



2010 WSHIMA Election Ballot Overview

President-Elect

Sally Beahan
Terry Long

Secretary

Julie Bajer
Camelia Scheidegger

Director

DeeDee Adams
Corinne Meyer

Delegate

Alla Bishop
Rhonda Kabage

Candidate Biographies and Objectives

President-Elect Candidate: Sally Beahan

Sally Beahan has worked within the health information management arena over the past 20 years working both at Northwest Hospital and the University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC) in a variety of roles. Sally is currently the Director of Health Information Management at the University of Washington Medical Center where in addition to Health Information Management, she has served in leadership roles including Admitting and Registration, Financial Counseling, and Utilization Review. She recently earned a Master's degree from the University of Washington's Executive MHA program and holds a bachelor's degree in Health Information Administration from Seattle University. Sally serves on the UW HIHIM Advisory Board, has participated as a guest speaker in a number of different venues, has published articles and authored a chapter in a Clinical Informatics book, and is an active member of AHIMA. Project work that she has been involved in includes; document imaging, implementation of a clinical documentation improvement program, oversight of facility charge entry, using LEAN project management to standardize work, implementation of electronic record systems including speech recognition, and revenue cycle enhancement. Participation in oversight committees includes; electronic records, patient portal, redefining the legal medical record in a hybrid system, record retention, and E Discovery. Sally lives in the Seattle area with her husband Scot and two children Tyler (16) and Mackenzie (11).

A. What are your views of the immediate goals of WSHIMA? AHIMA?

The world of Health Information Management is rapidly changing and as HIM professionals, we

need to be prepared to represent our profession and be the leaders of change! There are a number of hot topics that many of us are grappling with including Meaningful Use and HITECH, ICD10, Capturing Quality Indicators, E-Discovery, Electronic Records, etc.. In the spirit of the mission of WSHIMA, the association should continue to focus on professional development by providing practice resources for members that help us all navigate the changes through educational offerings, providing forums for information sharing and brainstorming, and defining Best Practice. Representing Washington State and participating at a national level with AHIMA to advocate policy that results in advancing our profession is key to our success.

B. What would be your objectives for the next three years for WSHIMA? AHIMA?

If elected I would provide strong leadership and strive to foster an environment of collaboration and teamwork so together as a whole we can represent the profession of HIM and become the leaders of change. Strong participation is a must so looking at ways to engage representatives across the State is essential. Carrying on the great work of the current and past WSHIMA leadership would be my focus as well as determining ways to improve and continue to meet the needs of the members.

President-Elect Candidate: Terry Long



Terry Long is a Registered Health Information Administrator with over 20 years experience in Health Information Management. She has served as Manager and Director of several departments and as a Sr. HIM Consultant where she was responsible for HIM departmental oversight in several facilities and supervised up to 45 employees. Two years ago, she transitioned to Information Systems and is employed by Providence Health Systems as a Systems Analyst. She enjoys working with technology and her role which is to implement HIM-specific components of the hospital's new electronic health record and hospital information system.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from Washington State University and is a Registered Health Information Administrator. She has served as Secretary for the WSHIMA Board and currently holds the position of 2nd year Director.

1. What are your views of the immediate goals of WSHIMA? AHIMA?

Our profession necessitates multi-tasking and a wider scope of thinking in order to stay current and remain a vital piece of the pie in healthcare. Therefore, immediate goals of AHIMA should be a reinforcement of education for credentialed members in the areas where we are losing ground and where we see other healthcare specialists taking on essential positions in the organization such as quality management, regulatory readiness, information technology, and privacy and security. In addition to coding specialization, HIM professionals can and should be prominent members in all of these other areas of healthcare. WSHIMA recognizes the importance of education by supporting scholarships for new graduates and those wishing to pursue specialized instruction. Advancing e-HIM practice and providing relevant professional development should be a continued goal of WSHIMA.

2. What would be your objectives for the next three years for WSHIMA? AHIMA?

For AHIMA, a continued focus on developing new credentials such as the CHDA, providing ICD-10 education, alerting members to HIM specific requirements for meaningful use and preserving prominence in national healthcare issues. For WSHIMA, retaining membership participation and promoting HIM professionalism.

Secretary Candidate: Julie Bajer

Currently, I am Coding Manager for HIM Operations at Group Health in Seattle. In January, I moved from Metro Detroit where I was Coding Supervisor for professional services at Beaumont Hospital. I received a Master of Science in Health Administration from Central Michigan University in 2008. I completed my undergraduate studies at Ferris State University in Michigan with a dual major in Medical Records Administration and Health Services Administration in 2005. I was previously a member of the nominating committee for Southeast Michigan HIMA and I am an active member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

A. What are your views of the immediate goals of WSHIMA? AHIMA?

I support all initiatives identified by AHIMA at present time including the meaningful use rule, RAC audits and the preparation involved with participation, the continuing development of EHR's and applicable laws and regulations, and the implementation of ICD-10. I find this to be an exciting and dynamic time and look forward to working with WSHIMA to be sure Washington members and health information management professionals throughout the state are fully aware and educated regarding issues that are affecting their work.

