

Executive Council Meeting
March 21, 2017
Minutes

Attendees

Drs. Fred Bearison (President), Kissonie Bair, Lacey Barnard, Thomas Bernasek, Michael Cromer, William Davison, Rebecca Johnson, Alejandra Kalik, Katherine Macoul, Husain Nagamia, Jayant Rao, Bruce Shephard, and Michael Wasylik; also Mr. William Butler (Alliance President) and Ms. Victoria Phoumthippavong (medical student).

Others Present

Dr. Margarite Angelopoulos, Ms. Elke Lubin (HCMA Executive Assistant), and Ms. Debbie Zorian (HCMA Executive Director).

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15PM by Dr. Fred Bearison, HCMA President.

Introductions

Dr. Bearison introduced himself and asked for introductions. He welcomed the Council's new resident physician representatives Drs. Kissonie Bair and Lacey Barnard; the new medical student representative Ms. Victoria Phoumthippavong; and HCMA member Dr. Margarite Angelopoulos.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION MADE AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2017 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

Excused Absences

The following Executive Council members and ex-officio members requested to be excused from the meeting: Drs. Scott Anderson, Steven Barna, Brad Bjornstad, Eva Crooke, Rosemarie Garcia-Getting, Jose Jimenez, Michael Levitt, Charles Lockwood, David Lubin, Anoop Reddy, Malcolm Root, and Brett Scotch.

HCMA Foundation Update

Dr. Michael Wasylik, Foundation President, reported the following:

- The Foundation Board met on March 8, 2017.
- The final \$10,000, of a \$40,000 investment plan, was approved.
- The HCMA Alliance is dismantling their Foundation and will donate remaining funds to the HCMA Foundation (approximately \$1,600).
- The Foundation Board carried a motion to offer an HCMA Alliance seat on the HCMA Foundation Board.
- The following organizations received grants: The Children's Home (\$1,000), Frameworks (\$1,500), Judeo Christian Health Clinic (\$2,000), MoreHealth (\$1,500), SJH Foundation/Craniofacial New Patient Welcome Kits (\$1,500), SJH Mobile Medical Clinic (\$1,000), Self Reliance (\$1,000), Voices for Children (\$1,500), and a USF medical student scholarship (\$1,500).
- HCMA Foundation's 21st Charity Golf Classic will be held Thursday, October 12, 2017 at the Carrollwood Country Club. Dr. Wasylik encouraged the Council members to participate.

HCMA Board of Trustees

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Dr. Michael Wasylik, Board of Trustees Chairman, gave the following report:

- The Board of Trustees met March 2, 2017.
- HCMA's finances for the first six months of the fiscal year were reviewed. The HCMA is financially stable, but there is much concern regarding the non-renewals of active members which could have a negative effect on HCMA's budget of over \$47,000.
- Bill Butler, HCMA Alliance President, has asked the HCMA staff to take over the administrative duties of the Alliance. Ms. Zorian is discussing specifics with the Alliance leadership and will report back to the Board.
- Many housekeeping issues were discussed including necessary building repairs and renovation of the Bay Street offices. A tenant is leaving on June 30th and a much needed renovation will take place prior to attempting to lease the space by July 1st. The Board was given a tour of the offices, reviewed quotes, and gave Ms. Zorian permission to proceed.
- The office space leases (currently four) bring in much needed non-dues income.

MCMS, Inc., Insurance Trust Update

Dr. Michael Wasylik, Hillsborough Plan Trustee, provided the following report:

- The Health Plan board met on March 1, 2017.
- A marketing plan is being developed.
- Agents for the Plan are needed. They are hard to recruit as commissions are not as high compared to other health insurance products.
- Provisions for large groups are being coordinated.
- Our Plan is still competitive with standard insurance in spite of the recent rate increase.
- Future of our Plan may depend on the ACA repeal and reform coming out of Washington.
- Current priorities are on hold until further notice from Plan Administrator.
- An update will be presented to the Council at the next meeting.

