



CHAPTER ADVOCACY ROUNDTABLE (CAR) Monthly Conference Call

Friday December 18, 2009

Facilitator: Randy McCleese, Vice -Chair		Recorder: Arnol Simmons	
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Attendees:	Archie Alexander, Austin; Beverly Bell, Central & Southern Ohio; Carlos Munoz, Southern California; Carolyn Weining, Colorado; Charles Pigg, Arkansas; Daniel Blum, National Capitol Area; Didi Davis, Tennessee; Eric Peterson, Utah; Helen Hill, Michigan; Janis Coates, Mississippi; James Harris, Maryland; Keri Christensen, Greater Chicago; Lee Castonguay, Hawaii; Liddy West, Arizona; Luzviminda Ross, North Carolina; Martha Dameron, Northern California; Michelle Hager, Randy Haskin, Iowa; Pawan Goyal, Dallas Ft. Worth; Randy McCleese, Kentucky Bluegrass; Sally Hering, Central Florida; Sally Perkins, Kansas; Sharon Davis, Dallas FT Worth; Sherry Reynolds, Washington; Stephen Earle, New England; Steve Fox, Maryland; Terri Ripley, Virginia; Jonathan French, HIMSS; Tom Keefe, HIMSS; Wayne Humphries, HIMSS; Shelley Price Fichtner, HIMSS; and Arnol Simmons, HIMSS
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Minutes

Agenda	Moderator	Presenter: Randy McCleese
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Discussion:	Introduce topics and speakers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Randy McCleese welcomed everyone to the CAR call at 12:00 pm. • Tom Keefe extended “Happy Birthday” wishes to Terri Ripley • Randy McCleese thanked the speakers and opened the line for questions. • Randy McCleese closed the call at 1:00 pm and thanked everyone for participating.

Agenda	Federal Briefing	Presenter: Jonathan French
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Discussion:	Meaningful Use
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⇒	The expectation is that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will release a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on “Meaningful Use” sometime before December 31, 2009.
⇒	HIMSS staff has received feedback that the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health IT will release the Interim Final Rule on the Certification Criteria and Standards for Meaningful Use, by December 31 st , while the Interim Final Rule establishing an HHS Certification Process will be released just after the New Year.

- ⇒ Once these regulations are released, HIMSS analyses of the regulations will be available at http://www.himss.org/ASP/topics_FocusDynamic.asp?faid=332
- ⇒ Based on comments from the HIT Policy Committee, HIMSS is expecting a standard 60-day comment period.
- ⇒ If NPRM on Meaningful Use comes out just before Christmas, public comments will be due the last week of February just before Annual Conference.
- ⇒ The ONC announced it would reorganize the office to better reflect its role as a leading force in the adoption of electronic health records and other health IT, including closer oversight of privacy issues.
- ⇒ The Office of Economic Modeling and Analysis, which replaces the health IT adoption component, will apply statistical approaches and economic analyses to health IT investments and policy to support its strategy, such as cost reductions resulting from the adoption of electronic health records.
- ⇒ The Office of the Chief Scientist, which replaces the interoperability and standards group, will evaluate health IT grant programs, identify and track innovations, and lead research in the area. The office, which will have staff with special knowledge of medical bioinformatics, will develop education programs and collaborate with other agencies to assess new health IT programs.
- ⇒ The Office of the Deputy National Coordinator for Programs and Policy, which replaces the programs and coordination component, will oversee grant programs that promote meaningful use of interoperable health IT for individual and population health.
- ⇒ It will also develop the approaches for establishing the standards needed for nationwide health information exchange and policy for privacy and security for health data. It will coordinate programs among HHS agencies and other federal and public health agencies to lessen duplication.
- ⇒ The Office of the Deputy National Coordinator for Operations, which replaces the policy and research group, performs activities that support ONC programs, such as budget formulation, contract and grants management and financial and staff planning.
- ⇒ The Department of Health and Human Services has announced the creation of the Beacon Community program to provide funding to communities to build and strengthen their Health Information Technology (Health IT) infrastructure and exchange capabilities.
- ⇒ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has made a couple of announcement for new grant opportunities this week.
- ⇒ One such opportunity is \$44 million for the PROSPECT (Prospective Outcome Systems using Patient-specific Electronic data to Compare Tests and therapies) Studies to advance the quality, depth, and scale of the electronic data collection infrastructure as a basis for comparative effectiveness research.
- ⇒ There are five grant awards worth up to \$3 million a year with the maximum being \$9 million over three years. The deadline for submitting applications is January 20, 2010 <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-10-005.html>

