

# House Scanning the HIM Horizon

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The primary objective of the House of Delegates (House), made up of delegates from AHIMA's Component State Associations, is to look at professional issues affecting the health information management (HIM) profession both today and in the future. Essentially, this is a venue in which AHIMA members have the opportunity to have their voices heard. We are excited to help guide the House into its new purpose—governing the HIM profession.

One key role for the House in governing the profession is the environmental scanning function. The delegates and the AHIMA Board of Directors have been actively involved with environmental scanning of the HIM profession over the last several years. Members of the Envisioning Collaborative, a subgroup under the House comprised of delegates and subject matter experts, are responsible for conducting scanning activities and leading the development of the environmental scan report. The report offers an analysis of HIM issues and trends impacting and influencing the profession and healthcare.

Successful environmental scanning requires continuous monitoring and acquiring of information that helps organizational leaders identify and interpret potential trends and priorities. Understanding the key HIM industry forces and trends creates a foundation to shape strategy. Environmental scanning is an essential component to the vitality and success of leading an organization to a rapidly changing future.

Beginning in 2012, AHIMA began publishing environmental scan reports, available in AHIMA's HIM Body of Knowledge (BoK). The environmental scan provides insights into the future of HIM and healthcare, which will help you, as leaders, within your organization. I encourage you to review the 2016 Environmental Scan Report recently posted to the BoK. The report, an important contribution of the House, is used by the AHIMA board to set or modify strategy for the association.

Another new addition for delegates is a quarterly House Forum. These webinars cover topics identified by our delegates as future-facing and in need of further information. Topics shared include patient-generated health data, data breaches, clinical documentation improvement, and leadership. Our plan is to enrich our delegates' knowledge base so that they can then share that knowledge with you, the CSA member.

Beginning in March, AHIMA members will be asked to take the lead in petitioning the federal government to lift its ban on activities that support unique health safety identifiers for patients. A petition effort will request that federal resources be available and allowed to work with private groups, like AHIMA, to find a solution to this important patient safety issue.

The House is also connected with the AHIMA Practice Councils and Task Forces. This year there are four practice councils and four practice-related task forces, all with charges related to a practice area. The practice councils and task forces develop Practice Briefs and toolkits, write articles, plan meeting content, and respond to government comments, among other tasks.

## References

AHIMA. "2015 Environmental Scan Report." <http://bok.ahima.org/doc?oid=300903>.

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