B. What would be your objectives for the next three years for WSHIMA? AHIMA?

I'd like to see the state of Washington recognized as a leader in ICD-10 implementation and training as well as at the forefront of addressing changing laws that affect health care today. If elected Secretary of WSHIMA, I'd like to provide open communication and support to members that are transitioning in the ever-changing health care environment. It is imperative that WSHIMA members are prepared to address the coming changes and are able to embrace these evolutions.

Secretary Candidate: Camelia Scheidegger

Camelia Scheidegger currently works at Rockwood Clinic, a large multi-specialty physician clinic, in the Quality Improvement department.

Camelia graduated from Spokane Community College in 2008 and immediately applied for and passed the RHIT exam. In her previous life, before finding the joys of HIM, she worked as a secretary, bookkeeper, and manager.

Camelia has honed her attention to detail over the years as she volunteered with various organizations. These include: INHIMA, WSHIMA, Shriners Hospital for Children, Lacemakers of Puget Sound, Shuttlebirds Tattling Guild, American Red Cross, and numerous church organizations.

When not otherwise occupied, Camelia relaxes by designing tatted doilies, reading and cooking.

Director Candidate: DeeDee Adams

DeeDee Adams, RHIT, is currently working as a privacy consultant for the Privacy Office at Group Health Cooperative, focusing on privacy and security compliance. Ms. Adams began her career in the HIM profession about thirty years ago. Since then, Ms. Adams has managed medical records and business operations in a primary care setting. She recently worked in the Health Information Management department at Group Health, focusing on policy, procedures and training staff on release of information and parental proxy access to the online medical record. During this time, Ms. Adams graduated from Shoreline Community College in the HIT program.

Ms Adams was a committee member of the WSHIMA Advocacy committee in 2007. Currently, Ms. Adams has been appointment to complete the term of the fifth WSHIMA delegate.

1. What are your views of the immediate goals of WSHIMA? AHIMA?

During these changing and challenging times in the health care industry, it is critical that our membership be adequately prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities that we are presented with. WSHIMA and AHIMA must continue to provide timely guidelines and resources to the HIM workforce. Promoting opportunities for continuing education for our workforce is needed in order for our professionals to stay competitive, competent, informed, and ready to take on these changes. Membership involvement is very important because our members are the voice of what is actually happening in the workplace. Our members help to keep our association informed on current issues. We must keep our local associations strong by improved membership numbers and involvement.

2. What would be your objectives for the next three years for WSHIMA? AHIMA?

I would be very pleased with the opportunity of representing and promoting AHIMA/WSHIMA initiatives and working with my HIM colleagues to further define our goals and identity the necessary strategies to accomplish them.

Director Candidate: Corinne Meyer

Though I was born in Yakima, Washington my parent relocated to Polson, Montana shortly after my birth and that is where I grew up along with 2 brothers and a sister. I enjoyed growing up in a close nit community on Flathead Lake where my parents worked in the family business which was a convalescent center. My father was the Administrator and my mother was the Medical Records Supervisor, and was a certified RRT. Following high school, I attended Carroll College in Helena, Montana and received a Bachelor of Arts in Health Information Management (actually following in my mother's footsteps). After I completed my degree, my husband and I were married and started our family. I took some time away from school and career to welcome our first child, Molly, to the world. I enjoyed being with Molly while she was young so my husband could finish his schooling. We have since had another child, Eric, and relocated from Montana to Orting, Washington. Our family really enjoys working and playing in Washington, there is so much to do and see. We also love our community of Orting, just south of Puyallup, is home to roughly 6,000 people at the base of Mt. Rainer. We embrace our small community lifestyle with the unique benefit of being 30 minutes from Tacoma and 60 minutes from Seattle. We are truly fortunate and look forward to many more enjoyable years in this great part of the country.

Professional Background:

Education: BA, Health Information Management
Carroll College, Helena, Montana 1995 – 1999
MBA, Healthcare Management
Regis University, Denver, CO 2007 – 2009

Years Experience in HIM: 10 years
Years working in HIM Leadership: 8 years
Current position: Director, Laboratory Outreach
Harrison Medical Center

A. What are your views of the immediate goals of WSHIMA? AHIMA?

The primary goals and objectives relating the promoting the value of Health Information Management, supporting and representing those professionals, and seeking new and dynamic

ways to engage the health care industry are relevant and important. I would seek to supplement these objectives with what my experience and knowledge is based on the current environment in many healthcare environments. That is specifically related to the increasing relevance information technology and/or systems to the field of Health Information Management. These two important aspects of the formerly emerging and now common environment most forge lasting relationships in which one does not overshadow or even consume the other. I would offer that it's a worthy endeavor for WSHIMA and AHIMA to seek to provide this necessary education to burgeoning hospital leaders.

