PRESIDENT'S LETTER
Dear Fellow Members,

I hope everyone had Happy Holidays. This was our first Christmas with my nephew and it was great having a little one around. However, 2016 already seems to be flying by and we are about to enter our busiest time of year for the chapter. We are wrapping up old goals and starting to plan for the New Year that starts June 1st.

In education it is our busiest time because we have three live sessions coming up in each of the next three months. In February, we have a 340B update, in March, we will have a Reimbursement update and in April we will have the annual ICR update. I hope that someone from your organization will attend each of these sessions as they are full of great information. You can find more information later in the newsletter or visit www.cnyhfma.org. We are trying out a new venue in Downtown Syracuse to make sure that we can keep our prices low as the cost of the convention centers increase. (Parking will be convenient and included!)

We are also establishing our new board and promoting some of our officers now that the current two year terms are expiring. We will have these positions in place in March and after that, we will be looking at committee members. If you are interested in helping on a committee, I encourage you to contact myself or Melissa Phelps (President-Elect) and we will add you to our list of volunteers. As you move through the ranks to chairperson, board member and officer, I promise you that you will get more out of it that you will ever put in. I have met so many wonderful people in my years of volunteering!

Speaking of volunteering, we have our Annual Awards Night coming up on March 3rd. We will be honoring long time volunteers. Ed Polly, board member, will be receiving the Reeves Silver Merit Award, James Godleski, board member, will be receiving the Muncie Gold Merit Award and Melissa Phelps, President-Elect, will be receiving the Medal of Honor. We will be holding this at the Century Club in Syracuse.

It is busy few month for us and I know it is for you too. I hope that you find it worthwhile to come out and join us for an event!

Michele Mecomonaco, CPA, FHFMA
HFMA CNY Chapter President
IN THE NEWS

CMS TO OVERHAUL MEANINGFUL USE

THE NEW APPROACH IS EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON REPORTING MORE CLOSELY TIED TO QUALITY AND STIMULATING INTEROPERABILITY.

Jan. 13—In a sharp departure, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is altering the focus of the federal electronic health record (EHR) incentive program.

The program, launched as part of the HITECH Act included in the 2009 stimulus law, was structured to provide bonus payments and then to phase in potential payment cuts based on providers’ “meaningful use” (MU) of EHRs. But the existing MU structure is about to change.

“The meaningful use program, as it has existed, will now be effectively over and replaced with something better,” said Andy Slavitt, acting administrator of CMS, in an address this week during the J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference in San Francisco.

The announcement represented a big change for an agency that was signaling as recently as the fall that it was staying the course in the MU program.

“It did surprise people—in a good way, but it surprised people,” Kristine Martin Anderson, an executive vice president for Booz Allen Hamilton, said in an interview. “It was an important moment because he acknowledged the industry consternation about the meaningful use program. Many providers have had difficulty complying with Stage 2 and Stage 3 raises the bar.”

Just this week, an agency report revealed 209,000 eligible providers face Medicare payment cuts in 2016 under meaningful use.

Slavitt said that since late 2015 CMS has worked with physician organizations, including the American Medical Association, to understand “the needs and concerns of many.”

See Full Article: http://www.hfma.org/Content.aspx?id=45803
HOSPITAL UNCOMPENSATED CARE DROPS IN 2014

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HAD PROJECTED THE REDUCTION AS A FINANCIAL BENEFIT TO HOSPITALS OF COVERAGE EXPANSIONS UNDER HEALTHCARE REFORM.

Jan. 25—Hospital uncompensated care costs (UCC) shrunk in 2014, the first decrease in 13 years, according to a new report.

Total national hospital UCC—defined as a hospital’s bad debt charges and financial assistance charges multiplied by its cost-to-charge ratio—decreased to $42.8 billion in 2014 from $46.8 billion in 2013, according to the American Hospital Association's (AHA’s) annual UCC report. That decline was the first since 2001 and only the second since 1990. Hospitals' UCC costs reached their lowest level since 2011.

UCC was 5.3 percent of total expenses in 2014, according to data based on AHA’s annual survey of hospitals. That share was the smallest since 1990.

The total UCC costs did not include Medicare and Medicaid underpayments, which totaled $51 billion in 2014, according to another recent AHA report.

The UCC decrease came during the first full year of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA’s) coverage expansions. About 8.8 million people gained health insurance coverage in 2014, according to a Census Bureau report.

The ACA’s Medicaid expansion was credited with immediately changing the payer mix for hospitals in states that expanded eligibility during the first two quarters of 2014, according to a new study published in Health Affairs. Expansion states experienced an increase of seven percentage points in their share of Medicaid discharges between the third quarter of 2013 and the second quarter of 2014. Conversely, their share of uninsured discharges was reduced by six percentage points.

"These changes should reduce hospitals' burden of uncompensated care," the authors wrote.

However, hospitals faced ongoing financial challenges even in states that expanded Medicaid, given that Medicaid programs paid only 90 cents for every dollar spent by hospitals caring for Medicaid patients in 2014, according to AHA.

