

# Action is Eloquence: Turning Our HIM Dreams into Forward Motion

Save to myBoK

By Patty Thierry Sheridan, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA

THIS PAST SPRING marked William Shakespeare's 448th birthday. My family decided to celebrate the occasion this year, and after spending so much time immersed in all things Shakespeare-even trying my hand at an Elizabethan-style speech or two-I came to appreciate how the playwright demonstrated such deft humor and respect for the human condition when dealing with life's issues. No wonder he's had such a tremendous impact even today, teaching us with life lessons and giving us countless golden phrases, from "To thine own self be true" in *Hamlet* to *As You Like It's* "All the world's a stage."

Celebrating Shakespeare's life naturally led to an examination of my own hopes and dreams, and my progress towards achieving both personal and professional goals. Six months into the year, most are progressing well on their way, but a few are harder than most and require more deliberate attention.

"Action is eloquence" is a powerful phrase in Shakespeare's *Coriolanus* and urges one to take action rather than choosing a passive route. It's a call to action that speaks to transforming your dreams into action and pushing past procrastination, because in life-as in Shakespeare's plays-it's not enough to dream. Ultimately, dreaming big requires effective goal setting.

## HIM Dreams in Motion

AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon recently told me that people who write down and share their goals are more likely to achieve them. Lynne is a leader in action for AHIMA, and I think her advice is an important step in making dreams come to fruition. The stage isn't always automatically set for our success, but we can always take the script into our own hands. If the simple act of writing and sharing our goals increases our chances of achieving them, then let's commit to do so.

One of my big dreams is for HIM professionals to skillfully navigate the dynamic needs of today's health information challenges. While that might sound easy enough at first, today's challenges are anything but simple. In order to reach that dream, some of us will need to take action in order to develop exceptional data management and information governance skills. We might need to build these skills ourselves or foster their growth in others. Some must work to build more trusting relationships across enterprises. And one of the most important goals for all of us-maintain a commitment to nurturing a spirit of innovation that engenders new ways of thinking, eventually resulting in HIM practices friendly to the 21st century consumer.

Throughout 2011, AHIMA's Board of Directors continued to advance a new vision of HIM practice that was first introduced in 2010, sharing with AHIMA members and the industry a direction for the future state of HIM throughout the healthcare industry over the next 10 years. More information on the new HIM core model can be found at <http://journal.ahima.org/2011/10/01/a-core-model-for-the-him-future/>.

How do your current goals fit into this vision for the future? What goals can you develop today to ensure a key role in tomorrow's HIM setting? As always, AHIMA is here to help, but you need to take that first step forward. Without further ado, as Shakespeare put forth in *All's Well that Ends Well*, "Let's about it." Dream big!

Patty Thierry Sheridan ([ptsheridan@care-communications.com](mailto:ptsheridan@care-communications.com)) is president of Care Communications.

---

### Article citation:

Sheridan, Patty Thierry. "Action is Eloquence: Turning Our HIM Dreams into Forward Motion" *Journal of AHIMA* 83, no.6 (June 2012): 10.

---

## Driving the Power of Knowledge

Copyright 2022 by The American Health Information Management Association. All Rights Reserved.