

# Management Engineering & Process Improvement Community

HIMSS

eNewsletter



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HIMSS Virtual Conference

- June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>
- To register:  
<http://www.himssvirtual.org/?src=winews20090527>

### ME-PI Community Meetings

- General Community Meetings  
12 pm ET| Sep. 11
- Executive Dashboard  
3 pm ET| Jun. 19, Jul. 17, Aug. 21
- Communication Workgroup  
3 pm ET| Jun. 12, Jul. 10, Aug. 14

### Executive Dashboard Webinar

- 104 June 12<sup>th</sup> @ 12 pm ET
- Baylor Health and the Cleveland Clinic will share their experiences then a vendor panel will provide educational Q&A
- To register:  
<https://himss.webex.com>

### Message from the Chair

It seems like time is moving fast. We already have nearly completed our first year as a HIMSS “community.” The annual conference has past, and summer is rapidly approaching. I wanted to again say thank you to all of our volunteers—those of you that show up monthly on our calls and actively participate in our educational sessions. This year, we have had great participation, and have increased our membership significantly.

Additionally, I want to hear from all analysts and engineers that have helped to improve the healthcare system. Any best practices which you feel like sharing please send to me so that I can share with the ME-PI community. We’re hearing a lot right now about the “information systems” side of healthcare, and my belief is that the “management systems” side is just as active in reducing costs, improving quality, and bettering the overall system. If you have any best practice that has worked for your organization, and want to share with the community, please send it over.

Enjoy your summer!

[Jim Langabeer, FHIMSS](#)

Chairman, ME-PI Community

### HIMSS Annual Conference Report

The HIMSS annual conference was all a buzz with over 27,000 in attendance all gearing up for economic stimulus funding and the ramifications of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Attendees enjoyed the likes of Dennis Quaid's smile and Alan Greenspan's glasses! How many of the 27,000 were Management Engineers and Process Improvement professionals? We can't really say...but know there are many potential members with energy and expertise to share with our community. We'll continue to reach out through our Newsletter, website and LinkedIn.

In the meantime the current ME-PI Community was very active. Here are some highlights of activities:

#### **ME-PI Meet and Greet Breakfast**

New and 'old' members as well as a group of students gathered for breakfast and had an opportunity to network, pick up a copy of the Executive Dashboard Implementation Guide, win some prizes and enjoy the early morning lake view.

#### **An Engineering Approach to Nurse Staffing**

Frank Overfelt, MBA, FHIMSS, CHE and Susan Newbold, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN, FHIMSS provided technical guidance to safe nursing staff ratios, providing a base to defend the recently introduced federal legislation.

#### **Leveraging Dashboards to Monitor Clinical Process Improvement**

Cindy McKinney, MBA, FHIMSS and Henry Tenarvitz presented on leveraging dashboards to an almost full house. This series has been a hit!

#### **Adapting Lean and Six Sigma to the Healthcare Industry**

James Langabeer II., PhD, PMP, FHIMSS, the youngest (well youngest looking PhD) at HIMSS09 and Jami DelliFraine, PhD reviewed their survey

results....great stuff....let's get more hospitals and organizations using our tools.

#### **Communities Open House**

The HIMSS Communities Open House had a baseball theme and provided education & fun for those in attendance. The ME-PI table featured Abott & Costello's Who's on 1<sup>st</sup>. We also had over 20 people sign up of our community.

#### **Flip a Switch for Higher Quality: Automating Key Processes to Assure Higher Quality and Better Outcomes**

Ray Hess provided insight into this intriguing concept.

#### **RFID SIG**

Frank Overfelt moderated the RFID Special Interest Group's panel discussion and was able to kick off the presentation with the history of ME-PI professionals at HIMSS. Many in attendance expressed interest in joining the community. We look forward to them joining us and continued dialogue on how RFID tools can be utilized by MEPI professionals.

### Current Workgroups & Activities

#### Advocacy Workgroup:

The MEPI Advocacy and Liaison group have recently merged to form the Outreach Workgroup.