Dr. Bearison added:

- His practice, Valrico Brandon Medical Group, is a client of the Plan. He, his partners, and staff are very satisfied with the product and benefits.

FMA Board of Governors' Meeting – Council on Medical Economics

Dr. Michael Wasylik gave a brief report which included:

- The FMA continues to monitor the United Healthcare/BeaconLBS issue. BeaconLBS is a software system that United Healthcare is requiring physicians to use to order certain laboratory services.
- The FMA has expressed concern that requiring physicians to use BeaconLBS to order lab services would place an administrative burden on physician practices without enhancing patient care or providing fair compensation for additional work.
- FMA would like to hear how the required use of BeaconLBS is affecting members' practice workflow, whether BeaconLBS is interfering with the delivery of patient care, and any other problems or concerns related to the use of this software system. Dr. Wasylik asked Council members to contact Jarrod Fowler at the FMA regarding this matter: jfowler@flmedical.org or (850) 224-6496.

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Membership Report

Debbie Zorian, Executive Director, reported:

- HCMA's current membership count is 2,000; HCMA gained twenty Active members, two USF Resident physician members, and one Retired member since the previous report.
- Ten members were recruited by Dr. Bearison, one was recruited by Dr. Shephard, and nine joined as a result of the second and last "Invitation to Join" mailing sent to non-members.
- Ms. Zorian implored the Council members to make calls to the physicians who have not renewed their 2017 HCMA dues. Retaining the physicians who have not paid 2017 dues must be priority.
- Ms. Zorian reported that for the first time in years, Tower Radiology is not paying HCMA dues for all physicians in the group. Physicians are being encouraged to pay on their own.
- Dr. Kalik volunteered to reach out to the Ruffolo, Hooper physicians on the unpaid list.
- Dr. Wasylik reported that BayCare physicians are provided with an annual allowance to pay for CMEs, memberships, etc. If the allowance is not used the money is not rolled over from year to year; the funds go back to BayCare. He asked Council members to encourage their BayCare colleagues to consider using a portion of their generous allowance to pay HCMA dues each year.

President's Report

Dr. Fred Bearison reported:

- Dr. Bearison asked the Council members to review the Nominating Committee Report. He reported that Dr. Root, HCMA Vice President, is not able to move up, which left the HCMA without someone to fill the President-Elect seat. After lengthy discussions, Dr. Bernasek and Dr. Bearison volunteered to serve second terms. Dr. Jose Jimenez will continue to serve as Immediate Past President for another term. This allows leadership additional time to prepare for succession and consider their future positions within the HCMA. As there was no opposition in any of the open seat races, a motion was made by the Nominating Committee to approve uncontested races. The following motion was made:

MOTION MADE AND CARRIED TO APPROVED THE 2017 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AS PRESENTED.

- Dr. Bearison reported that only one other member of the Executive Council (Dr. Bruce Shephard) recruited a member since his last request on January 18th for Council members to do so. He asked the Council to at least assist in contacting members who have not renewed their 2017 HCMA dues (\$370). He instructed the Council members to take the list provided and put forth the time and effort to contact their colleagues on the list.
- The 23rd Annual Legislative Luncheon was held February 1st at the Centre Club. Ten of the thirteen members of the delegation (Senators and Representatives) were represented. This event has proven to be most successful as it allows HCMA leaders to discuss, one-on-one, with Legislators and their senior staff members the issues facing medicine and the citizens of Florida. Dr. Bearison thanked the members, residents, and medical students for their participation. Dr. Jay Rao commented that he thought the Annual Legislative luncheon was the HCMA's signature event.

