

House of Delegates 2016 to 2017 Year in Review

Save to myBoK

By Chrisann Lemery, MSE, RHIA, CHPS, FAHIMA

The 2016-2017 YEAR has been busy and engaging for the members of the House of Delegates (House) as we build on the present and prepare for the future, working to guide the health information management (HIM) profession through its work in the healthcare industry.

The House is an AHIMA member forum that governs the HIM profession, and is comprised of delegates elected or appointed from each of the 52 Component State Associations (CSAs) and the AHIMA Board of Directors. I serve as the House chair through my role as Speaker of the House. The House is supported by Speaker-elect Catherine Porto, MPA, RHIA, CHP, and organized into two standing teams led by co-chairs Seth Katz, MPH, RHIA, FAHIMA, and Tracie Vaughn, RHIA. These teams provide a forum for delegate discussion, debate, scanning, and problem solving to advance the HIM profession. Additionally, the AHIMA practice councils report their activities through the House, addressing topics important to AHIMA strategy and the HIM profession.

I would like to highlight some of the House accomplishments from this past year.

Along with House co-chair Vaughn, I led the Envisioning Collaborative Team. This team served as a “think tank,” bringing forward an exchange of perspectives, innovation, and ideas that inform strategy and enable solutions and sound decisions advancing the profession. Through the team’s work, the [2017 Environmental Scan Report](#) was developed and used by the AHIMA Board of Directors to inform strategy.

The House Leadership team serves as a steering committee to foster the overall delegate experience and provide oversight of task force progression. Speaker-elect Porto and co-chair Katz led this team to ensure effective operations through alignment with strategy. The team has been working on deliverables based on recommendations identified at the 2016 House meeting.

Additionally, there were two task forces. The first was the 2017 House Meeting Task Force that created the meeting’s agenda for the October 2017 meeting. The other, Communication in the House, enhanced the [Leadership Dashboard](#), which is available in Engage and tracks House activities.

Three CSAs submitted issues, and the following actions were taken in response:

- The Tennessee CSA’s issue was addressed with the Communication in the House Task Force’s identification of improvements to the Leadership Dashboard during the 2016 meeting.
- In response to an issue submitted by the California CSA, the Care Coordination and Management community was created in Engage as a resource for members in alternative care settings.
- In response to the Florida CSA’s submitted issue, the House will identify recommendations to address business process outsourcing using results of an AHIMA survey on the topic during the 2017 meeting.

Other House accomplishments include:

- Thirteen Practice Briefs, toolkits, and best practice statements were vetted by the practice councils.
- Several forums were hosted on HIM-related topics including standards development, HIM Reimagined, and patient-generated health data.
- Delegates participated in the Advocacy Summit.

Thank you to all the delegates for volunteering their time and talents in support of governing and advancing the HIM profession. House activities and updates can be found at <https://engage.ahima.org>.

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