

ACOG Iowa Section Report

November 2015

The Iowa ACOG section has just concluded their 2015 Section Meeting, 2 October 2015, in Iowa City at the hotelVetro Conference Center after the annual OB-GYN Post-Graduate Conference. Dr. Joel Sorosky returned for the week as the Ob/Gyn Department Alumni Society Visiting Professor. Officers of the ACOG Iowa Section for 2014-2015 include Michael McCoy MD, Chair; Marygrace Elson MD MME, Vice-Chair and Chair-elect; Susan Wing Lipinski MD, Vice-Chair-elect; Colleen Kennedy Stockdale MD, MS, Secretary/Treasurer; Michelle Krohn DO, Junior Fellow Chair; Lydia Alexander MD, Junior Fellow Vice-Chair

Section Activities

A. Junior Fellows: JF Mentorship Video, JF 5K Fun Run Saturday 19 September, benefits iEmpathize, a nonprofit organization with a mission to eradicate child exploitation.

B. Patient Safety: Candor Legislation

C. Legislative: The state of Iowa awarded a contract for four companies, Managed Care Organizations (MCO) to manage Iowa's Medicaid system. It is my understanding that the Iowa Hospital Association (IHA) has filed a lawsuit against the State of Iowa regarding the

implementation of this program? A managed care fee for service floor was vetoed by the Governor stating it was redundant and this was included in the new system. Now providers must rely on the Department of Human Services (DHS) to not alter this payment floor? \$2 Million was appropriated for medical residency training state matching grants, priority given to psychiatry and family practice residency positions. Telehealth Payment Parity, Directs DHS to adopt rules relating to coverage of telehealth services provided under Medicaid. An in-person encounter is not required for services that can be safely administered via telehealth and requires Medicaid to reimburse at same level as in-person care. Iowa joined as a founding member the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, a new voluntary, expedited process by which a physician can obtain multiple state licenses through a single application. Ten states including Illinois, Minnesota and South Dakota have also passed the compact legislation. On 14 April 2015, Candor Legislation was signed into law becoming effective 1 July 2015. Communication and Optimal Resolution is the first medical liability reform enacted in nearly 10 years. The law supports open discussion and rapid resolution when an unanticipated healthcare outcome occurs. This was

done in collaboration with the Iowa Association for Justice (IAJ), the law encourages transparency and honesty, protects the rights of patients, improved patient safety, and has been shown to reduce litigation. It is designed to facilitate healing for both patients and physicians and ultimately cut health care costs. Pilot sites are being developed to implement new Candor Programs or modify existing programs to give them the new legal protections available.

D. Awards/Honors: Marygrace Elson is submitting to ACOG National the CANDOR legislation for a state legislative advocacy achievement award.

E. Section Chair Initiatives: Working with the Iowa Medical Society at the Board Level with Marygrace Elson to help develop toolkits and educate the providers in the state about this legislation.

F. Other: Starting 1 November 2015, Michael McCoy will change his practice to half time gynecology only and half time as Chief Medical Officer for his health system.

G. District VI Officers: Adrienne Racek is District VI Junior Fellow Chair. Mike McCoy is secretary-elect. Thad Anderson is treasurer and vice-chair-elect.

National Leadership: Tom Gellhaus is president-elect.

H. Upcoming dates:

District VI interim advisory council meeting, Las Vegas NV, 24-28 February 2016.

ACOG Congressional Leadership Conference, 6-8 March 2016.

ACOG annual clinical meeting, Washington, DC, 14-17 May 2016.

District VI annual district meeting (with Districts I, V), Toronto, Ontario, 26-28 August 2016.

Iowa Medical Society Physician Day on the Hill, Wednesday, 23 March 2016.

Margrace Elson, MD, MME, Iowa ACOG Chair, 2015-2016