Agenda item:	Legislative Briefing	Presenter: Wayne Humphries
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Discussion:	Important Dates and Announcements
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- ⇒ HIMSS Membership Services provided a list of all the pre-registrants for the Policy Summit. Of the 369 who pre-register, 260 were HIMSS members. We hope to get the 109 to become HIMSS members.
- ⇒ Democratic leaders continue to face many battles in the Senate as they work to pass healthcare reform legislation, H.R. 3590 (The Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act) prior to the Christmas Holiday.
- ⇒ The Senate is awaiting a cost analysis from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) on the bill.

- ⇒ The version of the bill currently under review by the CBO does not include a Public Option.
- ⇒ Senator Joe Lieberman (D-CT) expressed his objection to a public option earlier this week and Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE) expressed his objection to any federal money being used for abortions.
- ⇒ Both Senators are critical to reaching the 60 votes necessary to avoid a filibuster and move the legislation towards a final vote.
- ⇒ If the Senate receives the CBO's cost analysis by the beginning of next week, it is likely that Senate Majority leader Harry Reid (D-NV) will work to finalize legislation before Christmas.
- ⇒ The Democrats however will have to go up against many procedural hurdles.
- ⇒ First, the Democratic leaders will need to file cloture to end debate on a package of amendments to the bill (60 votes are needed to invoke cloture).
- ⇒ Second, the Democrats will need to file cloture on a substitute amendment to the bill.
- ⇒ And third, Democrats would need to file cloture to vote on the final bill.
- ⇒ [NOTE: the Senate voted on and agreed to the first two procedural measures on Monday, December 21]
- ⇒ While procedural votes are a challenge, Democratic leaders also face the challenge of Republicans putting up roadblocks throughout the process, such as Senator Tom Coburn's (R-OK) objection to waiving the Senate Clerk's reading of an amendment
- ⇒ As a result, the Clerk read, aloud, the amendment, until the amendment was removed from consideration three hours later.
- ⇒ If the Senate does not pass a bill prior to December 25, it is likely that they will return prior to the end of the year to continue consideration of the bill. The House passed their healthcare reform bill in November and recessed Wednesday, December 16.
- ⇒ With the goal of getting the bill passed by Christmas, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., is taking it down to the wire with a scheduled Dec. 24 vote. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) says he is calling Reid's bluff and will not make any concessions on procedural measures to rush the vote.
- ⇒ The debate will continue whether or not senators have the complete score from the Congressional Budget Office, which could be released as early as Saturday. Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) who voted for the bill in the Finance Committee and is being courted heavily by Democrats, says she will not decide until the budget report comes out.
- ⇒ Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE) says he is still not ready to support the health care bill. Nelson has problems with the bill's abortion language, but would also like to see the overall scope of the reforms scaled back.
- ⇒ Liberals feeling burned by the party's readiness to make concessions to its conservative wing are rebelling against the bill, which resulted in the White House stepping to try and keep the party together.
- ⇒ Lobbyists are working some holiday cheer into their political messaging. The Coalition for a Competitive Pharmaceutical Marketplace, for example, released an ad saying "Americans deserve a gift this holiday season: Real reform."

Agenda item:	Regional Updates	Presenter: Randy McCleese and Jim Harris
Discussion:		
<p>Randy McCleese, Vice Chair Midwest Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ The Midwest region conducted their regional conference call on December 10th. ⇒ Randy McCleese, the vice chair for the Midwest region said that four Chapter Advocates participated on the call and that they discussed State Advocacy Days. ⇒ Randy encourage the Chapter Advocates to join their regional calls to share notes on how to conduct a State Advocacy Day. <p>Jim Harris, Vice Chair Southern Region</p>		

- ⇒ The Southern region also had their regional conference call with 10-12 participants.
- ⇒ Jim Harris said that they too discussed the means to conduct a State Advocacy Day.
- ⇒ Jim said that his region also gave input on the points system in which he plans to share with Lesley King, the chair of the CARs upon her return.

