



Dear AHDI Member,

We are writing to share some exciting news with you about our associations. In July of 2006, we announced to the public and to our members that AAMT and MTIA had begun to explore a closer collaboration for determining the evolving needs of healthcare delivery and creating opportunities for growth and innovation in healthcare documentation. Recognizing the mutual stake that medical transcriptionists, service owners, and MT supportive service providers have in the future of the industry, the boards of directors for both associations have worked diligently over the past six months to define the scope of a strategic partnership.

After unanimous approval from both boards of directors, the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (formerly the American Association for Medical Transcription) and the Medical Transcription Industry Association have formed a legal partnership to pool critical resources and collaborate on key initiatives. Specifically, the associations have formed a business relationship that will allow for the outsourcing of selected MTIA business operations to AHDI, the equal utilization of a mutually agreed-upon Executive Director, and merging of efforts on agreed-upon tactical and strategic initiatives as defined under the relationship.

Our organizations recognize that there may be areas where our objectives and interests diverge, and each association will address and advance those initiatives separately. However, both AHDI and MTIA believe strongly that the health and future of healthcare documentation hinges on the professionals of both organizations working together to shape and claim that future. We have further defined our guide star (our driving objective) and key areas of mutual agreement and focus.

Guide Star: ***Optimizing healthcare delivery by providing timely, accurate and relevant clinical information***

AHDI and MTIA are committed to:

- *Patient safety and continuity of care through accurate, timely health data capture and documentation.*
- *Insuring sustainable and profitable businesses as the market grows and evolves.*
- *Providing useable, relevant healthcare data that informs clinical decision-making.*
- *Supporting the development of technologies and standards that enable efficient, accurate data exchange across healthcare systems.*
- *Promoting the critical role of human judgment in health data capture and documentation.*
- *Defining the role of the transcription skill set in the electronic health record.*
- *Preparing the workforce that will meet the evolving data capture and*

documentation needs of the healthcare delivery system.

What does this mean for you as a member of AHDI?

Given the pace of change in our industry and the limited resources to impact that change that exist for any single organization, AHDI and MTIA believe that sharing expenses and coordinating administrative management under a single Executive Director and leadership team just makes good fiscal sense. Creating operational efficiencies for both organizations will eliminate duplication of effort and expense. It will also generate critically needed synergy and collaboration of vision and innovation among our respective leadership groups.

Members of both associations will benefit from the combined resources and shared vision of our associations in shaping a future where our industry is restored to good health – where our end users understand and appreciate our value niche in healthcare delivery, our workforce is strong and healthy, and our role in the electronic health record is secured.

Rest assured, we have not entered into this partnership lightly, and each association has engaged in due diligence to ensure this step forward is in the best interest of both organizations. We have established a mechanism by which joint initiatives will be introduced, reviewed and approved by both organizations, recognizing that accountability in that process is of critical importance to our members.

Both organizations seek to engage the input and involvement of all members. It will take a joint effort, not just between the leaders of our associations but between our respective memberships, to create change and opportunity in the industry. To that end, we will be hosting a series of meetings designed to allow our members to ask questions, seek clarification and provide input about this new strategic partnership:

For AHDI Members

Thursday, Feb. 1 at 9 a.m. PST/12 p.m. EST

Friday, Feb. 2 at 11 a.m. PST/2 p.m. EST

Saturday, Feb. 3 at 10 a.m. PST/1 p.m. EST

All meetings to be held in the AHDI External Webinar room; space is limited to 100 people and will be open on a first-come, first-served basis.

Link: <http://aamtwebinarroom.vancedigital.ivocalize.net/>

Login: Your name

Password: aamt

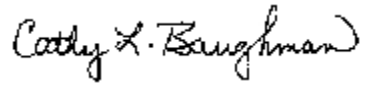
For MTIA Members

Thursday, Feb. 1 at 2 p.m. PST/5 p.m. EST


Meeting to be held by teleconference.

Again, we are excited about the potential impact our conjoined resources and vision can have on the future of our industry. We welcome your feedback and look forward to working together with you to shape healthcare documentation for the next generation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Cathy L. Baughman in cursive.

Cathy Baughman, CMT, FAAMT
AHDI President 2007

Handwritten signature of Jay Cannon in cursive.

Jay Cannon
MTIA President 2007