

# CONNotations

P.O. Box 39, Rockfall, CT 06481-0039

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The Newsletter of the Connecticut Health Information Management Association, Inc.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 2006

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year, and hope your holiday season went well. As we move into the New Year I would like to take a few minutes to thank some of the volunteers that have helped us bring new life into our association. While several committees have been slow to get off the ground, we have been plugging away to bring other committees up and running so that we may offer more education and information to our members. Now that the New Year is upon us, I would like to ask that we all make a resolution to be more active in our association. Please don't hesitate to check out our website at [www.cthima.org](http://www.cthima.org) and contact a board member to see what you can do to help. I know that we have had volunteers that did sign up for committees that are still to be brought up. Please be patient, or contact me, I am sure we can use your help in a variety of ways.

As an update I would like to tell you about some of the things your board is working on. We have finally gotten our legislative committee off the ground, and I am expecting some exciting things from them. One thing we are looking into would be a CT Hill Day with our state legislators. This Committee was given the task letting our elected officials know who we are, and what the agenda items of AHIMA /CTHIMA are, such as our Environmental Scanning project and My PHR. On top of that, several members of the CTHIMA Board of Directors including myself will be going to Washington, D.C. on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March for Capitol Hill Day and Winter Team Talks.

Another exciting event we are working on is a 2-day Clinical Coding Regional Workshop: Achieving Coding Excellence to be held in Boston, MA on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are developing a program and booking speakers in collaboration with the component state associations from NH and MA. AHIMA partnering with us on this program and it should prove to be big event. We will keep you informed via the website and CoP as further details are confirmed. We just presented a Coding Roundtable on 1/23, and even with the snow we did have a pretty good turnout. Everyone that attended gave us very good marks for a well-planned program. We are currently planning an educational meeting for April, please check our events calendar.

The plans have been put together our 6 state meeting, and information on that will be out by March 12<sup>th</sup>. It is being held at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick RI on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the regular programs at this meeting, we have a full day of Interventional Radiology Coding planned as well as a full day CCS prep as side sessions. We also have several coding breakout sessions within the 2-day program. We hope to see many of our members at this meeting, and also at the CT State Business Meeting on the first day.

So you can see we are keeping busy.

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Our Nominating forms have been distributed, and hopefully we can generate a lot of interest in the number of members that would like to help keep our association moving forward. Please take an active role by either nominating a peer, or running for office yourself. We will be looking for 2 directors and a President –Elect.

Lastly I would like to ask all our members to let us know what is happening at your facilities, or if you would like to write an article for our newsletter please don't hesitate. This is your Association, and the rest of the members would like to know what has happened on a JCAHO visit, State Visit, any awards that you or your staff may have won, any initiatives that you are working on. Any articles, or information that we can put on our website, and in our newsletter would be very helpful.

In closing I would like to again say thank you to all our volunteers that have helped us thus far, and who continue to help us as we move into the New Year. Please take an active role in the association and let us know how we are doing so far and how we can do better.

Marty Cohen, RHIT  
President, CTHIMA

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEWS** submitted by Susan A. Clark, RHIT

The following information was taken from a press release posted on the Software and Technology Vendors' Association Website ([www.satva.org/summit](http://www.satva.org/summit)) on October 7, 2005.

More than 140 behavioral health leaders met in Washington, D.C. on September 29-30, 2005 at the National Summit on Defining a Strategy for Behavioral Health Information and its Role Within the National Health Information Infrastructure, sponsored by SATVA and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to begin laying the foundation for a nationwide information infrastructure for behavioral healthcare services. Participants included representatives from major behavioral health professional and trade associations, government, provider organizations, consumers, etc.

Six areas were identified prior to the Summit as essential for advancing a nationwide information management strategy for behavioral health. Workgroup discussions focused on these six strategic areas:

- Developing and maintaining nationwide behavioral health informatics standards;

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- Developing and maintaining nationwide initiatives to facilitate increased adoption of electronic health record systems (EHRs) by behavioral health services and their participation in health information networks;
- Addressing issues within behavioral health organizations to improve their implementation and effective use of information management and EHRs;
- Addressing the complexities of reimbursement, regulatory and reporting requirements;
- Addressing issues for consumers and their family members and for clinicians and other service providers related to adoption of EHRs;
- Facilitating interconnectivity and information exchange between mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention, and other service systems.

