

Report from 2009 Winter Team Talks and Hill Day March 23-24, 2009 Washington D.C.

It was an honor to represent MSHIMA as 2nd year delegate at the AHIMA Winter Team Talks meeting on Monday, March 23, 2009, in Washington, D.C. The theme for the meeting was “I LEAD,” and the following is a summary of discussions held during the meetings: [Team Talks](#)

Creating the future of our organization: scenarios were explored, and success factors were outlined, so that we may be prepared to carry out our mission in whatever economic or social environment may be ahead.

AHIMA foundations: updating of the AHIMA website was discussed, as information is coming in at a rate that sometimes exceeds the ability to process and disseminate it, leading to an information-overload situation in some instances.

House of Delegates (HOD) reports: MSHIMA was very well-represented, with the Best Practices Committee staffed by both Carol Melvin and Susan Perkins, the HIM Higher Education and Workforce Committee staffed by Nena Scott, the Professional Development Committee staffed by Candice Kittrell, and the Volunteer Leadership Committee staffed by Patsy Hathorn. These committees are where the groundwork is laid for our association’s future, and our Mississippi delegation was fortunate to be able to contribute in all key areas.

Key 2009 initiatives: Sandy Fuller, AHIMA’s COO, projected the association’s goals for the upcoming year, including revision of the Department of Labor’s workforce depiction of our profession, as well as representation for upcoming legislation regarding healthcare coverage and privacy.

Hill Day: The MSHIMA delegation, consisting of Patsy Hathorn, Carol Melvin, Candice Kittrell, Nena Scott, and Susan Perkins, along with Itawamba Community College student Robyn Hood, then set out on Tuesday, March 24, 2009, to further the ongoing AHIMA causes of: [Improved quality of health data](#)—terminologies and classifications (promoting SNOMED in order to make terminologies consistent). [Health information management \(HIM\) workforce](#)—promoting reauthorization of Title VII of the Public Health Service Act—to provide funding for allied health education, and to raise awareness that quality healthcare education involves more than training just for doctors, nurses, and pharmacists. [Health Information Exchange \(HIE\)](#)—promotion of interoperable HIE networks across state and other jurisdictional lines. [Confidentiality, privacy, and security of health information](#)—the need to address discrepancies that may arise from recently-passed ARRA (economic stimulus act). [Privacy specifics](#)—uniformity and perhaps pre-emption in privacy laws and regulations to eliminate disparate state laws which may result in errors and administrative costs. Our group considered it a success that the offices of all Mississippi representatives and senators were visited, and it appears that they will stand behind our health information management initiatives for the upcoming year.

Submitted by Susan Perkins, MSHIMA 2nd Year Delegate, Director of Operations Premier Medical Group of Mississippi, 501 Marshall Street Suite 208, Jackson, MS 39202