The purpose of this newly formed group is to raise awareness of the ME-PI's professional role, value and unique skills to HIMSS members.

Individual members of this workgroup will be invited to participate in monthly Advocacy Public Policy

Steering Committee meetings with non-voting status, the Nursing Informatics Community and the Enterprise Information Systems Steering Committee meetings. Volunteers will communicate Advocacy and general HIMSS member needs to the ME-PI Community.

Communication Workgroup:

Promoting the community through Linked In, and the Community website.

Executive Dashboard Workgroup:

Members of the Executive Dashboard Workgroup have remained extremely busy the last few months. In March, we hosted the Executive Dashboard 103 webinar had over 350 attendees! In April, we released our paper entitled "Executive Dashboard Development Guide". It is a must have for all organizations considering an Executive Dashboard and can be downloaded from the HIMSS website.

We are busy preparing for our last session in the Executive Dashboard webinar series for this year which will be held on June 12, 2009 from 12:00 - 1:30 ET. The extended time is due to the aggressive content we are planning! For the first 30 minutes - both Cleveland Clinic and Baylor Healthcare will share their Executive Dashboard experiences. We will then have 8 vendors answer questions you have been asking. This will be followed-up with a written document of responses from the vendors to all the questions that have been asked (to be distributed this summer).

Sign up for Executive Dashboard 104. We hope you join us on June 12<sup>th</sup>!

Hot Topics Workgroup:

Explores key topics in the ME-PI profession. The group is currently narrowing down a list of topics in order to focus on upcoming activities and education.

Liaison Workgroup:

Establishing collaborative relationships with non-profit organizations that closely align with management systems thinking, ensuring outreach to be internal HIMSS steering committees as well as external groups.

Safe Nurse Staff Ration Workgroup:

Recently HR 2273, "Nurse Staffing Standards for Patient Safety and Quality Care Act" was introduced by Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL). This bill is a mirror-image of the California legislation, only worse because it requires a 1:4 medical surgical ratio. There

is no difference between day and night shift staffing contained in the legislation. HIMSS Board of Directors in 2006 sustained a Position Statement advocating against any legislation that would require mandatory staffing ratios. HIMSS supports safe staffing, but also supports the development of safe staffing ratios using engineering techniques which would include the consideration of information technology, ancillary department support, layout and design features unique to the facility, application of patient classification (so-called acuity) systems, and educational and experience levels of the nurses.

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) is the main sponsor of H.R.2273. Right now the bill has 12 co-sponsors:

Rep Abercrombie, Neil [HI-1] - 5/6/2009

Rep Baldwin, Tammy [WI-2] - 5/6/2009

Rep Conyers, John, Jr. [MI-14] - 5/6/2009

Rep DeLauro, Rosa L. [CT-3] - 5/6/2009

Rep Ellison, Keith [MN-5] - 5/6/2009

Rep Holden, Tim [PA-17] - 5/13/2009

Rep Johnson, Eddie Bernice [TX-30] - 5/6/2009

Rep McGovern, James P. [MA-3] - 5/6/2009

Rep Rangel, Charles B. [NY-15] - 5/6/2009

Rep Sherman, Brad [CA-27] - 5/6/2009

Rep Stark, Fortney Pete [CA-13] - 5/6/2009

Rep Young, Don [AK] - 5/6/2009

For more information contact Frank C. Overfelt at [frank@deltahcg.com](mailto:frank@deltahcg.com)

Performance Normalization Workgroup:

Analyzes the various approaches available to the public and investment community to gauge hospital and other healthcare entity performance.

Tools & Topics Workgroup:

Inventorizing on-line tools for use by management engineering and process improvement professionals.

We are always seeking volunteers!

If you are interested in joining a workgroup or have questions, please contact Edna Boone, HIMSS Staff Liaison, [eboone@himss.org](mailto:eboone@himss.org), or Jim Langabeer, ME-PI Community Chair, [James.R.Langabeer@UTH.TMC.edu](mailto:James.R.Langabeer@UTH.TMC.edu).

We look forward to your participation!