

HAWAI'I PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Monthly Membership Meeting
February 10, 2011

Mission: Helping Hawaii's Psychiatrists Provide the Highest Quality Care

Members Present:

Jeffrey Akaka, MD, President; William Sheehan, MD Secretary Treasurer; Iqbal Ahmed, MD, Assembly Deputy Rep.; Amber Rohner, MD; Alex Wills, MD; Andrew Chacko, MD MITs

Call to order 6:20pm

Presidents Report: Dr. Akaka

The restructuring is proceeding. Our new management company, SBIMS, is working out fairly well in handling our management needs, including the regulatory requirements of non-profits, setting up a transparent financial transaction system, and setting up a database and website at an affordable cost. We are now able to rapidly (within a business day) send out notifications to all members by email. They have set up an HPMA checking account with Wells Fargo, on which Drs. Akaka and Sheehan, as President and Secretary/Treasurer, along with Marlis Korber (Administrative Director of SBIMS) are signatories. They already have good connections with the National APA Headquarters in Washington DC, and have already started directly receiving dues revenue from the APA Central Office in Washington D.C. through our participation in the National APA's Centralized Billing System.

Treasurer's Report: Dr. Sheehan

We closed out our account at the Central Pacific Bank, by sending the balance to SBIMS. SBIMS deposited it into our new account with Wells Fargo, whose new balance is approximately \$12,000. The HPMA storage locker in Kailua is paid for through February 18. There are several boxes of items remaining in it, mostly old records, that need to be looked at and probably purged. There are too many items for only one person to have all the responsibility for, so under consideration is to have all the items brought to an HPMA meeting, and we have a "purge party."

Financial documents discovered by Drs. Akaka and Sheehan needing immediate attention were sent to SBIMS last week. Their CPA is reviewing all transactions over the past year, to insure that all monies can be accounted for, and to insure that any taxes owed will be appropriately paid, and any inappropriate overpayments be refunded. Following completion of a financial accounting for 2010, a retrospective analysis of prior years transactions that may need similar attention and action, will also be undertaken. Also sent to SBIMS were Signatory cards listing Dr. Akaka and Dr. Sheehan as signatories for the new account set up by SBIMS.

Legislative Matters:

Crash Course Prescribing for Psychologists Legislation is being proposed in the form of SB597, HB328 and HB695. Emails to all HPMA members advising them to prepare testimony in opposition have already been sent out. SB597 has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 16, at 2:45pm.

Members are advised that phone calls in opposition, not only by you but by your non-psychiatric colleagues, relatives and friends, need to be made to all members of both the House and Senate Health Committees, but prior to next Wednesday, especially to those

Senators who voted no in the past:

Senator Clarence Nishihara 586-6970
Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland 586-6130
Senator Glenn Wakai 586-8585
Senator Sam Slom 586-8420

Just say: I am _____, calling in opposition to SB597, and prescriptive authority for psychologists. At the very least, people who prescribe pills should know at least as much medicine as what a physician assistant or a nurse knows, and nothing in the bill insures anything that comes close. Facilitating safer solutions, such as the telepsychiatry, is needed. Thank you.

If you have more time, members are advised to write testimony and send it in. An easy way to do so is to go to www.capitol.hawaii.gov, click on legislature, type in the bill number with no spaces, check to see if it is the right bill and the right hearing, and then type in the comments you wish to make.

Amber Rohner Sakuda and Andrew Chako will explore developing a mechanism for a less labor intensive way for our members to make their opinions known to the members of our legislature. Dr. Sheehan will also work on alerting our members to easier ways of testifying.

Dr. Kemble has also been educating our legislature on the root causes of lack of access to care in rural areas. He is pointing out to them that no psychiatrist in private practice can go out into a rural area where most patients are on Medicaid, because they cannot afford the hassle factor of arguing with insurance companies over coverage of visits, medications or both. Under current circumstances, survival of a practice is impossible and even primary care docs are refusing Medicaid. He has been advocating that Universal Health Care, and standard formularies for all insurance plans, is the only way that private docs might be enticed to practice in rural areas. He asked that his letter to the legislature on these matters be sent out to the membership.

APA Annual Meeting May 14-18, 2011

Special events, including the May 13 pre-convention golf tournament to benefit both the American Psychiatric Foundation and the Waipahu Aloha Club, were discussed. Planning for an Annual Meeting Resident Function, hosted by the JABSOM Psychiatry Residents, is in process. Bishop Desmond Tutu is scheduled to be the Convocation Speaker. Everyone is encouraged to register as soon as possible for discounted earlier registration fees, and the golf tournament.

Website Logo

Since no entries were submitted for the logo contest, the \$100 prize money was used instead toward the services of a professional logo designer. By unanimous endorsement of all of the meeting attendees, one of the multiple designs sent to us for consideration was chosen. The selection, along with some minor changes to be considered, was sent back to SBIMS for further refinement.

Future Meetings

For the benefits of guaranteed availability of an adequate space, no rental charge, free parking on the street, unhurried comfort, private quiet atmosphere, and decent food and beverages at an inexpensive price (tonight we had chips, salsa, chicken wings, turkey cheese

and tomato turkey wraps, sparkling cider and paella from Costco, as well as beverages brought by attendees to share, all for less than \$60 for 7 people), for the remainder of the APA year (i.e. through the last day of the Annual Meeting) HPMA meetings will continue to be held at the home of Dr. Akaka at 999 Kaluanui Road in Hawaii Kai on the second Thursday of every month, from 6:00-7:00pm.