



OAKLAND COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Empowering Physicians • Advancing Medicine

OCMS Board of Directors' Meeting Notes Tuesday, March 9, 2021, Zoom virtual

In attendance:

Barry Auster, MD
Vashali Bhargava, MD
Paul Bozyk, MD
Sharon Geimer, MD
Ashok Gupta, MD
Sherwin Imlay, MD
David Lee, MD
Rahul Mehta, MD
Christopher Milback, MD
Manveen Saluja, MD
Gary Sarafa, MD

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of January Board Meeting Minutes – no extractions, Doctor Bozyk motioned for approval, Doctor Geimer seconded, all approved
- Approval of February Executive Board Meeting Minutes – see above
- Approval of New Member Report – Three members approved for membership in OCMS

OCMS County Exec Resolutions

Cindy explained that the three resolutions were a product of the county execs discussions with MSMS. These were issues that the county execs felt they needed to get in front of the entire delegation at the HOD. Cindy discussed the three resolutions –

Dissemination of information – this resolution pertained to a list that MSMS used to provide that had all the new or renewing members from every county on it. The county execs felt this list was useful to them but MSMS discontinued sending it. Cindy said it did not matter to her she uses other lists to obtain her data. She said the one issue that was important was MSMS said they could no longer provide the list because, according to their bylaws, the counties were considered a “third party”. She said since we are a joint membership why would we be considered a third party. Doctor Saluja said it could we are considered third party to the other counties’ information.

Peer Review Ethics Issue – Cindy explained that in an ethics case it is a doctor-to-doctor complaint. She said the resolution is about making sure MSMS provides resources in these cases and the counties are not left to manage on their own. She felt that counties do not have the resources to handle on their own anymore. She said this resolution came from a case that was an issue with Washtenaw County. Doctor Saluja suggested possibly using the Medical/Legal Committee to present cases to if one arises at OCMS.

Membership Issue – Cindy explained this is regarding the ongoing issue she has had with MSMS putting members who live or work in Oakland County into unmanned counties, (again, MSMS keeps the dues, OCMS loses them). She said that MSMS has interpreted their bylaws and that there is nothing that says a physician must belong to the county society that they live or work in. Cindy said she feels that with Kevin McFatridge handling membership he will always promote county membership. She said part of the issue recently is the MSMS Insurance Agency sold memberships and then put the members in Livingston County. Doctor Auster said this is concerning because there was a survey that said 90% of physicians would only join the state if they could. He said if this would allow them to join or not join any county then it's dangerous for the current counties and membership.

OCMS Membership Update

Cindy discussed that compared to this time last year, OCMS is down \$61,000 in membership dues. She said part of this is due to losing the anesthesiology group. She said all the physicians in the group have been billed individually. She suggested sending a mailing to the physicians, offer them a discount, and explain how we are fighting HB 4359, the CRNA scope of practice issue. She said the anesthesiology group was 73 members and \$18,000 in revenue. She also said the Wayne State group has not paid yet which is \$9,500 in revenue. She also said another part of the dues is at least 15 members retired or went part-time this year. She said another 50 or so members dropped and did not explain why, which they are still working on. Doctor Bozyk suggested starting a work group to see what can be done to be more proactive about winning back some members. Doctor Lee explained that he is regularly sending out events from the state and county to get our name out in front of the physicians so they can see what we do. He is also working with MSMS to develop a needs assessment for residents and fellows across the state so hopefully that will help bolster membership. Cindy said she talked to Doctor Kumar who is Chief of Staff at Ascension Rochester who offered for her to speak at a staff meeting. Doctor Sarafa said that we should also target medical schools and GME, younger physicians, that we can cultivate a relationship with for the future.

OCMS New Office Space

Cindy said it was 11-3 in the Board survey to move the office to a new space. She said she has been to the new space at Bingham Office Center to discuss the renovations that need to be done such as carpet, paint, etc. Doctor Auster said that Patrick Haddad reviewed the contract for our current space. Cindy said that she will make a list of everything that will need to be done to move the office. She said that the new landlords have offered the month of July for free, and our rent would start August 1st. She said this will allow us to be able to move in gradually.

MSMS Board Update

Doctor Bozyk said that the MSMS Board meeting is not until later this month. She said that our regional director for Macomb County, Doctor Christie, is retiring from the Board early. She said that Doctor Daniel Ryan will be replacing him. Doctor Bozyk said that Doctor James Grant, a former MSMS president is now the Chief Medical Officer at BCBSM. He said he was at the last

board meeting and gave a speech to the health care delivery and education subcommittee on the essential partnership that BCBSM has with organized medicine and all physicians.

OCMS Events

New Legislator Event Update – Cindy said the event went well. She said she wished we had more Oakland County legislators attending but at least Rep. Weiss was there. She said they are planning to have more in the future possibly with other counties.

Events for younger physicians:

Medical Malpractice: How Not to Get Sued & What to Do If You Are – March 24th

Medical Malpractice Insurance 101 – April 20th

Virtual Fun Night – Cindy said she was working with the medical students to plan a virtual event, but Doctor Bozyk had brought up doing something with the members. Doctor Lee said they did a resident and family trivia night. He said picking the right topic is important. Cindy said we need to schedule something soon, by the end of April, or participation would be low.

Additional Topics

Cindy inquired whether we should meet in person for our May 18th meeting or virtually. Doctor Mehta said that those who are vaccinated could meet in person and those who were not could participate virtually. Cindy said we could schedule at office which would be the easiest to do both in-person or virtually.

Meeting ended at 8:03 p.m.