

Advocacy Committee Report

Stakeholders Roundtable Meeting

We are all aware that our profession has several challenges ahead. To succeed in meeting these challenges, we will need to unite our efforts. In the past we have been fortunate to have strong leadership, allowing many of us to take a back seat in our organizations. While your state Family Practice organization has received national recognition for its planning, the time has come for all members to guide and assist in accomplishing our goals. To this end, the MAOFP Board has changed its course to request involvement on the part of our membership. At our recent convention we asked our membership to participate in a planning session. If we are going to achieve our goals, we will need active participation from our members, as we have a very necessary, but very intensive agenda to address. It is our belief that if everyone pitches in, we will succeed.

MAOFP First Ever Stakeholders Roundtable Discussion

January 28, 2006

Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan

The meeting attendees were asked to discuss the following three questions at their individual tables.

1. What things concern you the most about practicing in osteopathic family medicine in Michigan?
2. How can MAOFP help?
3. Suggest how you can help

Following discussion, prior to the end of the meeting, the attendees were then given an exit survey. The survey included all of the concerns that were mentioned from the table discussions. The items on the survey were as follows:

Coding complexity	Communication w/ Legislators
Credentialing	Debt at Graduation
Financial Viability	Health Care Costs
Identity of the Osteopathic FP	Inter-Physician Communication
Malpractice Costs	Medical Malpractice Ads on TV
Medicare Part D	Reimbursement
Respect of Community	Respect of Peers
Scope of Practice	Survival of Family Practice
Value of Family Practitioner	

RESULTS

The top five concerns were:

1. Reimbursement
2. Survival of Family Practice
3. Malpractice Costs
4. Scope of Practice
5. Financial Viability

Please contact our MAOFP office at (800) 657-1556 to become involved!

Currently discussed methods of meeting MAOFP goals – Advocacy:

- advertise the organization at other Professional Organizations (newsletters, third party, etc.)

- make recommendations on how to lower practice costs, publish brochure on little known CPT codes, such as ones used for fulfilling Hedis requirements, produce software so meeting goals can interface with procedures ie: office based HGAK
- procedure training for keeping up with a changing market
 1. spa medical clinic training
 2. practice expanding procedures (at our seminars)
 3. assistance diversifying your practice to include, selling medical equipment or nutrition
- meet with legislators to discuss what FP's do (Capitol Hill Day showed evidence of lack of understanding) and increase the perceived value and educate them on importance of manipulative medicine in all disease processes
- continue fight for better reimbursement
- 1. partner with our allopathic colleagues in this arena
- not allow members to lose scope of practice in unfair hospital credentialing procedures
- assist members in knowing their malpractice options and what the benefits are
 1. please refer to www.mi-osteopathic.org/maofp, recently updated to include a step-wise approach researching the liability insurance
 2. can we offer further information on comparative rates?
 3. better advertisement of life style of physicians in practice (there has been a lot of negative discussion about the long hours and dwindling rewards of being in practice)
 4. list awards that student is able to compete for with requirements and deadlines (perhaps a student corner on the website), include student paper writing, scholarships, and other programs for assistance or recognition of excellence
- web site links to information about each physician, including information on hobbies, personal history information, special interests, brief of Curriculum Vitae, availability of special types of service – suitable for downloading & presenting
- Physician locator information, advertisements in local newspapers or stories about physicians in local newspapers put out by central printing companies and create publicity in public school and specialist offices
- Consider a detailed complete coding seminar at one of our conventions or a specialty coding seminar for OMT or other subspecialty areas
- send a brochure to all insurance companies describing what FP's do and why a D.O. degree is significant
- contact county and state medical associations and the Bar Association to discuss
 1. what this organization is doing and who we are, soliciting questions that they may have
 2. may increase understanding and open conflict resolution channels for legal and scope of practice issues
- mentoring medical students beyond our current MAOFP sponsored lunches
 1. email as possible vehicle
 2. discuss possible practice locations and family life, including income averaging information for each area
 3. better advertisement of life style of physicians in practice
 4. list awards that student is able to compete for with requirements and deadlines (perhaps a student corner on the website), include student paper writing, scholarships, and other programs for assistance or recognition of excellence
- define why D.O. Family Practice Residencies are not filling, meet with the Statewide Campus System to see if we can support our Residency program with better mentoring
- a town hall meeting with Senators and or Representatives may assist us in discussing issues, increasing awareness of importance and how to politic locally, focusing on FP related issues

- involve FP Program Directors – meet with them at FP Statewide Campus Day. Man a booth at SWC days
 1. Create a list of Senators and Representatives for entire state so that e-mailing campaign may occur easily (requires email or fax info on all of our members and a tools box on the website)
- ways to increase comradery within our ranks, to discuss what individual interests are so that we can find ways for our members to assist in defining and implementing our action plans and keep us on target.
 1. Sponsor restaurant events with local members (pharmaceutical companies)
 2. Hospital FP department meetings
 3. County meetings – educational or edible contributions
 4. Hospitality room at MOA