



Legislative Affairs Committee
Report of Activities
Friday, November 30, 2007

I. Beacon Hill Day, 2007

The Legislative Affairs Committee held the Third Annual Beacon Hill Day on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at the State House from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Fifteen MHIMA members participated by visiting their legislators and urging support for the following:

- SB 1266, An Act Regarding Hospital Medical Record Retention Requirements,
- HB 2218, An Act relating to the Security of Vital Records and Verification of Identity;
- SB 697, which requires all private payers to utilize the standard coding and patient diagnostic information issued by CMS
- The need for HIM education programs in Massachusetts.

Attendees met with legislators and/or their legislative aides in the Legislators' offices or in Nurses Hall to discuss the above agenda items.

It was a rewarding day due to increased recognition for MHIMA as an association, increased awareness of SB 1266 and approximately 38 legislative visits accomplished.

II. November 28, 2007 testimony at the State House re: SB 1266/HB2222

MHIMA was contacted, via a call to Bettyann Carroll from MHA requesting members to testify at the State House in support of this legislation. Anuj had asked MHIMA to survey the members for information relating to the burden on hospitals due to 30 year record retention requirement. In addition, Elaine Fanwick was contacted about testifying on the issue from the clinic point of view.

MHA is forming a panel consisting of representatives from MHA, MHIMA, and HIM representatives from the hospital setting and an HIM representative from the clinic setting to discuss SB 1266/HB2222.

III. EHR Task Force:

The Legislative Affairs Committee followed up on information provided by Dick Logan to pursue getting an MHIMA member appointed to a proposed state wide EHR Task Force. The following has been accomplished:

- A committee member was informed that it is no longer a proposed EHR Task Force; but, instead, it is a law. It is now Chapter 130 of the Acts of 2007 and it was signed into Law by the Governor on October 10, 2007.
- Committee members who have discussed the issue see two possibilities for getting an MHIMA member appointed to the Task Force. One possibility is to lobby those hospitals allowed to have a member on the Task Force to consider appointing an MHIMA member instead of all IT representatives*. The other possibility is to lobby Senator Moore and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to appoint a member of MHIMA to the EHR Task Force.

*The exact wording of how representatives will be appointed to the Task Force reads as follows:

“ The Task Force shall consist of not more than 9 members, appointed by the secretary of health and human services with expertise in developing and implementing electronic health records, including but not limited to, the United States Veterans Administration facilities in the commonwealth, multi-facility hospital systems in the commonwealth, The University of Massachusetts Medical School, the e-RX Collaborative, MA-SHARE, the Massachusetts Health Data Consortium, the Massachusetts e-Health Collaborative, and Mass PRO.....”

- Elizabeth O’Keeffe has made an initial contact with Senator Moore’s office and has been working with Marsha Estabrook, Elaine Fanwick, and Karen Griffin to develop a draft of a letter to be sent to Senator Moore and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to request appointing an MHIMA member to the EHR Task Force.
- The letter will be presented at the November 30, 2007, MHIMA BOD meeting for approval.

IV. Future activities planned for the Legislative Affairs Committee are:

- Meeting on November 30, 2007 to critique Hill Day.
- Next meeting, following November 30, 2007 (date to be determined) will be for the purpose of:
 - 1.) Planning for update of the Medico-Legal Guide; and
 - 2.) Planning the Dot Wagg Legislative Seminar.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Fanwick
Co-Chair, Legislative Affairs Committee