

The ARHA Advisor

ARHA Granted 501c3 Status

Akron Regional Hospital Association has recently been granted for Public Charity Status as a tax-exempt 501c3 entity from the Internal Revenue Service. The new entity will be called the Akron Regional Hospital Foundation [ARHF]. The foundation's initial activities will be to apply for grant funding for a variety of collaborative projects. The first on being the Northeastern Ohio Regional Trauma Network [NORTN]. Financial support will be requested to maintain the Trauma Registry Program, develop community outreach and injury prevention programs, and support a variety of training and educational programs directed toward trauma care and awareness in the region.

Aultman Hospital Joins ARHA

Akron Regional Hospital Association is pleased to announce that, as of April 1, 2007, Aultman Hospital located in Stark County is now a member of the association. The Board of Trustees, committee members and staff of Akron Regional Hospital Association are excited to partner with Aultman Hospital to continue to collaboratively enhance the health services of the communities we serve.

Welcome, Aultman!

April/May 2007

Committee Updates



The **Ambulance Restocking Committee** recently reviewed

issues from previous meetings including record retention, biohazard trash disposal, drug and supply cost and usage, and identification of EMS personnel for drug exchanges. The Ambulance Restocking Committee will replace the community based Oversight Committee and will continue and provide leadership and oversight of this program as it has since the inception of the process.

At a recent meeting the **Clergy Credentialing Committee** discussed interest in collaborating in development of a Clinical Pastoral Education Program [CPE], sharing a contact list of representatives from various religious backgrounds to serve as an on call source for patients, and the process and responsibility for notifying churches when their parishioners are admitted. This group also collaborated on developing clergy/spiritual questions during the patient registration process and during the initial assessment on the unit.

The **Chief Financial Officers Committee** agreed to begin to report on investment returns for defined benefit and contribution plans effective with the December 2006 quarter. They also agreed to update the Economic Impact Report for 2006 data by April 30, 2007 with a draft report available for review in July.

Compliance Committee discussion revolved around issues related to the Deficit Reduction Act training and educational requirements, transfer forms, and credentialing.

The **Continuum of Care Committee** now has several nursing home representatives that have agreed to use the ARHA Post Acute Care to Emergency Department Transfer Form for a pilot program and provide feedback. Changes to this form continue as the trail phase progresses. This committee also continues discussion regarding standardization of DNR orders.

Fun Fact:
Did you know...
The largest flower in the world, the rafflesia arnoldi, weighs 15 pounds and grows only on the Sumatra island of Indonesia. Its petals grow to 1.6 feet long and 1 inch thick?



Committee Updates Continued



The **Human Resources Committee** invited the FMLA Administrators to participate at a meeting dedicated to absenteeism and FMLA issues, including reports on physician certification and documentation as it relates to intermittent leave, policies regarding leave for adult child and parental needs, HIPAA, second opinions, investigative services, forms returned incomplete by physicians and their staff, and accommodation requests due to sleep disorders and depression.

This committee also recently met with representatives from NIT and Bohecker College and the Medina County Career Center to discuss clinical sites and partnering with area hospitals for support of their programs.

Medical Staff Administration

Committee continues their effort to finalize and obtain approval for an email and downloadable website version of the credentialing forms. Dan Paoletti from OHA recently presented information on the OHA Recredentialing Database to this committee.

The group is also standardizing the ARHA Emergency Credentialing Form so that physicians who practice and are credentialed at any ARHA member hospital will be expedited through the credentialing process in any type of bioterrorism or mass casualty event.

The Patient Safety/Quality

Committee continues discussion on the 2007 National Patient Safety Goals, including standardizing the suicide assessment form and possibly standardizing assessment guidelines. Behavior health representatives from each hospital will be consulted in this collaborative effort.

The **Perioperative Committee** has completed standardized Tissue Transplant Guidelines and established goals for 2007 committee activity. This committee is currently discussing the standardization of guidelines for vendor representatives at ARHA member hospitals.

Public Relations Committee members discussed the need and process to receive Public Information Officer and Hospital Incident Command System training in the near future. This committee is also working on developing PR protocols for ARHA Master Pandemic Influenza Plan.

The **Northeast Ohio Regional Trauma Network [NORTN]** continues planning efforts for the 2007 Regional Trauma Conference which will be held on Friday, October 26, 2007 at the Kent State University-Stark Campus, Professional Education and Conference Center. See the NORTN page of the ARHA website for more details— www.arha.org/nortn.

Pandemic Flu Planning Update

The Akron Regional Hospital Association Master Pandemic Flu Plan is nearly complete.

This plan was created as a guidance document used to support one another in the mission of delivering the most efficient care possible to our community during a pandemic influenza outbreak.

This plan does not diminish the individual responsibilities of hospitals, but enhances the ability of the ARHA hospitals to work under the umbrella of one regional hospital/health system that allows hospitals to speak, act and deliver the highest care to the largest amount of people in its community during a pandemic flu situation through a standardized and collaborative structure.

The ARHA Master Pandemic Influenza Plan will be shared with all members. It is anticipated that this plan will be ready for release in July 2007.

Educational Opportunity

Ohio Hospital Association Annual Meeting

The 92nd OHA Annual Meeting will be held June 18-20 at the Hilton Easton in Columbus, Ohio. Over 1,000 hospital representatives from around the state will be in attendance.

For more information visit:
<http://www.ohanet.org/annualmeeting/>