



Legislative Affairs Committee
Report-June, 2007
Submitted by: Elaine Fanwick, RHIA

The Legislative Affairs Committee had a busy and productive year from 2006-2007.

In November, 2006 we had our Second Annual Beacon Hill Day. We received more visits from Legislative Aides and they reported that there was more recognition of Senate Bill 1292 and the bill had a good chance of passing. In fact, it was later reported to us that there was only one member of the Legislature who opposed the bill in that session and it is thought that it has a good chance of passing in the next (current) session. It was a successful day of advocating for our profession and passage of the bill.

In March, 2007 Karen Griffin and Elaine Fanwick were fortunate to be able to accompany Sue Marre, Georgette Wilson and Betty Ann Carroll to Washington for the AHIMA Capital Hill Day at which we joined other AHIMA members in lobbying our congressional representatives on issues such as passage of ICD-10, the future HIM workforce, and safe use of the PHR. It was a rewarding experience re: lobbying and a great opportunity to meet with our peers from the other Component State Associations.

In April, 2007 we had our annual Dot Wagg Memorial Legislative Seminar at the Dedham Holiday Inn. The theme was "Today's Hot Topics in HIM", including the Deficit Reduction Act with an emphasis on Present on Admission and the speaker was Jennifer Cox, Esq. We received excellent feedback for the topic, the speaker, and the location.

Future plans for the Legislative Affairs Committee include:

- A meeting to be scheduled for late June or early July of 2007 for the purpose of critiquing Beacon Hill Day and creation of a To Do list for Beacon Hill Day, critiquing the Dot Wagg Seminar, and review of the Medicolegal Guide to Health Record Information for the purpose of updating the Guide;
- We plan to continue our advocacy efforts in support of our profession and in support of a 15 year chart retention at Beacon Hill Day each November;
- We will have a Release of Information 101 seminar at the Dot Wagg Seminar in April, 2008; and
- Any new topics suggested by our new Director of Advocacy and Legislative Focus as we welcome her.