See Full Article: http://www.hfma.org/Content.aspx?id=46104
CHAPTER GOALS

With the new DCMS year starting, HFMA national has released our goals for the 2015-2016 year. The local chapter uses these goals to guide their actions throughout the year. This year, HFMA is introducing a new goal of Education Quality. They feel it is not just enough to have members coming to event, but to guarantee that those events are of the highest quality. As this is the first year for the goal, it carries no weight, but will in years to come. Each chapter must obtain a minimum of 60 points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2016 Goal</th>
<th>Goal Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Hours</td>
<td>3,240 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Quality</td>
<td>3 largest sessions—report evaluations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
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<td>Membership Satisfaction</td>
<td>55% very or extremely satisfied</td>
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<td>Certification</td>
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<td>Days Cash on Hand</td>
<td>Between 150-600 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCMS On Time Reporting</td>
<td>100% On time Reporting</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board composition</td>
<td>40 % Provider Representation</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS!

Recruit new HFMA members and you could win:

• HFMA apparel or accessories
• $25, $100, or $150 Visa Prepaid Cards
• Cash prizes of $1,000 or $2,500
• Apple Watch SportTM
• A grand prize of $5,000 ($3,000 cash, $2,000 donated to a charity of winner’s choice)

Go to www hfma org/mgam for more information.

4
CNYHFMA @ THE DOME!

Tailgating event at the Sheraton

HFMA Members and their families

HERE WE GO ORANGE!
Good food, good drinks & good times before the game!

FINAL SCORE:
Syracuse 66,
Elon 55
UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS

FEBRUARY

February 4th, 1-2pm—2016 HIPAA Update
Region 2 will be hosting a free web-based presentation by Kaufman Borgeest & Ryan LLP.

February 23rd, 1-2pm—ACO: Key Considerations for Integrating Care Venues
Region 2 will be hosting a free web-based presentation by Troy A. Phillips, MHA, CHFP, PMP.

February 26th, 8:30am—1pm —340B Update
With presentations by Hudson Headwaters Health Network and a legal perspective from Hancock Estabrook.

MARCH

March 3rd— CNYHFMA Awards Night
Our annual awards night will be hosted at the Century Club. This is a corrected date—be sure to check your calendars!

March 18th —Reimbursement Update
The annual Reimbursement Update will feature several speakers including a Federal and State update from HANYS. Stay tuned and look out for the brochure with the final details.

APRIL

The ICR Roadshow
Details coming soon!

For more information or to register for an event, please visit the following link: http://cnyhfma.org/meetinginfo.php
Certified Healthcare Finance Certification Program

Good Afternoon-

Our just concluded Fall Presidents Meeting inspired some invigorating dialogue about the updated Certified Healthcare Finance Certification (CHFP) program. We appreciate the feedback very much and I enjoyed the opportunity to address many of the questions during the meeting.

The following information (also attached) should address your questions about the updated CHFP program that we were unable to address at the time of the meeting, and also can provide additional items for your reference as you work with your chapter on certification.

My Journey – a Personal Story

For those of you whom I visited with during FPM, you know I have personally experienced the difference between the old and new certification exam and process – and would be happy to share my personal journey if you would like to hear more about it. As I said, I did unsuccessfully take the old CHFP exam, almost 20 years ago, and was reluctant to take it again. When the new exam came out, I was inspired by the changes to the format, and enthusiasm of the staff who created it, and was the first person to sign up and PASS both modules of the exam! I am proud to say I overcame my fear of the exam and I am now a FHFMA! I was so inspired that my wife, a clinician (and HFMA member), is registering for, and planning to take the exam in the next few months!

How is the new CHFP different from the previous CHFP?

The new CHFP program has evolved to include a new, contemporary approach to certification that educates healthcare leaders to thrive in the new healthcare environment. The program has evolved from a “validation of experience and expertise” to a learning environment that addresses the dynamic shift in healthcare delivery and payment. The newly updated CHFP incorporates HFMA’s strategic vision on the issues relevant to our dynamic environment in healthcare finance.

New CHFP program features

- A learning program designed to build comprehensive industry understanding and sharpen business skills;
- Two-module structure:
  1. **HFMA’s Business of Health Care** - Healthcare finance overview, risk mitigation, evolving payment models, healthcare accounting and cost analysis, strategic finance, and managing financial resources. CHFP candidates are presented with a 75 multiple-choice question examination at the end of the module. Successful completion of the examination is the first step in becoming a CHFP.
  2. **HFMA’s Operational Excellence exam** - Healthcare Industry Stakeholder’s Business Challenges; exercises and case studies on the application of business acumen in health care. This module is structured as a three (3) hour assessment. Eight (8) case studies, each with seven (7) multiple choice questions are presented to the candidates. This module assesses awareness of and application of business concepts presented in **HFMA’s Business of Health Care**. Module II is the second and final step in earning the CHFP designation

The CHFP designation is earned by successful completion of both modules and HFMA Membership.
## Certified Healthcare Finance Certification Program

