

Regular monthly meeting of Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Physician Assistant Association
Held at MCP in Boston, Massachusetts on August 8, 2012
at 6:30 PM

In attendance: Sean Robinson President, Julie Purcell Immediate past president, Meredith Johnson Treasurer, Pam McColl, Jay Chamberlain, Tony Pelligrino and Cathy Hamel

Treasurer's Report

- Afiniscape is providing \$3,500/month to MAPA for the last couple of months
- Proposal to raise payments to Charles Group Consulting. This line item has not changed in some time. Increasing the fee schedule is, however, somewhat dependent upon the results of the request for an AAPA grant. Talks regarding the grant will be held tomorrow with Ann Davis and Julie and Sean.

Conference Committee

- Hors d'oeuvres for Thursday night social event. What is the estimated cost for this service? Is it wrapped into the cost of the conference? These questions will need to be directed toward Jay for clarification.
- Jay will be asked to create an email blast to members and non-members regarding the reception being held the first night of the conference. The BOD would like to hold a raffle to those who RSVP vs those who attend as incentive.
 - RSVP vs Attend?
 - Raffle Items – iPad vs Amazon Kindle? Free night in hotel? Free gift card to hotel restaurant? Free MAPA membership? Free registration for Spring CME event?

Legislative Affairs Committee

- Cost Containment passed
 - Billing issues related to new law / Reimbursement
 - Follow up required with each insurance company in how to allow for payment of PA billing since passage of the new law
 - Reimbursement amounts will not change
 - Direct billing can now occur however this will require that the PA be credentialed with each payer and a billing number be created with each company. This could be handled by medical staff office but individuals who run these departments may not be aware of the recent legislative changes allowing PAs to bill directly.
 - Action Items
 - Assemble "Q&A" section on website that members can turn to for quick answers about interpretation about new law
 - The recently passed legislation is currently in law meaning it "trumps" existing regulations so they take effect NOW. If there is something in the legislation that supersedes practice standards as exhibited in regulations, then the legislation holds ground, overruling the existing regulations.

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- Need to clarify: “Licensure” by the BOR-PA/State = how will this effect practice standards and existing regulations?
- Ionizing Radiation
 - Meeting with DPH for final testimony on proposed regulatory changes. The meeting will take place at 239 Causeway on September 10th
 - The final regulations contain the words “Physician required to be in the facility” as a limitation of when PAs can administer ionizing radiation. This is identical to the regulations created by the BOR-Medicine
 - Testimony from MAPA – should we state that "in the facility" is detrimental?
 - People to Notify about meeting and request their presence...
 - Chris Lahey
 - Bob McQuade
 - Paul Norton

Other Legislative Business

- Recognizing Rep Sanchez at CME event. Agreement among BOD to thank him publicly at the event.
- Next year's legislative agenda
 - Eval DPH regulations that require updating (Death certificates, Hospice, Palliative Care – similar to national issues – may be helpful to include this in plea for more funding from AAPA)

Other Business – AAPA Grant

- Ann Davis and Adam (???) conference call tomorrow to discuss the request for \$10,000

Membership Committee

- Contract with CMR should be evaluated for the manner in which membership is calculated. Julie proposes sending out a monthly letter to the BOD that updates on the current status of membership. Also, monthly email to members whose membership has recently expired.

Student Affairs

- Conference track established. Challenge bowl planning underway.