



TROPICAL TRANSCRIPTS
SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER
Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity



CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 29, Issue 1

June 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

I find it hard to believe that, by the time you receive this newsletter, half of the year has already gone by. First, I would like to apologize to you all for the absence of a first quarter newsletter. Just like I'm amazed that half the year has passed, I was horrified to see that March had come and gone and no president's message had been prepared - my workload just took over, something for which I am eternally grateful considering our current economic climate.

For those of you who did not attend our first meeting on March 18, you missed a great speaker in Mark Epstein, M.D., who spoke about the Myths and Facts of ADHD.

Please mark your calendar for our next meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, July 14 at Sheridan Technical Center, 5400 W. Sheridan Street, Hollywood, FL 33021** where Ellen Hayes, CMT will be speaking on ***QA and QI For The Medical Transcriptionist.***

Our annual fall symposium is scheduled for **Saturday, October 24**, and we ask that you put this on your calendar. Look for further information on this in a forthcoming newsletter.

Not only has the year flown by, the AHDI-FL (FAMT) conference in Orlando has come and gone. The conference, once again, gave me an opportunity to reconnect with "old" friends and make new ones, laugh a lot and, most importantly, realize what a wonderful profession we are involved in.

Before the meeting in Orlando, the South Florida Chapter board was asked to nominate one of our own to be recognized as a member who has contributed to the success of our chapter, and we had the pleasure of nominating Ann Donnelly, MS, CMT, AHDI-F. Ann was presented with a plaque at the President's Breakfast and included in this newsletter the introduction that was read. Congratulations Ann - thank you for all your hard work on our behalf.

Continued...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Continued...

If you are not already aware, medical transcription is undergoing major changes, most of which I do not fully understand and certainly would never dream of trying to explain. It is now more important than ever for each and every one of you to keep abreast of these changes by attending meetings, reading articles and networking with your colleagues. I recommend that you log onto the AHDI-FL web site (AHDI-FL.org) and read the current issue of *Sunscripts*. Along with some wonderful articles mostly covering the interesting talks at the conference, the President's Message is a MUST READ and I congratulate Debbie Wolfe, CMT, AHDI-F (AHDI-FL 2009 President) on her excellent message.

It goes without saying that your SFC Board works hard to keep everyone informed and to provide the forum for meetings and workshops, but we cannot do it all. We always welcome volunteers who not only will provide help but come up with fresh ideas on how to improve our chapter and who will step up to the plate to serve as a member of the board when asked.

AHDI has requested that every component (chapter/state/regional) commit to take at least one initiative for 2009. Later on in the newsletter you will find a description of this commitment. We chose this initiative because it will highlight to all our members and even those who are not yet members how important registration and certification is for everyone in our profession. If you would like to be considered for a volunteer position on this committee please contact me at swalcott@snappydsl.net.

I look forward to the opportunity of seeing you at our next meeting on Tuesday, July 14.

Sharon Walcott, CMT
2009 President South Florida Chapter

P.S. Many of you may not have had the opportunity go to Orlando because of the distance but you will not have that excuse next year as the 2010 annual conference will be right on our doorstep in Fort Lauderdale, May 14-15, 2010. Keep your eyes open for all the details.

Sharon Walcott, CMT
President, South Florida Chapter of AHDI



South Florida Chapter



Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity

**2009 Chapter Educational and Annual Business Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 2009**

**Sheridan Technical Center
Administration Building, Orientation Room
5400 W. Sheridan Street
Hollywood, FL 33021
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM**

- 6:30 - 7:00 PM Networking - Refreshments
Used Books Sale**
- 7:00 - 8:00 PM QA and QI For The Medical Transcriptionist
Educational Presentation by
Ellen Hayes, CMT**
- 8:00 - 8:30 PM Networking - Refreshments
Continuation of Used Books Sale**
- 8:30 - 9:00 PM South Florida Chapter Annual Business Meeting**

**Refreshments courtesy of
Sheridan Technical Center Medical Transcription Program**



**Previously owned books available
at very attractive prices!**

Membership Report

Currently there are 25 members in the South Florida Chapter of AHDI

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Phyllis Gursky

Balance 6/18/2009 \$3601.71

Chapter Representative's Report

Ann Donnelly, MS, CMT, AHDI-Fellow

June 2009

AHDI-FI has celebrated another successful Annual Meeting and Educational Conference held in May at the Radisson World Gate in Kissimmee, Florida. The educational program was excellent and the networking events were very successful. You can read summaries elsewhere in this newsletter of a few of the presentations we were privileged to attend this year.

