

The ARHA Advisor

June/July 2007

ARHA Board meets with Legislators

The Akron Regional Hospital Association Board of Trustees (comprised of CEOs from all member hospitals) hosted the Second Annual Legislators Symposium on May 21, 2007.



Members of the ARHA board met with several area legislators to discuss current topics in healthcare and the impact legislative proceedings may have on hospitals and healthcare in Ohio. Topics discussed included limited service hospitals, transparency and reimbursement issues.

Legislators in attendance included Senators Kevin Coughlin and Tom Sawyer and Representatives William Batchelder, Kathleen Chandler, Steven Dyer, John Hagan, Scott Oeslager and Robert Otterman.



Committee Updates

The **Human Resources Directors** invited their staff, including Managers of Benefits, Compensation, Employee Relations and Health & Wellness, to attend a joint meeting on May 10th. Upcoming changes in benefit plans and cost saving strategies for 2008 were the key discussion topics.

Molly Seals, Senior Vice President of Human Resources at Humility of Mary Health Partners and president of American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration [ASHHRA] attended the World Health Organization Assembly held in Geneva Switzerland and shared information regarding the global workforce shortage and the impact of US recruiting efforts on other countries.



The **CFO Committee** met recently and agreed to share their most recent audited financial statements and their Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, which all non-profits file annually with the IRS.

They are also reviewing their individual HCAP [Hospital Care Assurance Program] application forms for possible standardization as was done by the Greater Cincinnati Health Council.



The **Pharmacy Directors** met on May 15th to discuss pharmaceutical priorities during

pandemic flu situation. A "priority list" for medications is being developed based on suggestions from Infection Control. Consideration is being given involving large area corporations in the planning process to encourage sharing in the responsibility for funding pharmaceutical supplies and medications. Retail pharmacies will also be asked to participate in the planning process.

Other issues currently being addressed are standardizing protocols for paramedic and EMT identification at the hospital pharmacy, and standardizing the forms Fire/EMS use to order and purchase pharmaceuticals from the hospitals and to standardize pharmaceutical waste and storage standards.

Did you know?

Cell users are being urged to put the acronym ICE, "in case of emergency," next to the name and contact information of the person who should be contacted by emergency personnel if the person is injured.



Committee Updates Continued

The **Ambulance Restocking Committee** meeting was held and included representatives from hospitals and EMS. Some EMS providers are requesting additional supplies and/or drugs as part of the exchange program that currently exists among hospitals and EMS. After thorough discussion it was determined further justification and research is needed before any decisions can be made. The pharmaceutical issues were referred to the ARHA Pharmacy Directors Committee.

At a recent **Continuum of Care Committee** meeting Kim Storm from KePRO provided an overview of the new CMS regulations for hospitals regarding Medicare beneficiary notification and appeals process for additional three day stay in hospitals. This is effective July 1, 2007.

Several nursing home representatives continue to trial the ARHA Post Acute Care to Emergency Department Transfer Form and provide feedback. Changes to this form continue as the trial phase progresses.

Members of the **Medical Staff Administration Committee** recently revised and updated the Physician and Allied Credentialing forms. ARHA is currently putting these forms into PDF format so they can be accessed by physicians and allied staff from the ARHA website, completed electronically, printed, signed and faxed to each hospital to expedite the credentialing application process.

Several committee members volunteered to meet to begin standardizing the Disaster

Members of the **Patient Safety/Quality Committee** will share information they have on hand hygiene which is a National Patient Safety Goal that needs to be improved at all hospitals. Additional discussion continues on all the remaining 2007 National Patient Safety Goals. This committee also continues discussion of standardizing the suicide assessment form.



During a recent **Perioperative Committee** meeting discussion took place

concerning efforts to standardize vendor and sales rep protocols. Status Blue, a vendor compliance network, made a presentation at this meeting. A follow-up discussion will take place at the next meeting.

After discussion and exploration all committee members agreed that the use of a wristband for laterality in site verification (areas that are physically not able to be marked) will be the suggested practice. Committee members agreed that each hospital will add the use of this band to their policies and procedures as they see fit in the O.R. by the circulator while the patient is still awake. One hospital shared the band they currently use and provided vendor information for purchasing of this band.

Members of the **Protective Service/Safety Committee** discussed response to recent hospital bomb threats and other emergency incidents. Hospitals shared best-practice information on handling these types of events.



The **Radiology Directors** prioritized their goals and objectives and determined the priority was to standardize Radiologic policies/procedures, Critical Tests lists, emergency operation policies and procedures (pandemic of other crisis), and Clinical Ladder Program for Radiology.

Spotlight on NORTN!

The mission of the Northeastern Ohio Regional Trauma Network (NORTN) is to collaboratively develop a regional trauma system and improve trauma care for the communities we serve through data evaluation, research, injury prevention and education. NORTN is now a 13 hospital network that is in its third year of data collection.

NORTN's educational efforts within the community continue to grow and are well recognized. More than 100 participants attend the quarterly education series that is presented at a participating trauma center. Plans are underway for the full day regional conference to be held at the Kent Stark Conference Center on October 26, 2007. More information regarding these programs can be found at ARHA.org.