



Anchorage Medical Society

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Anchorage Medical Society Minutes- February 20, 2014

Call to Order 6:40

Minutes

A motion to approve the November 2013 minutes was made by Dr. Mamikunian and seconded by Dr. Rathkopf. The motion passes unanimously.

Old Business

House of Delegate seats- Two HOD positions needed to be seated.

Jane Fortson was nominated by Dr. Senter and seconded by Dr. Simono. The nomination was moved to a motion and passed unanimously.

Paula Colescott was nominated by Dr. Senter and seconded. The nomination was moved to a motion and passed unanimously.

New Business

Mike Haugen the Executive Director of ASMA gave an update on current hot button legislative issues. ASMA will continue to track key bills and pass information along to AMS for consideration,

HB203: This bill would remove the ability of non-networked physicians from having patients assign benefit payments to the physician directly. This bill was introduced by Rep. Keller and currently has little support in Juneau.

3AAC 26.110 (B): Blue Cross is attempting to amend the administrative code currently setting a floor of the 80th percentile of the UCR in contracting with providers. The insurance commissioner would make this change and currently there is no commissioner in place.

Dr. Mamikunian commented that Aetna has already cut the UCR to about ½ on certain procedures without notice

HB 250: The bill would supplement the current medical liability laws that are on the books. ASMA has sent a letter of support for this bill which was introduced by Rep. Olson.

SB 80: This bill would make it mandatory for teledoc physicians to live and practice on Alaska. This bill was introduced by Sen Dyson and ASMA is working with his office to ensure language that required the physician to be physically in the state of Alaska.

SB 112: this bill would amend current healthcare provider immunity law to include those who hold temporary courtesy licenses, in this case Dentists. The bill was introduced by Sen. Micciche.

HB 316: This bill would allow the Workers Compensation Board to set workers compensation fees. There is no support among physicians for this bill. The Governor's office also has concerns about this bill. This bill will increase pressure to control costs at the cost of caring for the victim. Rep. Olson introduced this bill.

SB 169: This bill would create a statewide immunization program for adults and children and a state vaccine assessment commission. This would be a self-sustaining program that would assist clinics with obtaining/providing vaccines under one umbrella in place of the current more cumbersome program. AMS has send a letter of support for this bill. It was introduced by Sen. Giessel.

Dr. Demain had questions for Mr. _____ about Medicaid expansion issues in Alaska. Mr. _____ reported that the Governor is looking at other options like block grants.

Dr. Cole mentioned that currently bills from Medicaid are delinquent back to October 2013 and that they have been told not to expect a resolution any time soon. Medicaid is offering loans to clinics which will then have to be repaid prior to delinquent payments being made.

Mr. _____ also reported that Sen. Murkowski is planning to request that ICD10 be delayed.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Robert Bundtzen gave a wonderful presentation "What Happens on the trip to Nome", describing his many Iditarod Experiences.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25