



HAWAII PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Monthly Membership Meeting
December 8, 2011

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

Location: Homes of Dr. Akaka on Oahu, and Dr. Sakuda on Maui.

Attendees on Oahu: Jeffrey Akaka, MD (Chair), Iqbal Ahmed, MD, Greg Prier, MD, Doug Smith.

Attendees on Maui, via conference call: Dr. Amber Rohner-Sakuda

Call to order: 6:40pm

Minutes of previous meeting: Deferred, as there was no meeting in November.

Membership Report: Deferred.

President's Report: Business Cards have been received and look quite attractive and professional. They are distinctively of Hawaii. We remain in the black. Last week we met to hammer out a budget. The budget was approved.

Treasurer's Report (Dr. Sakuda): Current balance is 6,944.14. The budget committee met last week, and came up with a budget of about \$15,000. Items were divided into essential (SBIMS, Lobbyist, communications technology) and important (Officers retreat, food at meetings, business cards for officers, social gathering). Some of these we hope to fund via support from APA. The Board of Trustees will be addressing our application for a CALF grant in the next two weeks.

Ethics Report: (Dr. Prier): Dr. Prier attended an Ethics Meeting in Washington DC, and reported that some new ethics tools have been added to the APA website. No new complaints.

Legislative Report : Legislature opens January 18, 2012. Bills from last year remain in play.

Communication Report: Deferred.

New Business:

Greeting Cards: Design options were considered and a final design selected, with HPMA Logo surrounded by holiday wreath on a black background. It will be sent out over the signature of the HPMA president to all members, and to friends of HPMA. On the back we will include the message "Please join us for our monthly meetings held every 2nd Thursday. Please go to our HPMA website at www.hawaiipsychiatry.org/ for details on time and place.

Fairer Reimbursement: Doug Smith, MD: Doctors are not able to provide patients the time and care that they need. HPMA would like to get our members more time with their patients, and to get paid for doing so. Many insurance plans allow use of 99 codes for evaluation and management, but some plans balk at paying psychiatrists for 99 E & M codes, even though the Wellstone Domenici law no longer permits this. However, most psychiatrists are using psychotherapy codes, even if they are doing E & M services. In New York, with APA help, the DB prevailed in a ruling against the insurers in arguing that the insurers had to pay for the appropriate service. APA then sent out to all of the insurance commissioners, including Hawaii, stating their concerns that the parity laws were not being followed, and attempting to educate insurers and commissioners that E & M codes separate from psychotherapy, should be covered and paid for. The APA Office of Healthcare Systems and Financing are developing tools to educate our members about this issue, and about how to get appropriate reimbursement.

Will the HPMA create a work group, to begin work beginning at the end of this meeting, whose purpose will be to work with the APA's HCSF, local insurers, the insurance commissioner, and other relevant parties about the above issue, and to make recommendations to the HPMA on what kind of actions HPMA might take, including but not limited to sending a letter to the Commissioner, for the purpose of ultimately obtaining fairness for our members in getting appropriately reimbursed from recalcitrant insurers for appropriately coded services provided to the insureds. Motion passed. Doug Smith, MD was appointed to chair the work group, and will enlist HPMA members interested in working with him on this. Dr. Akaka will forward materials provided by Dr. Smith to the general membership, and all members are invited.

Next meeting: January 12, 2012.

Oahu: Home of Jeffrey Akaka, MD Maui: Home of Amber Rohner-Sakuda, MD 6:00pm Welcome Reception, Meet and Greet (Bring a beverage to share). 6:30pm-7:00pm Business meeting

We welcome any member who would like to call or Skype in from their home, especially from neighbor islands or distant Oahu. Just call or Skype Dr. Akaka at [808-341-3472](tel:808-341-3472).

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Akaka, MD (Scribe for this meeting) President, HPMA