AHDI-FL officers and members are now preparing to attend this year's AHDI Annual Convention and Expo (ACE) in Nashville, Tennessee at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. If you have not registered yet for the meeting, there is still time to do so. There are exciting events and presentations scheduled and there is always the opportunity to renew friendships with MTs from around the country and meet new friends. We hope as many SFC members as possible will be attending this year.

Our own South Florida Chapter will be the location of the 2010 AHDI-FL Annual Meeting and Educational Conference. The dates have been chosen and the hotel has been selected. Start now to plan for next year. The meeting will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 14th and 15th. It will be held at the Fort Lauderdale Westin Beach Resort. It is a beautiful hotel located right at the beach. Our state association is planning on bringing in changes for next year's meeting, making it more exciting and attractive for our members. As the host chapter we will have some duties, but these are limited and will not put a burden on our membership. We want everyone to attend the meeting and have a good time while they are there. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know. Also, please give us suggestions on the kinds of topics and if you have any particularly exciting and dynamic speakers you would like to see on the program at this meeting. You can email me at adonne9565@aol.com.

Ann Donnelly, MS, CMT, AHDI-F
Chapter Representative, SFC

MISSION POSSIBLE INITIATIVE

In November 2008, the House of Delegates voted to require components to support a minimum of one AHDI initiative. We were given a list of 9 initiatives from which to choose. Unfortunately we were given insufficient time to poll our members to choose which initiative they would like to participate in and the Board chose the following.

"Coordinate a local effort to advocate for and promote AHDI standards for certification."

A flyer will be put together outlining the requirements and steps to be taken to become an RMT (Registered Medical Transcriptionist) and CMT (Certified Medical Transcriptionist). This flyer will be distributed among our members and to those transcriptionists who are presently not members but are within the boundaries of the South Florida Chapter.

If you would like to be considered as a volunteer for this project, please contact South Florida Chapter President, Sharon Walcott, CMT at swalcott@snappydsl.net.

RECOGNITION FOR ANN DONNELLY, MS, CMT, AHDI-F

The South Florida Chapter board was asked to nominate one of our own to be recognized as a member who has contributed to the success of our chapter. The following is the introduction that was read prior to Ann being presented with a plaque.

"The South Florida Chapter would like to recognize Ann Donnelly, MS, CMT, AHDI-F. Ann served as our President for the last three years and during this time we became the South Florida Chapter. Under her guidance she steered us through this "change" that has made us a stronger and more effective chapter. South Florida Chapter now has a professionally maintained web site. She had the wherewithal to suggest we simplify our meetings and annual symposium, and she always has fresh ideas. She is now our chapter representative and our newsletter editor, in addition to serving as AHDI-FL's Vice President.

Ann has been a member of the South Florida Chapter since its inception as the Greater Miami Chapter and has served in many different capacities, not only in our Chapter but also at the State and National level, always giving so much of herself despite many personal challenges. It is seldom that you ever hear Ann say no to a request for help and she is always ready to give her support, share her knowledge of our profession, and mentor new and existing members.

It is rare that we are given an opportunity to publicly recognize such a dedicated person and friend, and are honored to do so."

The Pencil is Mightier than the Crime

Presented by Amy Stump, Forensic Artist at the AHDI-FL Annual Meeting and Educational Conference

Amy started out, and throughout her presentation, gave a history of her education and experience. She first saw a book by Karen Thomas called "Forensic Art and Illustration." She has used this book throughout her education to help further her career as a forensic artist. She describes it as being dog-eared from years of reference. As a forensic artist, she does composite sketches. She studies a skull and can start seeing the delicate differences that make each person unique. She does age regression and progression, image enhancing and postmortem reconstruction. She stated that doing postmortem reconstruction has been the most difficult skill in her career.

She discussed her use of pencil drawings, why she likes the use of pencil art. She said that, like all artists, you create when the mood strikes you, and the pencil is always ready. There is no prep time. The pencil is portable and ready for that creative streak.

She discussed the method of identifying suspects. She stated she must realize the limitations, who was affected, the concept of the idea, the action to be taken, and how the suspect was portrayed by the public in creating images of suspects. She helps the public learn to describe suspects by first having them describe an item they are seeing. This helps them focus on what the suspect looked like. She also has a collection of prefabricated facial features to show the witness, which helps them identify a suspect, i.e. eyebrows, eyes, noses, mouths, chins, ears, etc. However, emotions, priorities, stress and personal interpretations can affect her drawings.

