

Rhode Island Medical Society Council

Meeting of Monday, April 7, 2014

Meeting Highlights

Advance care planning Rebekah Gardner, MD, Senior Medical Scientist with HealthCentric Advisors (HCA), briefed the Council on HCA's new campaign to encourage patients to think about and communicate in advance (to family, friends, physicians) their preferences for treatment/non-treatment in the event of illness or injury. Called "My Care, My Choice, My Voice," the campaign includes online materials at www.healthcentricadvisors.org/myccv.

This campaign by HCA dovetails with a new initiative led by U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, in which RIMS and many other organizations and state agencies are involved. The aim is to coordinate a comprehensive and seamless approach to the continuum of care, from health to advanced illness, with emphasis on informed and shared decision-making among clinicians, patients and families at every juncture. A new national organization called the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (founded in 2011), provides a comprehensive framework for this Rhode Island effort.

MinuteClinic On March 27 a subcommittee of the Health Services Council of the Health Department held a public hearing on MinuteClinic's applications for licensure of seven new "MinuteClinics," which are to be located in CVS stores within Rhode Island.

RIMS' revised policy statement (posted at www.rimed.org and distributed to the Council) was submitted to the record. RIMS' statement questions the compatibility of the Minute model with the Patient-Centered Medical Home model, noting that Rhode Island is heavily invested in the latter. It is RIMS' position that the advent of MinuteClinics in Rhode Island represents, at best, an opportunity for state authorities to define and limit Minute's role in the public interest, so that Minute may become a constructive addition to the community and to patient care, rather than a disruptive one.

RIMS' revised statement benefited from the advice of many, including the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, and the Primary Care Physicians Advisory Council of the RI Health Department, and members of the urgent care community, among others.

More hearings may be held before the Health Services Council votes on the matter at an unknown time in the future.

Strategic planning for RIMS RIMS President Dr. Elaine Jones and Dr. Yul D. Ejnes briefed the Council on the progress of RIMS' current strategic planning initiative. The initiative was launched in January with an online survey of the Council. Dr. Ejnes, a former RIMS President who has significant experience as a facilitator for national and local organizations, agreed to serve as "outside" facilitator for RIMS' planning effort. The February 3 Council meeting and two subsequent meetings of the Executive Committee, including a six-hour session on Saturday, March 8, have been devoted to this process so far.

Dr. Ejnes reviewed the principles of the strategic planning process, including the division of labor between governance on the one hand (Council, Executive Committee), and management on the other (RIMS staff), as well as the distinction between “strategy” and “tactics.” (“Advocacy” is to be regarded more as a tactic, for example.) To date the process has preliminarily identified the following priority areas (in no particular order of importance):

- Enhancing physicians’ professional satisfaction
- Helping RI physicians navigate the changing environment
- Making RIMS the trusted source of information
- Representing physician and patient interests at the state level
- Promoting collegiality and unity in the physician community

As planning proceeds, more specific goals for each priority area and metrics to track progress will be developed.

Nominating Committee In accordance with the Bylaws, Dr. Jones has constituted and will chair a Nominating Committee comprised of Dr. Alyn Adrain, Dr. Gary Bubly, Dr. Nitin Damle, Dr. Peter Karczmar, Dr. Russell Settupane, and Dr. Diane Siedlecki. Current plans call for a 2014/15 slate of officers to be presented for action by the Council on June 2. Installation of officers will take place Saturday, September 27.

“Eleventh Hour” Education Event, Saturday, May 17, 2014 In time for licensure renewal, RIMS has organized an opportunity for physicians to complete their state-mandated CME. The event will take place at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick.

Turcotte promoted It was announced that RIMS has promoted Megan Turcotte to Director of Member Services. Notice is being sent to the media.

RIMS named to study commission on UnitedHealthcare In response to the recent termination of hundreds of physicians from United’s Medicare Advantage network, the General Assembly has created an 11-person study commission with 2 seats to be filled by RIMS.

Stan Tran for Congress Brown medical student Stan Tran informed the RIMS Council that he has officially declared his candidacy for Congress in the 1st Congressional District (the seat currently occupied by David Cicilline).