The workgroups generated more than 60 recommendations for consideration, many of which will eventually form the basis for a nationwide information management strategy for behavioral healthcare. Some of the more noteworthy recommendations are listed on the above named website.

The Summit Planning Group composed of officials from SAMHSA and SATVA was to meet in late October to review and prioritize recommendations from the Summit workgroups. Recordings of the summit presentations, including the workgroup recommendations, are available on [www.mhsip.org](http://www.mhsip.org) and [www.satva.org](http://www.satva.org). For more information, please consult those two websites.



**SAVE THE DATES!**

**03/30** Join us for AHIMA's 2006 Virtual Winter Team Talks meeting! Sign up for an opportunity to interact with your peers, learn about ongoing plans within the Association, receive comprehensive meeting materials, and share your thoughts on upcoming strategic decisions—all free of charge!

Attendees receive two (2) AHIMA CEUs in External Forces.

<https://www.ahimanet.org/COP/StateLeadersandHOD/Resources/>

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**04/12**      **Business and Education Meeting**  
North Haven Holiday Inn

Tentative Schedule:

- Top 10 Sticky Situations we all face – 90 minute presentation / Jennifer Cox
- Briarwood College Update / Phyllis Hilt
- CTHIMA Update
- Waterbury Health Access Program - a local RHIO / National Health Information Network / Dr. Kevin Carr
- CHA Chime Edits / Mary Lyon
- PEPPR Report / Janice McDonnell

**05/11-12**      **6 State New England Conference**  
Crowne Plaza, Warwick, RI

Full Information and Registration Forms will be distributed in the next few weeks, as soon as it becomes available.

**08/02-03**      **Clinical Coding Regional Workshop**  
**Achieving Coding Excellence**  
Boston, MA

This event is co-sponsored by CTHIMA, NHHIMA, and MAHIMA.  
For preliminary information, click on this link or copy and paste this address in your browser:

[http://www.ahima.org/coding/coding\\_meetings.asp](http://www.ahima.org/coding/coding_meetings.asp)

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**Please Join Us In Welcoming Our First Corporate Partner!**

## **CARDONE RECORD SERVICES**

Driving Solutions for the  
Health Information Management of Today

Paving the Road for the  
Electronic Health Records of Tomorrow

<http://www.cardonerecords.com/index.htm>

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### **Top Notch Coding & Clinical Documentation Improvement Consultants Wanted!!!**

- Are you ready to expand your horizons?
- Are you looking for a friendly, collaborative environment that values life long learning and continuous improvement?
- Would you like your hard work to be rewarded with an excellent financial package, competitive benefits, PLUS eligibility for BONUSES?
- Are you are proactive, positive, organized, flexible, and focused, with a passion for client service?

If you answered yes to the questions listed above, take the next step in joining HP3 to put your coding and clinical experience to work in a new way - in a new world - our world! Multiple positions are available including senior-level positions. No evening or weekend shifts required. Travel is essential and consulting experience is a plus. Coding positions require a minimum of two years healthcare coding/auditing experience and the AHIMA or AAPC credential. Clinical Documentation Improvement consultants require a minimum of five years experience in clinical nursing, UR or case management, along with DRG knowledge, and a minimum RN required. Apply online at [www.joinhp3.com](http://www.joinhp3.com) or send resume to [mdjobs@hp3.com](mailto:mdjobs@hp3.com).

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Paid Advertisement

## OTHER HEALTHCARE EVENTS

### Healthcare 2006 Trade Show

Thursday, March 23, 2006

Mark your calendars: *Healthcare 2006*, Connecticut's premier healthcare trade show, will be held at The Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thursday, March 23, 2006. This year's event will showcase products and equipment for the healthcare industry – with an emphasis on acute care and specialty hospitals – and is expected to attract a cross-section of Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) members, ranging from executive-level leaders to department managers charged with making key purchasing decisions. CHA's affiliate, the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation (CHREF), is once again producing the trade show.

A new feature of this year's event is BizConnect, which quickly matches exhibitor products/services to participants' needs.

