

THURSTON-MASON COUNTY

Medical Society

July 2014

Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM THE TMCMS PRESIDENT

By Kevin Roscoe, MD

Can you believe it is almost August? Not only does that mean the most guaranteed gorgeous weather for us in the Northwest it also means barbecues, family reunions, work retreats and of course those dreaded back-to-school sales. But most importantly, it also means getting ready for the WSMA Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates! Thank you to the TMCMS members who have contributed to the intelligent and thoughtful resolutions to be put forth at the meeting this year. The final deadline to submit resolutions is August 20. If there is an issue that you would like the WSMA to address during the 2015 legislative session, this is your chance. Please contact us at the TMCMS and we can help you through the process of writing and submitting a resolution.

The website design is moving full steam ahead and we plan to have our new website up and running by the fall. Last month in partnership with the Thurston Chamber of Commerce, through the Health Care Champions Event, we showcased how our medical community comes together to honor our local heroes. I am so honored to be a part of the Thurston-Mason County Medical Society. Please continue to encourage your colleagues who are not members to join and take part in the county medical society.

2014 WSMA ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The WSMA 2014 Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates is September 20-21 at the Hilton Seattle Airport. The annual event brings together the approximately 200 voting members of the House of Delegates to establish policy for the state medical association. The House of Delegates convenes its opening session on Saturday morning, Sept. 20. At that time, guests are invited to speak to the delegates, and the House

refers all reports and resolutions to reference committees. All members are also invited to give testimony during the reference committee meetings on Saturday. The House holds a second and final session on Sunday morning, Sept. 21. At that session, the reference committees will present their reports for consideration by the House, and the House will then decide on policy for the association.

This year's meeting will also offer a variety of breakout sessions on important issues facing physicians and practices, as well as the guest speakers and special events that attendees have come to expect.

The House of Delegates meeting is free for all WSMA members. For the conference schedule, speaker information or to register for the event, please go to the WSMA website at www.wsma.org. You will find information on the WSMA Annual Meeting under the Education and Events section.

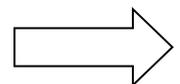
TMCMS DELEGATE NEEDED FOR WSMA ANNUAL MEETING

Several TMCMS board members are planning to attend the annual meeting as TMCMS delegates, but we are looking for one additional delegate and several alternates. Serving as a delegate offers you the opportunity to work with your county medical society to advocate for policies that are important to our local physicians and community. If you are interested in attending the meeting as a TMCMS delegate please contact Jena Layton at jlayton@tmcms.org. The meeting is free for members and the TMCMS will pay for your transportation and hotel expenses.

TMCMS-SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS FOR 2014 WSMA ANNUAL MEETING

The TMCMS will be sponsoring the following resolutions at the 2014 WSMA annual meeting in September for debate and

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consideration. Resolutions are presented to the general assembly at the meeting where they are debated, often amended, and then either adopted or rejected. If adopted the resolutions go to the WSMA where they help form their legislative agenda for the 2015 session.

Single Payer Health Insurance for Washington State. This resolution calls on the WSMA to work for the passage and implementation of legislation in the Washington State Legislature to create a single payer health coverage system at the state level in accordance with WSMA's principles. This discussion is timely because the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has a provision for all 50 states to request a "state innovation waiver" in 2017 to create a state-specific system that can improve upon the ACA.

Resolution for Limitations on Restrictive Practice Agreements. Physicians are increasingly practicing under employment contracts and employers often propose limitations on physician practice at the end of employment including restrictions on practice location. The TMCMS believes that patients and physicians benefit from the opportunity for continuity of care and therefore through this resolution call on the WSMA to adopt the policy of the American Medical Association regarding restrictive practice agreements and support legislation which discourages restrictive practice agreements.

Resolution for the Maintenance of Provider Location Database. This resolution calls on the WSMA to promote the continuity of the patient doctor relationship and continuity of care by promoting the maintenance of a database by Washington State linked to the licensure website of current physician practices. This database should be promoted by Washington State to health care consumers as a resource for locating providers.

MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS PROGRAM IS TRANSITIONING TO THE OLYMPIA FREE CLINIC

The Mental Health Access Program was established in 2007 in Thurston County and later expanded to residents of Mason County to meet the demands of uninsured and underinsured residents who need access to counseling services. This program has been administered by the CHOICE Regional Health Network.

Beginning August 1, 2014 the Olympia Free Clinic will assume leadership of this program. For additional information or to

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Washington **WSMA**
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connect to program services please contact Shanti Herzog at 360-359-3346.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Suicide Prevention HB 2315 - Concerning mandatory CME for suicide prevention passed in the 2014 legislative session. The original bill required that physicians and physician assistants, among others, obtain CME in suicide prevention every six years. The WSMA opposed this legislation partly because of its long standing policy against specific CME requirements. The bill that passed was amended so that physicians and physician assistants will be required to complete a one-time CME course.

Sunrise Review – Naturopathic Prescribing Authority. A Sunrise Review was requested in April 2014 on behalf of the Washington Association of Naturopathic Physicians (WANP) that would allow naturopaths (NDs) to prescribe controlled substances contained in Schedules II-V of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

Earlier this year, the NDs became eligible to enroll as primary care providers in Apple Health and the Exchange Medicaid insurance plans. In their Sunrise Application, the NDs argued that as primary care providers without expanded prescriptive authority, they would be forced to refer their patients to other primary care providers when controlled substances are necessary.

The WSMA submitted comments to the Department of Health opposing the ND's prescribing of Schedule II-V controlled substances.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The "What's New in Medicine" internal medicine and infectious diseases CME conference will be held September 12 & 13, 2014 in Kennewick, WA. For additional information go to the following website www.whatsnewinmedicine.org or contact by email at wnim2014@gmail.com.
- **WSMA Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates** September 20-21 at the Hilton Seattle Airport & Convention Center in SeaTac, WA.
- Northwest Association of Occupation and Environmental Medicine **2014 Annual Scientific and Clinical Education Conference** is on October 3-5, 2014 at the Alderbrook Resort and Spa in Union, Washington. For additional information contact the NAOEM Office at 206-956-3642, or email to ddw@wsma.org.