B. What would be your objectives for the next three years for WSHIMA? AHIMA?

If elected I would seek to:

- 1.) Represent all Health Information Management professionals and affiliates to the best of my ability, develop productive and lasting relationships with the current board and WSHIMA organization representatives, and have fun!
- 2.) Endeavor to work towards differentiating the Health Information Management professional from other functions/workers within the modern health care environment through education and advocacy.

Assist WSHIMA in partnering with local and/or regional educational institutions and training facilities to expand offerings of Health Information Management related fields of study or technical certifications.

Delegate Candidate: Alla Bishop

My name is Alla Bishop. I am recently remarried and have 4 children and 2 step-children. I was born and raised in the former Soviet Union, now independent country Ukraine. After graduating high school and technical college I got a degree in Bookbinding Arts and Technology. There was always something about paperwork in general that I've been drawn to.

I moved to the US in 1995 with my family. After my fourth child was born, it was time for me to think about my future career. At the senior year at Shoreline Community College accepted a job offer in the Long Term Care as a Health Information Manager. I graduate and got my RHIT certification in 2001. In July 2006 accepted a job at Compass Health Community Mental Health agency where I currently work as Medical Records manager. I manage daily department operations, monitor effectiveness and compliance in all areas of mental health records management and confidentiality of clients' information in accordance with State and Federal laws. I am a active member of the Compliance Committee, Quality Team. I also provide expertise and trainings in areas of Release of PHI for the agency.

As a mother of four, life has been always busy for me. People say I'm hard on myself. I'd say I've always had high expectations for everything I do. Looking back when I came to the US not knowing English alphabet and looking where I am right now, I can say I like the challenge! As I like to say to my team: "Never give up trying to accomplish and achieve goals until it becomes a second nature".

For goals for WSHIMA, AHIMA:

To bring awareness of satisfaction of continuing to learn, as well as opportunity to connect with other professionals through WSHIMA.

Expand possibilities for professional growth through WSHIMA and resources for HIT students, current RHIT's and RHIA's.

By working side by side with AHIMA, serve as resource for Health Care organizations in developing and maintaining EMR.

Delegate Candidate: Rhonda Kabage

My name is Rhonda Kabage, a 2008 graduate of Spokane Community Colleges HIT program and a newly credentialed RHIT. I am a member of AHIMA, WSHIMA and the secretary for INHIMA. As a student, I devoted my spare time to volunteering at American Behavioral Health Systems (ABHS), the VA, Good Samaritan's Society and the Legislative Manual. I have been employed at Behavioral Healthcare Options (BHO) in Spokane Washington for two years as an Associate Clinical Administrative Coordinator. BHO is the utilization management subcontractor for the Spokane County Regional Support Network, providing inpatient and outpatient authorization for mental health services. I love the work that we do and find the mental health field very interesting and rewarding.

There are so many immediate goals that WSHIMA and AHIMA have set for the coming year; however, the one goal I feel is very important is increasing membership and member involvement. I am very proud of the field I choose and have such admiration for the men and women working in the many fields that HIM covers. These individuals have a wealth of knowledge I wish I could have tapped into as a new graduate entering the field. I would like to see each and every member make a new or renewed commitment to mentor a student or new colleague entering our profession. If mentoring isn't something one wanted to do, there are always opportunities to volunteer on any of the committees. I found the Legislative Manual really exciting and fun as a new-comer to the profession, and I learned so much from that experience.

One AHIMA goal that is of major importance is the aggressive focus placed around the ICD-10-CM/PCS implementation. Our coding of patient charts for accurate billing, continuity of care and overall depiction of the public's health record is embarking on a major change for the good. With ICD-10-CM/PCS we will be able to pin down diagnoses with much more accuracy and spend less time debating the way to code procedures. AHIMA has provided many educational opportunities like the up-coming audio/webinars "ICD-10-CM: Getting to the Root of the Procedure parts 1-2." I rigorously support AHIMA's advocating of ICD-10-CM/PCS and am impressed by the letter sent to the House of Representatives, the Senate and the coalition. How could I not support and be proud of an organization such as AHIMA when they clearly understand and promote the always changing and, at times, very fast paced field in which we work?

My objective for WSHIMA and INHIMA is to become more involved with each association. Doing my personal best to understand each goal or mission the association sets out. Involvement that not only calls for the hands on leg work of attending meetings, webinars and staying abreast to the new and upcoming trends and/or issues that surround our industry. However, just action of doing leg work isn't enough I commit to informing each member or potential member that I have contact with thereby assuring that my fellow members are aware of current issues. It is necessary that the people that make up our associations communicate with those we know and those we don't. It is my objective to be involved whether it's as a leader or follower. I can truly see myself serving the associations as a board member in any capacity asked and called to.