She sometimes will do a sketch of the crime scene which helps in apprehending a suspect.

In the forensic part of her presentation, she discussed 2D/3D reconstruction and re-creation of a skull which is done after recording the skin and tissue depths. This part of her presentation was limited and actually seeing her create a reconstructed skull was not done. She did show scenes from "Bones," a TV program that uses 2D/3D reconstruction to help us understand the idea of this medium.

Amy gave a history of identifying suspects and how it has been done since the early 1900s, i.e. fingerprinting and its importance. She then went on to forensic art and how it has helped over the years. She explained how forensic art helped in identifying bodies in concentration camps in the 1940s.

Finally, she stated that 1 in every 3 drawings that are done get identified.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Gursky
Treasurer, SFC-AHDI

Basic Computer Maintenance and Security Everyone Should Know

Presented by Mike Wolfe at the AHDI-FL Annual Meeting and Educational Conference

Mike started his presentation by asking, "How safe is the Internet," and then he explained that the Internet is just people, but some people are not trustworthy, so we should always maintain healthy skepticism, practice safe browsing, and know what to avoid.

The top Internet security threats are malware, ID theft, phishing, and Internet scams. Malware includes viruses, trojans, worms, spyware and adware. He cautioned us to beware of pop-up windows that use scare tactics. You can use Alt F4 to shut down pop-up windows.

Identification theft is perpetuated through the use of bogus web sites, email phishing and scams. He explained about social engineering and that it basically means trust no one. If you get a call from your bank or utility company, hang up and call them back. Ask them to verify your information as opposed to you verifying it for them.

How to identify a secure web site? There should be a picture of a lock, which means it is a safe connection. Also, the web address should begin with https://. The "s" means it is secure.

We all know the importance of protecting ourselves using antivirus software and to keep the software up to date. You should also run the virus scan periodically. Mike advised us to avoid free antivirus software because he said you get what you pay for. Another important point he made was to tell us to exercise patience online. Read each page and/or window before clicking "next."

Passwords are another tool to protect you as long as you use them correctly. He advised avoiding pet names, dates, addresses, or anything that can be easily figured out. The minimum length of a password should be 8 characters, and the longer the better. A password should contain letters, both upper and lower case, numbers, and characters. A password should be simple to remember but difficult to guess because there are computer programs that can figure out passwords. Save your passwords, but never save them on a laptop.

Some Internet pitfalls include Freeware, which he warned us to stay away from. Open source software like Firefox, is safe to use. Open source software is written by people to make something run better, the way they want it to run, and it is distributed free of charge. Online games and music downloads like Limewire and Bearshare should definitely be avoided.

Mike also talked about backing up data. How often you back up your data depends on how often you change information on the computer. He suggested the best way to back it up is by using an external hard drive. Pictures, music, documents, and anything important should be backed up.

Basic Computer Maintenance and Security Everyone Should Know

Continued...

Best practices include:

1. Defragging your computer at least monthly.
2. Keep the area around your computer open and free of dust. Dust can kill a computer. You should open your computer and use canned air to clean the dust.
3. Update Windows frequently. Turn on automatic updates to keep your computer up to date and secure.
4. Keep antivirus software up to date.
5. Be patient. Read everything when you install software or get pop-up windows.
6. Uninstall unnecessary software, such as old software and things you do not use.
7. Practice strong password controls.
8. Backup regularly.
9. Listen for odd noises.
10. Turn it off when convenient.

These basic tips remind all of us about the importance of keeping your computer secure and how to keep it properly maintained.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Hayes, CMT
Secretary, South Florida Chapter

Cosmetic Surgical and Non-Surgical Procedures

Presented by Jeremy Benedetti, M.D. at the AHDI-FL Annual Meeting and Educational Conference

Dr. Benedetti is board-certified by both the American Board of Plastic Surgery and the American Board of Surgery. Dr. Benedetti earned his Medical Doctor degree from The Medical College of Ohio and then went on to complete eight years of extensive surgical training at University of California, Davis and University of Virginia. His practice, Benedetti Cosmetic Surgery, P.A., is located in St. Petersburg, Florida.

In his talk, Dr. Benedetti covered the four levels of cosmetic medical care: Noninvasive, minimally invasive, moderately invasive and surgical and explained each level, showing photographs.

Noninvasive cosmetic procedure - or spa treatments - are therapeutic and relaxing, designed primarily to reduce blemishes and revitalize and protect the skin. The results are temporary and include cellulite wraps, facials, and deep tissue massages. They are used by people of all ages, from younger people who want to improve skin tone to older adults looking to relieve muscle tension or back pain.

