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Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
March 16, 2016 Mazzeos' Ristorante, Pittsfield, MA

Chair's Report: Dr. Jolene Krol (Dr. Schmidt by proxy)

Dr. Erich Schmidt welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting.

MDS Trustee's Report: Dr. Jay Wise

Beacon Hill Day is Wednesday, March 30, 2016. This will probably be your last opportunity to meet Senator Ben Downing in the Statehouse. To register for this event use this link – <http://cqrcengage.com/madental/app/register?0&m=123982> . It is a fun event and we need, more than ever for our legislators to know that we are interested in the issues and we can be helpful to them for the good of our community.

Opioid Bill has passed. There will be no CE hour requirement (as was in the original bill). A 7-day supply only for first time adults and 7-day supply always for minors. Prescribers will need to access the PMP (Prescription Monitoring Program) Virtual Gateway website each time they are prescribing opioids.

ADHP Bill is still in the Senate committee. There is no time limit as to how long it can stay in committee, so time alone may prevent the bill from getting to the floor. MDS representatives are trying (during the time the bill is in committee) to keep the bill from moving on to the floor for a vote before the session closes on July 31.

PEW Charitable Trust claims that the bill is needed because only 21% of the MA dentists take MassHealth. This figure is for dentists billing more than \$20,000 in services a year. It is not representative of how many dentists are actually providing Mass Health. Fact is 47% of dentists in MA are Mass Health providers. Those dentists bill more than \$10,000 per year.

Another issue that Senator Harriet Chandler (the bills champion) is saying that the ADHP is working well in other states...the reality is that these mid levels are not really resulting in much of a difference. This is based on required reports to DPH in both Maine and Minnesota.

Massachusetts is a critical state because this would really give the concept more momentum nationwide. Lobbyists for MDS suggest that they will file an alternative bill next year if the current bill does not pass.

There was concern at MDS about making each District its own LLC to prevent risks. Lawyers have informed MDS that this is unnecessary. MDS will increase its liability coverage and no further action is needed. Anything will be covered if it occurs within the aegis of MDS or any of the Districts.

Kathy Boyce (CFO for MDS) suggests that MDS could actually keep the District books for them and minimize the District Treasurer duties. This is MDS based because Ms. Boyce is having a hard time getting consistency amongst the Districts.

Districts with employees should not call them contractors.... 1099 is a huge red flag for the IRS. Always call them a W-2 employee.

MDS will be suggesting a bill to Congress that will raise the legal smoking age from 18 to 21. Thus, young adults would need to be 21 years of age to purchase cigarettes and other tobacco products. This is being done to combat tobacco corporations that are marketing products such as flavored cigarettes to young people.

MDS Call Center is your information hot line (800-342-8747). Currently the line is in full use with about 350 monthly calls with questions and concerns. Call the MDS hot line and ask for Paul. (He was a dental office manager before coming to MDS.)

Committee Chair's Report:

Dr. Alan Gold represents BDDS as the Chair of the Nominations committee. He made a motion to accept the 2016/2017 BDDS Nominations Ballot as presented to the district via email. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jim Nesti and supported unanimously by all those members in attendance.

Items from the Floor:

*Correction of the February 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes;
The Volunteers in Medicine Dental Clinic saw a total of 1,100 dental patients last year.
This includes 47 who came in with acute dental pain and over 80 hygiene recall patients.*

Dental Continuing Education Meeting:

Dr. Erich Schmidt hosted tonight's meeting.
Dr. Jeffrey Baxter gave a talk on Opioid Management.

Next General Membership Meeting:

Dr. Matthew Balinger will host our next Monday Night Meeting on April 4, 2016.
Rene Tassone will speak on "Eat to Total Health".

*Minutes of Monthly Meeting submitted by District Secretary – Dr. Paul Gamache
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