[VENDORS CLICK HERE](#)  
[ATTENDEES CLICK HERE](#)

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## NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL HEALTHCARE RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE MAY 7, 8, 9, 2006

### MOHEGAN SUN RESORT

Uncasville, Connecticut

[www.mohegansun.com](http://www.mohegansun.com)

*Enjoy all the resort facilities while attending the conference! Shopping, spa, health club, live entertainment, and restaurants all under one roof!*

#### Conference Highlights:

**Dr. Gerry Hickson ♦ Corporate Aces**

**Sessions on documenting adverse events discussions ♦ ethics ♦ obstetrics**

**♦ emergency department issues ♦ documentation mock trial**

Members of other ASHRM chapters are welcome to attend the Annual New England Regional Program. Registration for this event is separate from the cost of the CPHRM Preparatory Course.

Fay A. Rozovsky, JD, MPH  
Tel (860) 242-1302

The Rozovsky Group, Inc./RMS  
272 Duncaster Road

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Fax: (860) 242-1075 Bloomfield, CT 0600  
Email: [fay@therozovskygroup.com](mailto:fay@therozovskygroup.com)  
Web: [www.therozovskygroup.com](http://www.therozovskygroup.com)

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**WESTERN CONNECTICUT MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK**  
55 West Main Street  
Waterbury, CT 06706

**DUTIES MAY INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:** Supervision of the administration and maintenance of all medical records at Western Connecticut Mental Health Network's three (3) Local Mental Health Authorities, supervision of Medical Records Specialists and Clerks, establishes and maintains health information management (HIM) procedures. Develops and makes policy and procedure recommendations. Audits HIM processes and record documentation. Ensures compliance with Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) standards. Responds to court subpoenas and inquires for medical record information in accordance with State and federal regulations. Interprets and administers pertinent laws. Maintains pertinent professional contacts with individuals who impact health record keeping activities. Serves in a consultative role to clinical staff on proper methods of medical documentation.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:** RHIA or RHIT certification; Driver's License

**GENERAL EXPERIENCE:** Seven (7) years of experience in the maintenance of medical records and preparation of statistical reports. **Special Experience:** Two (2) years of the General Experience must have been at the level of a Medical Records Specialist 2 or its equivalent. Additionally, certification as a Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) or Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) will be required at the time of appointment to this class in accordance with the Accreditation Manual for Hospitals and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. **Substitution Allowed:** College training in medical record administration may be substituted for the General Experience on the basis of fifteen (15) semester hours equaling one-half (1/2) year of experience to a maximum of four (4) years for a Bachelor's degree.

*DMHAS is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Members of protected classes and/or individuals in recovery are encouraged to apply.*

Interested candidates must forward a completed DMHAS Employment Application (available at [www.dmhas.state.ct.us](http://www.dmhas.state.ct.us)) preferably on or before March 15, 2006 to:

**Elizabeth Riley, Human Resource Officer**  
**Human Resource Services Bureau – Recruitment Unit**  
P.O. Box 1508, Middletown, CT 06457 Telephone: (860) 262-6741  
**Fax: (860) 262-6770**

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## Election News

Thanks to all of you who submitted nominations for upcoming 2006 elections. This year, we will be offering the option of voting on-line in addition to the usual paper ballot option. Look for your ballots in the mail in the next few weeks. All details on how to vote by either option will be included.

### CHIMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005-2006

#### PRESIDENT

MARTIN C COHEN, RHIT  
203-679-6506  
[mcohen@cthima.org](mailto:mcohen@cthima.org)

#### PRESIDENT-ELECT

KAREN J LAWLER, MPS, RHIA  
203-789-4305  
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#### PAST PRESIDENT

ELIZABETH A Taylor, RHIT  
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#### Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> year

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LESLIE B JOHNSON, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P  
860-828-0636  
[ljohnson@cthima.org](mailto:ljohnson@cthima.org)

#### Director, 1<sup>st</sup> year

DEBORAH B LOBB, RHIA, CTR  
860-350-7261  
[dlobb@cthima.org](mailto:dlobb@cthima.org)

BETSY J SWEENEY, RHIT  
203-573-6271  
[bsweeney@cthima.org](mailto:bsweeney@cthima.org)

#### Central Office Coordinator

PENELOPE R DEOTTE, RHIT, CCS, CTR  
**FOR CTHIMA BUSINESS, PLEASE USE:**

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