Cosmetic Surgical and Non-Surgical Procedures

Continued...

Minimally invasive treatments even out skin tone, increase cell turnover, promote cell growth, remove unsightly veins or abnormal hair growth, and stimulate collagen production to help the skin retain its softness and reduce the appearance of lines and wrinkles. These procedures include light-based treatments to remove sunspots, microdermabrasion, light skin peels, spider vein treatment, hair removal, and treatment of leg veins. Dr. Benedetti pointed out that these procedures are usually undertaken in a series and are not without risk and should be performed by a trained provider overseen by a plastic surgeon.

The moderately invasive procedures (which are nonsurgical) are neither risk-free nor a substitute for plastic surgery. This level includes injection therapy with Botox, soft tissue fillers, laser skin resurfacing, deep chemical peels, nonsurgical skin tightening and cellulite treatments. The longevity of these treatments varies from a few months to a few years. For a time, they reduce the appearance of lines and creases, plump thin lips, enhance shallow contours, and soften wrinkles. However, they do not achieve the same results as with surgery or surgery combined with moderately invasive procedures, which produce more noticeable and longer lasting results.

The last level of cosmetic surgery is surgical or invasive procedures. These reposition tissue and restore lost volume to rejuvenate the face. Body contouring can reduce fat deposits, lift sagging skin, and shape arms, hips, and thighs. The most common surgical procedures can be grouped in three categories: Face - surgical repositioning and volume restoration (such as eyelid surgery, forehead lift, facelift, and neck lift; facial implants and ear and nose surgery); breast (such as breast lifts, augmentations, and reductions); and body contouring (such as liposuction, tummy tucks, and arm, thigh and body lifts).

All in all, it was a most interesting talk by a caring, well-trained and experienced cosmetic surgeon.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Walcott, CMT
President, South Florida Chapter

Ethical Dilemmas: How Those Hard Decisions Are Made

Presented by Kim Kochara, RN, BSN, MHSc.

This was a very interesting and thought-provoking presentation by Kim Kochara,

What happens when circumstances require those critical decisions in a patient's illness? The patient is not sure or not able to express his or her wishes; the family is not in agreement with the patient's wishes or with the wishes of various members of the family, and the healthcare team is not always in agreement with what is the best course of action to take.

Decision-making! How is it done?

In today's medical world where ethical questions arise concerning patient care and treatment, these types of decisions are made under what is called "Jonsen's model for ethical decision making."

This model is named for Albert Jonsen, a biomedical ethicist, who was one of the very first bioethicists to be appointed to a medical faculty. Jonsen is said to have set the standard for medical ethics in the US.

Kim went on to discuss ethics, bioethics, and morals, making the distinction among these. Morals -- this is the personal view of values. Values are the rules by which we make decisions about right and wrong. Ethics is the analysis and study of morality. Ethics is how a moral person should behave. Bioethics is the ethical implications of the rapid advancements in biomedical technology and the shifting cultural values.

There are four areas or topics that are considered when decisions are made in the clinical setting. These are:

Medical Indications

The patient's diagnosis and treatment options are reviewed. What are the patient's medical problems, diagnosis and prognosis? Is the problem acute, chronic, critical? Two principles that play a part in this topic are those of *beneficence or doing good and nonmaleficence which is the "do no harm" principle.*

Patient preferences.

Principles of respect for autonomy, As the patient is presenting to the healthcare provider, there must be a judgment about whether the patient is mentally capable and legally competent to make decisions concerning his or her treatment or non treatment?

Quality of Life.

What are the prospects with and without treatment for the patient's return to a normal life? What are the physical and mental conditions of the patient? What is the expectation or prognosis for the patient's present or future quality of life expectations?

Ethical Dilemmas: How Those Hard Decisions Are Made

Continued...

Contextual features.

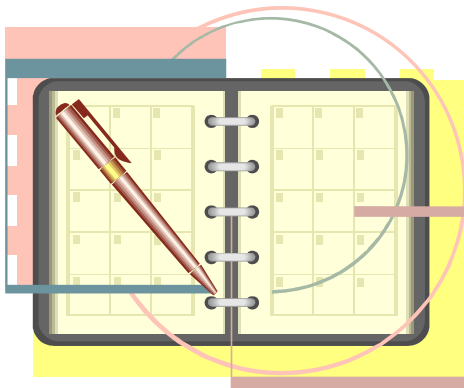
These are the outside influences and issues that extend beyond the patient and the doctor and influence the treatment decisions. This can be a balancing act with regard to the patient's family, financial issues, hospital policy, the law and insurance companies.

