
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Andrew Frailey Afanasyev, MBA, RHIA, CHPS

The Future of HIPAA

Recent events around the country have sparked a debate among healthcare professionals about the necessity of HIPAA protections regarding patient privacy. During the recent hurricanes, for example, OCR temporarily suspended HIPAA restrictions in order to facilitate quality and continuity of care for victims of the tragedy.

There has been talk in healthcare circles for many years about streamlining sharing of information and the need for better coordination between behavioral health and medical providers, for example, and there is currently a debate going on about the repeal of 42 CFR Part 2 records. Proponents argue that current HIPAA protections are sufficient to protect substance abuse patient records and that such regulations place an unnecessary and harmful barrier between classes of patients, which can lead to adverse outcomes.

As September is Suicide Awareness month, it's a good time to step back and think about how being the "privacy police" may have a negative impact on patient care. Having the credential Certified in Healthcare Privacy & Security (CHPS), it is apparent to me every day that HIPAA and CFR 42 Part 2 are not widely understood, even by medical practitioners.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

OPPORTUNITIES TO REMAIN PROFESSIONALLY RELEVANT

The AKHIMA Nominating Committee is looking for individuals who are ready to gain leadership experience through volunteering. Positions open in the next cycle are

**Secretary,
1st Year Director,
President-Elect.**

Information including position descriptions are available at www.akhima.org under the About Us tab.

Former AHIMA CEO Lynn Thomas Gordon, was quoted as saying, "...we need to be moving faster on the inside than on the outside. If you're not moving fast enough internally, you're not going to remain relevant".¹ Board volunteer service provides you with learning opportunities, exposure to the broader professional community, and wonderful networking: all which increase your professional relevance.

If you are interested, please submit your name via a nomination form on the AKHIMA website.

SAVE THE DATE!!

AKHIMA's ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE

MONDAY APRIL 23, 2018

TUESDAY APRIL 24, 2018

BP ENERGY CENTER - ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ARE YOU A SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT?***What is a subject matter expert?***

According to thebalance.com, a "subject matter expert [...] is an individual with a deep understanding of a particular process, function, technology, machine, material or type of equipment."

The HIM profession encompasses professionals with varied backgrounds, skill sets and perspectives. You may be in a revenue cycle role, a quality, risk, or utilization review role, in data analytics or IT, or in education. Chances are you have information others could benefit from.

The Communications Committee is looking for subject matter experts in HIM-related topics, and professional growth and opportunities. Please consider how you can share your knowledge and expertise with our AKHIMA membership.

Think that might be you? Contact Marianne Dailey at marianne@akhima.org

OCTOBER IS....**Data Awareness Month with AHIMA!**

Informatics and data analytics are crucial to operations for healthcare organizations. Many HIM professionals work with complex data and the need for detailed analysis. It can be a challenging and rewarding job ensuring the accountability, integrity, availability, retention and disposition of healthcare data to produce trusted data for better clinical and organizational decision making.

During October, AHIMA is offering discounts on education and training and other resources to help HIM professionals further their careers.

Visit <http://www.ahima.org/topics/ida?tabid=data-month> for more information about how to expand your career into informatics and data analytics

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Find ideas and free resources to raise awareness in your organization.

Weekly education themes, posters, tip sheets, and more. Check out these websites:

<https://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month>

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/cybersecurity/national-cyber-security-awareness-month>

<https://staysafeonline.org/ncsam/>