Agenda item:	State Briefing	Presenter: Tom Keefe
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Discussion:	State Advocacy Days
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- ⇒ Tom Keefe provided a list of states that plan to have a State Advocacy Day.
- ⇒ Tom also asked that those states that have plans to conduct a state advocacy day and have not provided a date to send him an email with the date.
- ⇒ Rick Moore from the Ohio chapter wanted to know if HIMSS has removed the word “Advocacy” from title of State Advocacy Day.
- ⇒ Tom Keefe responded that National HIMSS did not formally remove the word “Advocacy” from the State Advocacy Day but it was at the discretion of individual Chapters as to how they would like to describe that day.
- ⇒ Luz Ross said that the North Carolina Chapter decided name their event “Public Policy Day”.
- ⇒ Archie Alexander from the Austin Chapter said that Texas named their State Day, “Health Information Technology Day” due to strict Texas lobby laws and suggested that the Chapters should be guided by their state lobbying laws.
- ⇒ Beverly Bell from the Central and Southern Ohio Chapter said that she heard that National HIMSS was considering dropping the word Advocacy from all the committees.
- ⇒ Tom Keefe responded that the word “Advocacy” was removed from the Advocacy and Public Policy Steering Committee and the committee is now the “Public Policy Committee”.
- ⇒ Martha Dameron from Northern California asked if the CARs would be changing their names and Tom responded that we would retain the name Chapter Advocacy Roundtable.
- ⇒ Steve Fox, Chapter Advocate from Maryland said he thought the Arlington office was the HIMSS lobbying office.
- ⇒ Tom unequivocally stated that HIMSS does not Lobby and suggested that we have Dave Roberts, Vice President of Government Relations at HIMSS on the CAR conference call on January 15th to answer all the questions surrounding this topic.

Upcoming State Advocacy Days with Dates

1. Colorado-01/20/10
2. Virginia-2/04/10
3. Iowa-2/04/10
4. Maryland-2/17/10
5. Kentucky-2/23/10
6. Pennsylvania-4/20/10
7. Ohio-4/29/10
8. California-4/29/10
9. North Carolina- 5/18/10


Upcoming State Advocacy Days without Dates:

1. Michigan-FY10
2. Rhode Island-FY10

Agenda item:	Payer and Life Sciences	Presenter: Shelley Price Fichtner
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Discussion:	
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- ⇒ Shelley was recently brought onto the HIMSS staff formulate eighteen month strategies to engage the Payer and Life Sciences communities in HIT.
- ⇒ The Life Sciences community consists of the biopharmaceutical industry, laboratories, medical devices, medical research facilities, care providers, HIT vendors, and hospitals who participate in clinical research.
- ⇒ These are the target audience of underrepresented communities not engage in Health IT.
- ⇒ The Pharmaceutical community is clearly the largest component of this and is not at the table collectively discussing these issues.
- ⇒ Health IT is very important to the Life Sciences community as healthcare research and delivery transforms to focus more on personalized, individualized care and evidence-based medicine.
- ⇒ For example, health IT is going to be the vehicle to help them discover new research pathways, improve pharmacovigilance, enable clinical decision support and quality measure development, and support the provider-patient relationship to improve therapy adherence and compliance that will produce better health outcome.
- ⇒ A SWOT analysis done by HIMSS highlights that the pharmaceutical sector is large and important healthcare stakeholder, contributing over 3.2 million indirect jobs in the United States and over \$65 billion in healthcare research annually.
- ⇒ They are not at the table on Health IT issues and the main Trade Association does not have the bandwidth or the knowledge to help them better engage.
- ⇒ The landscape is similar in the payer space.
- ⇒ This is where HIMSS's strength is of value to the industry.
- ⇒ The basic idea is to create a collaborative Life Sciences community and a payer community to participate in the ongoing healthcare transformation using Health IT and building a sustainable community within HIMSS so that we can enable knowledge sharing, innovation, improved health outcomes, and public policy engagement.
- ⇒ We want to engage the Life Science community and Payer community in Health IT thought leadership by having better connections with our vast community of committee structures as well as with you at the state level.
- ⇒ We also would like to better leverage our existing HIMSS venues such as Annual Conference, Policy Forum or Government Health IT Week.

Agenda Item:	Monthly Tasks	Presenter: Arnol Simmons
	Task for the month of January and Feedback for December	
	 Monthly Task.12.18.09 (2).pc	
Agenda item:	Action Items for the coming month	
Discussion:		
ACTION ITEMS		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete January's task and report the completion of your task using the HIMSS Survey link: January 2010 2. Complete December's task and report the completion of your task using the HIMSS Survey Link: December 		

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- 3. The next CAR conference call is January 15, 2010 12:00 Noon Eastern Time**