The following is a grid that compares the updated CHFP with the previous

| Retired CHFP Certification Program  
| (Retired as of 5/1/2015) | New CHFP Certification Program  
| (Effective June 2015) |
|---|---|
| **Candidates:**  
- Mid-level healthcare finance professionals who aspire to the executive level or desire confirmation of financial management expertise  
- HFMA Board of Examiners recommends that candidates have a minimum of 3–5 years healthcare provider management experience | **Candidates:**  
- Professional staff – new to field/early careerist  
- Management – experienced, seeking to advance career  
- Executive – experienced, need to develop staff  
- Those who aspire to be managers, leaders in Healthcare roles, e.g. clinical, non-clinical providers, vendors, and payers. |
| **How is the CHFP awarded?**  
Awarded upon successful completion of one (1) comprehensive certification examination | **Awarded upon successful completion of two (2) modules is required:**  
- Module 1 study materials and end of course examination  
- Module 2 case study exercises and |
| **Candidates must hold HFMA membership.** | **Candidates must hold HFMA membership.** |
| **How to access the CHFP**  
Onsite at a testing center. Examination taken onsite through Castle Worldwide: via Live Online Proctoring or at a testing center location. | **Online program and Exam**  
Timed examinations taken via HFMA’s online learning platform. |
Certified Healthcare Finance Certification Program

What is the pass rate for the New CHFP?

The overall pass rate for the CHFP (old and new exam) is 70% - this aligns with NASBA guidelines for testing modules. We are currently at a 93% pass rate for the new program - a strong pass rate for a learning-based program, and a testament to the change in format to a learning based module. As with any new certification program, we are monitoring the pass rate and utilize psychometric expertise to manage the pass rates with updated questions and case studies as needed.

Are there non-finance folks, early careerists, etc...that have taken it and passed?

While it is early in the process, we have had strong interest in the Business of Healthcare and the Operational Excellence exam. Between June 25th and August 30th, 262 individuals have purchased The Business of Healthcare. Those interested in taking Module 2: Operational Excellence exam will purchase that module separately.

The following statistics apply to those who have access to the Business of Healthcare between June 25th and August 30th:

Purchases for the Business of Healthcare (June 25 – August 30th) 262 individuals
Number of Candidates who have taken the CHFP exam members 39
Percentage of providers who have purchased the Business of Healthcare 59% (154)
Percentage of non-providers who have purchased the Business of Healthcare 39% (102)
Number of student members who have purchased the Business of Healthcare (students) 2% (6)
Number of new members who joined to become a CHFP candidate 13

What is the value of HFMA certification?

The CHFP certification provides the business competencies essential for healthcare leaders. This certification (addressing provider, payer and physician business issues) offers a comprehensive, integrated explanation of the contemporary healthcare business reality. Additionally, HFMA Compensation Survey information shows that Certified Members are more highly compensated than non-Certified members. See Link to 2015 Survey: http://www.hfma.org/Content.aspx?id=32166

A comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is available on the CHFP page of HFMA’s website at http://www.hfma.org/chfp/. Further assistance is always available through HFMA’s Career Strategies Team at 1-800-252-4362, ext. 311.

Thank you for all you do to support the industry and HFMA.

Sincerely,

Todd Nelson, FHFMA, MBA
Healthcare Financial Management Association
Vice President of Education and Organization-
“HFMA is shaping the future of health care. Pass it on.”

The Benefits of Membership

- Gain immediate access to the largest network of healthcare finance professionals to keep ahead of the changing industry
- *hfm* monthly magazine publication sent right to you, allowing you to stay informed with the latest legislative and regulatory updates
- Member-only access to hfma.org
- Professional development - Live educational events in your community and numerous FREE webinars to review the latest topics right at the office
- Certification programs - enhance your skills and build your career

Take advantage of the Member-Get-A-Member Program

As an HFMA member, you are already a part of a strong professional organization of financial leaders tackling today’s critical issues in health care. You have access to the *hfm* subscription, educational events and webinars, and local networking.

**SPREAD THE WORD** – Invite your colleagues to join HFMA!

Through recruiting new members, you have the opportunity to win:
- HFMA apparel or accessories
- $25, $100, or $150 Visa Prepaid Cards
- Cash prizes of $1,000 or $2,500
- Apple Watch SportTM
- A grand prize of $5,000 ($3,000 cash, $2,000 donated to a charity of winner’s choice)

**Even recruiting just one member will earn you a prize valued at $25!**

To learn more, visit [http://www.hfma.org/mgam/](http://www.hfma.org/mgam/)

For more information, please visit [http://www.hfma.org/benefits/](http://www.hfma.org/benefits/) or contact Amy Mlynarczyk at amlynarc@mvhealthsystem.org.
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

* Rebecca Williams, Accounting Manager at Community Memorial Hospital
* Karen Conron Chamberlain
* Michael O’Connor, Manager at Freed Maxick, CPAs
* Mark Bretscher, Manager—Managed Care Contracts at Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital
* Amy Dobrovech, of Fust Charles Chambers LLP
* Kelly White
* Robert Dussing, Principal at R.C. Dussing & Associates

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