

House of Delegates Helping Govern HIM Profession

Save to myBoK

By Chrisann Lemery, MSE, RHIA, CHPS, FAHIMA

The AHIMA House of Delegates (House) is tasked with governing the health information management (HIM) profession as identified in the AHIMA bylaws. The delegates are 231 members from the 52 component state associations (CSAs) and the AHIMA Board of Directors. With the focus having been on the engagement of the delegates, there has been an increase in participation in House activities over the past three years, especially in the Envisioning Collaborative and House Leadership, task forces, and forums. The House will now focus on evolving engagement of delegates contributing to the issues and improving House communication regarding issues and activities.

Topics for the House to address are identified by the House teams, task forces, CSAs, practice councils, members, or the AHIMA Board. Beginning in 2015, an identified topic/issue is addressed in a documented format referred to as a "SBAR," an acronym that stands for situation, background, assessment, and recommendations. The SBAR is an effective means to communicate the topic of interest to the delegates, stimulate discussion in the House to assess the topic, and develop recommendations to resolve the topic. The recommendations are used to formulate the work of the House. A House team, task force, the entire House, or a practice council may be involved in a recommendation.

At the most recent annual House of Delegates meeting on October 16, 2016, the delegates deliberated on five topics affecting the profession and the House as a governing body:

1. HIM Reimagined (HIMR)
2. Multi-Generation Workforce
3. Patient-Generated Health Data
4. Regulatory Impact on the Profession
5. Communication in the House

Groups of delegates deliberated on these topics and presented their recommendations to the full House. In Engage, the SBARs for these topics are available to all AHIMA members, posted in the State Leaders and House of Delegates community in the Library, House of Delegates folder, Meeting Materials, 2016 House of Delegates meeting. In December 2016, the House Leadership team prioritized the five topics, identifying HIMR and House Communication as the top two topics.

Additionally, it was identified that two task forces were needed to begin work in January 2017. One task force will provide input on a dashboard to communicate the progress of the House issues. As a result of the October House meeting, another task force will develop the 2017 Annual House Meeting agenda.

Look for communication in *AHIMA Advantage*, *e-Alert*, Engage, and from local CSA delegates on House activities. Any questions can be sent to me or an individual's local CSA delegates.

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