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- Dr. Bearison encouraged the Council members to make plans to attend the next dinner meeting which will be held on May 9th, at the Westshore Grand. The guest speaker is Nik Wallenda, Acrobat, Daredevil, & High Wire Artist.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Zorian reported:

- Ms. Zorian requested the Council members who volunteer to serve as New Member Ambassadors, and hope to meet their new members at a dinner meeting, to please coordinate the meeting themselves. During the dinner meeting registration, HCMA staff is unable to track members and new members.
- Ms. Zorian announced that both banks that serve as HCMA Benefit Providers, The Bank of Tampa and First Citrus Bank, have renewed their partnerships for the 2017-2018 year.
- Benefit Providers serve a very important role to the Association. Not only do the partnerships provide non-dues income, they also provide important tangible benefits to members.
- Benefit Providers are featured, on a rotating basis, in each edition of the monthly *Enews*.
- Ms. Zorian asked the Council members to consider meeting with the representatives from Favorite Healthcare Staffing and TekCollect should those services be required.
- Ms. Zorian reminded the Council members to participate in the HCMA's publication, *The Bulletin*, by submitting articles, reviews, and/or photographs for consideration.

Resident Physician Update

Drs. Kissonie Bair and Lacey Bernard, two of the four resident physician representatives on the Council, introduced themselves and stated they are looking forward to working with the HCMA leaders and staff. Dr. Bair is a Brandon Regional Hospital resident while Dr. Bernard is a USF resident physician.

HCMA Alliance Update

Mr. Bill Butler, HCMA Alliance President, reported:

- The Alliance felt that two Foundations are not necessary, hence the dissolution of the HCMA Alliance Foundation.
- Mr. Butler reported that the transition of funds from one Foundation to the other is more complicated than expected, but details should be resolved soon.
- Alliance leaders and Ms. Zorian are working out details regarding the HCMA staff taking on the administrative duties of the Alliance.
- Mr. Butler reported that the Alliance can be more focused on fundraising and on important current HCMA issues once administrative duties are taken over by HCMA staff.

Medical Student Update

Ms. Victoria Phoumthippavong, the new USF medical student representative, reported:

- "Match Day" took place the previous week. Of the 162 graduates, 70 will stay in Florida and 37 will stay at USF.
- The May dinner meeting may have a low turnout of medical students. First year students' finals and second year students' Step 1 testing are in May each year.

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- Dr. Jay Rao asked if Dr. Christopher Pittman is still presenting a medical student colloquium. HCMA staff will reach out to Dr. Pittman for an update.

Correspondence

Correspondence was available for information only. No action was necessary.

Other Business

- Mr. Bill Butler reported that the Republicans are trying to push through the ACA changes, and a vote in the House is expected for Thursday.
- Dr. Bruce Shephard acknowledged and thanked Drs. Bearison and Bernasek for volunteering to serve additional terms as President and President Elect, respectively. He stated that their time and dedication to the HCMA is very much appreciated.
- Dr. Jayant Rao suggested that the HCMA should nominate a physician to participate in the FMA Leadership Academy. HCMA staff will research costs and obligations and send the information to the Council members for their consideration.
- Dr. Michael Cromer commented, as a point of interest specifically for the resident physicians, that local organized medicine does a lot for physicians without them being aware of it. Organizations like the HCMA oftentimes begin a grassroots campaign which turns into FMA policy or resolutions, or may result in a bill. He reported he is collecting data concerning insurance companies' prior authorizations obstacles to share with the FMA and legislators.
- Dr. William Davison is noting an increased incidence of primary care physicians sending patients to the ER for diagnostic testing which otherwise would not be covered by insurance when patients are given an Rx for testing. This increases the cost of care dramatically.
- Dr. Jayant Rao reported when patients are admitted into the hospital, though the ER, insurance companies will require patients pay more if they are admitted under observation status vs. in-patient status. The insurance companies are also requiring the physician explain this difference in charges to the patients. Dr. Rao is meeting with legislators about this issue and will submit a resolution for the 2017 FMA Annual Meeting.
- Drs. Alejandra Kalik and Jayant Rao also commented that all physician leaders should participate in the "Doctor of the Day" program, during the Legislative Session. The following motion was made:

MOTION MADE AND CARRIED THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO TRAVEL TO TALLAHASSEE AND/OR SERVE AS THE DOCTOR OF THE DAY DURING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM.