

Taking the Lead Together: At Invigorated Team Talks, Fruitful Discussion on Strategies for Future Success

Save to myBoK

by Mervat Abdelhak, PhD, RHIA

Winter Team Talks were a resounding success. Nearly 400 members attended sessions in Atlanta, Las Vegas, Kansas City, and Washington, DC, as well as online in a virtual team talk March 30. In frank and fruitful discussions, Team Talk participants considered strategies for achieving our preferred future and embraced continued dialogue.

Attendees engaged in a vital conversation about our future that revolved around six elements: leadership in health record content standards; leadership in system design and system functionalities within the vendor community; inclusive membership; academic- and performance-based certification; alliances with like-minded bodies; and leadership development with enhanced association governance. Participants embraced these as strategies that can help us create the desired future.

Participants agreed with the paradigm and the premise upon which these six elements were developed. We know that executing successfully for the future requires an accurate paradigm, a clear vision for the future that then drives every action we take. Members charged AHIMA's Board of Directors to proceed by developing a strategy map—with action plans and milestones—by which we can evaluate our progress toward our vision and preferred future.

Coming Together

There was unity among most regarding the desired future for HIM, and there was unity regarding our description of what success will look like for AHIMA. There was consensus that for us to thrive in this new world it will not be enough simply to intensify current actions and maintain the status quo—indeed it will be counterproductive. We agreed that thriving in this new world will require that we continue with what we do well as well as recognize our shortcomings and break new ground.

Evaluations from the talks tell us that we all feel very energized by our vision of the future. They tell us that we are committed to developing and pursuing action plans that are creative, allowing us to seize new opportunities on the horizon. Attendee feedback also tells us that we are learning to engage better. We are partnering by reaching out to all stakeholders. We are partnering on new issues and a new mindset. We are partnering faster and getting our members involved earlier.

This culture of engagement will continue. The board and the executive team will be developing action plans, which will be disseminated widely. I challenge you to take ownership of our vision and preferred future. I challenge you to take responsibility for continuing our legacy of success. I believe we stand at a turning point in the history of our profession.

As always, I am grateful for your efforts. The years ahead are filled with many exciting opportunities. Let's take the lead together. Working together, our strengths are multiplied and are made more productive and our weaknesses are diminished and are made irrelevant by the strengths of others.

Let's take the lead together—and remember that every member counts!

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Article citation:

Abdelhak, Mervat. "Taking the Lead Together: At Invigorated Team Talks, Fruitful Discussion on Strategies for Future Success." *Journal of AHIMA* 76, no.5 (May 2005): 8.

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