" on the top banner.

Please watch for an upcoming e-mail to all chapter members with important chapter information and a current membership roster. If you would like to receive a hard copy of this information, please contact Chris Rizzo at Christina.Rizzo@mhsnr.org. If you have any questions, or need membership application or member-get-a-member forms, you may find them at the registration table during chapter programs, or contact one of the membership committee members:

Chris Rizzo, Chair: Christina.Rizzo@mhsnr.org
Scott Fought Scott.Fought@promedica.org
Aimee Thoreson Aimee.Thoreson@promedica.org
Dave Wilson dwilson@ftmc.com

Editorial Policy for THE EXAMINER

THE EXAMINER is published four times per year.

Our objective is to provide members with information regarding chapter activities as well as ideas to help individuals in the performance of their job duties.

Your chapter leadership strongly encourages the submission of material for publication. Articles should be typewritten. Letters should be legible and must be signed. The editor reserves the right to edit material and accept or reject contributions whether solicited or not.

Send all correspondence or materials for publication to:

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Opinions expressed in articles or features are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Healthcare Financial Management Association, Northwest Ohio Chapter, or the editor.



Maintaining Certification - CHFP and FHFMA

Effective June 1, 2004 for those due to maintain in 2005 and beyond

Overview

Attaining an HFMA certification designation indicates achievement of a high level of professional competence that is measured by meeting certain experiential and professional requirements. HFMA certified members are granted current status for a period of three years from the June 1 closest to the date of attaining Certification. All HFMA certified members are required to maintain their designation through participation in continuing education.

Requirements for Certification Maintenance

The HFMA Board of Directors requires that both CHFPs and FHFMA's complete activities to demonstrate they are maintaining their technical and professional competence.

Certified members are required to be active members of HFMA and in good standing. Failure to renew membership by September of the maintenance year will result in removal of the CHFP and FHFMA designation. To regain the designation, the member is required to complete the certification process again including retaking the certification exams and submitting a conforming application.

The Board of Examiners (BoE) has specified the following maintenance requirements:

- 90 contact hours, in eligible programs, over the three-year reporting period
 - o Minimum of 20 contact hours per maintenance year (5/31 - 6/1)
 - o Minimum of 50% of the total contact hours (45 hours) must be in healthcare finance; The remaining contact hours may be from attending eligible programs and professional activities that contribute to the development of business and/or technical skills.
- A contact hour is defined as 50 minutes of continuous programming, excluding breaks, meals and social functions.
 - o For a list of education activities eligible for certification maintenance, please visit www.hfma.org
- Certified members self-report eligible activities in the on-line system
 - o HFMA reserves the right to request that proof of attendance and participation in any reported educational activity be provided to validate reported hours. Certified members should retain for one year documentation of an activity that would validate attendance at it and eligibility for maintenance for one year past the end of their June 1 renewal date.
 - o Members must keep their records current for all education activities they attend, including local chapter educational events.
 - o HFMA National will record all education activities for which a CPE letter was issued to the member.
- Candidates are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of their records. Candidates with deficiencies will be required to eliminate that deficiency by December 1 of the year in which maintenance is required. Failure to do so will result on loss of the designation.
- In lieu of participating in the Certification Maintenance program, certified members can retain currency by successfully re-taking the current Core examination and the specialty in which they are certified and submitting required personal references.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (419) 447-0222, ext. 304 or send me an email at thowell@senecamedical.com.



Membership News

Joan Bernard from Promedica has joined the Newsletter Committee. She and I are looking for another member or two to join us. Time commitment is minimal, and you don't have to write all of the articles! Please consider making the most of your HFMA membership by getting involved in your chapter's activities.

Thank you,
Dawn Balduf
Editor



Corporate Sponsors

The Northwest Ohio HFMA Sponsorship Committee's primary goal is to secure the funds that make available a broader spectrum of speakers and venues that add value to educational development of our members. To do this we contact potential sponsors that provide a variety of services to our organizations asking them to consider sponsorship of the local HFMA chapter.

The Sponsorship Committee is making preparations for the annual corporate sponsorship campaign that begins January 2006 with hope to add to our potential list of corporate sponsors. Please think about those companies you do business with that are not listed as Corporate Sponsors of the Northwest Ohio HFMA Chapter and consider passing along the contact information so we can include them in our annual campaign.

2005-2006 Corporate Sponsors

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United Collection Bureau, Inc.
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Masters Associates Receivables Management, Inc.
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General Audit Corporation

If you have any questions or suggestions for the Corporate Sponsorship program or the committee or would like to sit on the committee, please contact one of the following committee members. Char Masters, Chris Rizzo, Larry Kuk, Vince Sheahan, Doug Headman or Sandy Annesser.