

AHRMM Advisory Board Meeting Overview

August 21 – 22, 2021

- AHRMM Advisory Board Chair, Steve Kiewiet, called the meeting to order and welcomed the Advisory Board members to the in-person board meeting and video conference. Mr. Kiewiet thanked everyone for their service to the Advisory Board and the Association. Jimmy Chung, Chair-Elect, read the Anti-Trust statement, and the Advisory Board members read the AHRMM Values.
- Amanda Chawla, Advisory Board member, shared an update on behalf of the AHRMM Professional Model Task Force, which is now the Supply Chain Organization Designation Initiative. Ms. Chawla shared reasons the task force thinks the designation is needed as well as an outline of the key components of the SCO (supply chain organizations) Designation Journey: Professional Empowerment, Transformational Leadership, Clinically Integrated Partner and Evidence-Based Practice. The group discussed the need to evaluate current standards and identify different tiers of designation status so that organizations of varying sizes could find value in participating.
- Matthew Wright, Senior Associate Director, Federal Relations & Grassroots Advocacy, American Hospital Association (AHA), provided an advocacy and legislative update, including the current political dynamics. Mr. Wright shared information regarding the bipartisan infrastructure framework, the human infrastructure agenda and the upcoming budget reconciliation process. The recent budget resolution many infrastructure priorities: expanding home and community based services, extending the enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies, closing the Medicaid gap and expanding Medicare benefits to include dental, vision and hearing coverage. Other health care related priorities that may be included are lowering prescription drug prices, extending the child tax credit and earned income tax credit, tax breaks for child care expenses, immigration reform, free school meals for all children, elections and ethics reform, expanding internet service, clean energy incentives and worker protections.

Mr. Wright also shared that the AHA recently polled likely voters about including hospitals as part of the infrastructure discussion. 60% of likely voters support increasing funding for hospitals as part of an infrastructure bill. Key messages that tested well were emergency preparedness, saving rural hospitals and addressing the shortages of doctor and nurses. 93% supported securing the medical supply chain, 91% support expanding behavioral and mental health access, and 89% support ensuring hospitals have resources for emergency response. The AHA is urging Congress and the Biden administration to take steps to strengthen the medical supply chain, such as diversifying manufacturing sites and sources of critical raw materials, supporting advancements in reuse and reprocessing technologies and investing in new product development.

- Mike Schiller, Senior Director of Supply Chain, provided an update on the Dynamic Ventilator Reserve (DVR) program, which has been reactivated due to the COVID Delta variant surges. The success of the DVR program has illustrated that with the support of the AHA and AHRMM, the health care supply chain community has come together to support each other during the pandemic.

Mr. Schiller shared that the program potentially could be expanded to include other medical devices or equipment in addition to ventilators. A survey has been launched to determine interest in the expansion, gather details about equipment needs and determine potential models for participation. Once enough data has been collected, a focus group will be created to further explore the potential expansion.

- Dr. Chung shared that the CQO Summit theme will be Inclusion, Diversity and Health Equity, and the role of the health care supply chain leader. The agenda includes a keynote speaker, roundtable discussions, a networking lunch and panel presentation. There will also be virtual CQO Summit discussions taking place during the AHRMM21+ virtual conference. Mr. Schiller added that the key elements from the CQO Summit conversations will be moved into the Health Care Learning Community (HCLC) work groups. The work groups will spend 3-4 months building reports, infographics, etc. to share with the membership.

- Mr. Schiller shared an update of the Standards Task Force activities, including the June 1 launch of a 6-month benchmarking pilot program. Currently there are 5 hospitals/systems actively participating and two others that will be joining soon. The number of KPIs included in the pilot has been increased from 9 to all 29. Efforts are currently underway to recruit more participants and Advisory Board members are strongly encouraged to participate. The program will continue until November 30.
- Dee Donatelli, AHRMM Advisory Board Immediate Past Chair and Nominating Committee Chair, introduced the Chair-Elect candidates, Laura Kowalczyk and Dennis Mullins. Both candidates were given 60 minutes to present their platform and engage in a Q&A session with the Advisory Board. The Chair-Elect will be determined by a majority vote of the Advisory Board and will be announced along with the 2021 Advisory Board candidate election results.
- Debbie Sprindzunas, AHRMM Executive Director, reviewed the schedule for the AHRMM Conference & Exhibition and highlighted events the Advisory Board members should attend. Ms. Sprindzunas reviewed the general structure of the upcoming AHRMM21+ virtual conference.
- Mr. Schiller will be awarded the George R. Gossett Leadership Award during the AHRMM21 Opening Session.
- Ms. Donatelli thanked everyone for participating and for their flexibility during the pandemic.