Once Ms. Kochara elaborated on these four principles that underlie making those hard decisions, she went on to present us with individual case studies. We worked in groups during this session, applying these principles to resolving the ethical dilemmas that were presented by each patient's case. This was not an easy task for us. There were serious discussions about the different issues involved with each case study we were presented with before we were able to come to conclusions about resolving these ethical dilemmas.

The idea of making some of these hard choices as individuals is not one that is easily addressed, but the time to have these discussions and make our wishes known to our loved ones is when we are healthy and have the mental and emotional ability to make decisions about how we want to live our lives.

Submitted by Ann Donnelly, MS, CMT, AHDI-F
South Florida Chapter Representative

**Mark your Calendars!
Save the date!**



July 14, 2009

**SFC Chapter Meeting, Sheridan Technical Center, Hollywood, FL,
1 CEC**

**July 30-August 2, 2010 AHDI 31st Annual Convention and Expo (ACE)
Gaylord Opryland, Nashville, TN**

October 24, 2009

**SFC Fall Symposium, Hilton Garden Inn
Ft. Lauderdale SW / Miramar, FL. 3 CECs**

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Visit our state's component website -

www.ahdi-fl.org - for the latest electronic

issue of "Sunscripts" as well as several other chapter newsletters, state officers, and everything about our state organization and our other chapters within the state that you would want to know.

www.ahdionline.org is our national association website where you will find a world of information on current happenings in our transcription industry, educational webinars, nationwide calendar of events, contact addresses, membership roster, find a job, register for an event, shop online for AHDI products, even print a copy of your membership card!

Our chapter website is: www.southfloridachapter-ahdi.org.



South Florida Chapter



Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity

VISION OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

“The South Florida Chapter of the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity is committed to helping its members grow both professionally and personally by increasing their knowledge through continuing education, networking, volunteerism and indoctrination of values and ethics. This, in turn, will help foster dedication and enthusiasm for our profession.”

South Florida Chapter of AHDI was established in 1981 as the Greater Miami Chapter of the American Association for Medical Transcription.

This South Florida Chapter newsletter is published quarterly and is intended to inform and educate our members in the field of medical transcription.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Ann Donnelly, MS, CMT, AHDI-F

**The deadline for the next issue of Sunscripts will be September 15, 2009. Please submit all articles and contributions to adonne9565@aol.com.

AHDI GOVERNANCE

Our state association, AHDI-Florida, is represented by 2 delegates in the AHDI House of Delegates where issues are presented and laws are made - our issues - our laws. Change is everything!
Contact one of your AHDI-FL delegates and your voice will be heard.

Ellen Drake, CMT, AHDI-F, Email at ellen.drake@gmail.com

Judi Higbee, CMT, AHDI-F, Email higbeeje@bellsouth.net

Our AHDI Board Partner is Betty Honkonen, CMT, AHDI-F
betty@transcribeservices.org



SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

(formerly the Greater Miami Chapter)

www.southfloridachapter-AHDI.org

Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity

(formerly American Association for Medical Transcription)

Celebrating 28 Years of Excellence

2009 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & FEES REMITTANCE FORM

_____ RENEWAL APPLICATION _____ INITIAL APPLICATION
(Annual membership is from January 1 through December 31)

DATE _____

NAME _____ CMT # _____

AHDI MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____ MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY & STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE-Home _____ Cell _____ FAX _____

EMPLOYER _____ Work Phone _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SPECIAL INTERESTS? SKILLS? HOBBIES? COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION? Initial applicants please give a brief summary of your medical transcription experience.

- FEES:** SFC Individual Professional Member (AHDI Professional member) = \$25.00
- SFC Member (non-AHDI, non-voting **local only** member) = \$35.00
- Student Member (non-voting student-in-training) = \$10.00

Make check or money order payable to: **SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER OF AHDI**

Send with application to:

Phyllis Gursky

SFC Treasurer

11004 S.W. 112 Ave.

Miami, FL 33176-3215

e-mail address: tyke@bitspring.com

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I understand the South Florida Chapter of AHDI is a professional organization for the furthering of education in the field of medical transcription. With this membership I agree to participate and support the organization in its activities and endeavors to accomplish this goal. I give my permission to have my name and address included in the South Florida Chapter membership roster.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Contributions or gifts to the South Florida Chapter of the AHDI are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes. However, they may be deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.