



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

# Health Section News

June 1998 – No. 35

# Minutes of the Health Section Council Conference Call

Friday, February 6, 1998

**In Attendance:** Mike Abroe, Jan Carstens, Lois Chinnock (SOA staff), Tom Corcoran (Chair), Robert Grignon, Tony Hammond, John Heins, Lee Launer, Gena Long (SOA staff), Jim Murphy, Jim O'Connor, Bernie Rabinowitz, Leigh Wachenheim, Tom Wildsmith, and Dale Yamamoto.

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## Chairperson's Opening Remarks

Tom Corcoran opened the meeting with the following comments:

The purpose of this meeting is to confirm the role of the Health Section Council (HSC). Primary responsibilities include:

- SOA meeting sessions (commitment to content and quality)
- Newsletter content, quality and relevance (commitment to four timely issues per year)
- Shared responsibilities (with HBSPAC)
- Education (especially continuing education)
- Research (responsibility is primary for funding and reporting to members, shared for oversight)

The HSC is an elected, representative body. It is critical that we represent our members' views by staying close to a very diverse body through personal contacts and surveys.

## Status Reports

### Newsletter

Leigh Wachenheim reported that in addition to the February issue, which is being mailed now, issues are planned for May, August, and November of this year. The results of the Health Section survey will appear in the May issue if they are ready. Special topic issues are planned for August and November.

Regular columns will include:

- Chairperson's Corner (Tom Corcoran)

- Minutes from HSC/HBSPAC Meetings (Bernie Rabinowitz)
- Education and Research (Dale Yamamoto will follow up on this)
- Letters to the Editor (Leigh Wachenheim)

Mike Abroe and Lee Launer will serve on the August issue editorial committee with Leigh. Jim O'Connor and David Wille volunteered for the November issue committee.

### Hawaii Meeting

Jim O'Connor reported that he still needed moderators and speakers by March 10 for the following topics:

- Impact of technology on health-care delivery
- Pricing issues regarding student and special risk coverages
- Pricing issues regarding cancer and specified disease plans
- Effective approaches to disease management

Tom Corcoran will assist Jim on the first three topics and Bernie Rabinowitz will assist on the fourth.

### Annual Meeting

John Heins reported that the program for the SOA Annual Meeting in October needs to be finalized before the Program Committee meeting on February 26-27 in New York. There will be 16 health sessions including the luncheon meeting. The luncheon meeting is scheduled for October 19 from 12:15 to 1:45, and its purpose is for the section members to meet the HSC/HBSPAC members.

The following people will serve as John's program advisors:

- Credibility and Health Insurance, Bernie Rabinowitz
- Long-Term Care (2 sessions), Robert Young
- Specialty Products, Tom Corcoran
- HIPAA: One Year Later, Jim O'Connor

- HMOs: Role of the Actuary, Jan Carstens
- Large-Group Insurance, Bill Bluhm
- MSAs, Mark Litow
- Risk-Based Capital, Bill Bluhm
- Med-Supp and BBA of 1997, Dawn Helwig
- Managed Care Effectiveness, Jim Murphy
- HEDIS, Jim Murphy
- Disability Income (5 sessions), Robert Beal
- Group Life, Tom Corcoran

### Surveys

Tom Wildsmith reported that results of the Health Section survey are being tabulated.

### EBRI Update

Lois Chinnock reported that so far the Section has sold 244 EBRI databooks. An order form has been placed in the February newsletter, which is being mailed. Any copies unsold by April will be offered to the SOA membership at \$10 per copy.

### Treasurer's Report

Bernie Rabinowitz reported that the surplus at 10/31/97 was \$277,083. The auditors are currently reviewing November and December 1997. Effective 1/1/98, the fiscal year will be changed to a calendar-year basis, consistent with that of the Society.

### HBSPAC

Jim Murphy explained that the HSC funds the research, whereas the HBSPAC gets the research performed. The most important role of the HSC is communication to the HSC members, staying close to the members' needs, and making sure that the research is useful to them. He mentioned that Ken Avner is handling the NAHDO project.

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**Minutes***continued from page 11***SOA/AAA Work Group  
on Communication for Health**

Janet Carstens, chair of this group, said that their mission statement is similar to that of the HSC newsletter but their audience includes the general public. She will address their issues during the March 5 conference call.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting, a joint conference call with the HBSPAC, is set for Thursday, March 5 at 1:30 p.m. CST.

**Vote in the Section Election**

Section election ballots will be mailed the week of July 6. Take an active role in the Health Section Council election process! Review the list of candidates and biographical material and determine whom you would like to represent you on the Section Council. Mail your ballot so it will reach the SOA office no later than Friday, August 7. If you are a section member and do not receive the election mailing by July 21, please call Jeanette Selin at the Society office, 847-706-3581.

**Collaborating at the Health  
Section Breakfast  
in Washington, D.C.**

Left to right: Tony Hammond (Chairperson 1996–1997), Tom Corcoran (Chairperson 1997–1998) and Leigh Wachenheim (Newsletter Editor).

**Health Benefit Systems Practice  
Area/Health Section Status Report**

**Editor's Note:** *The Health Practice Advancement Committee (SOA), the Health Section Council (SOA), and the Health Practice Council (Academy) will host an open meeting in Hawaii on June 24, 1998 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. This status report provides a "heads up" on some of the work in progress. Please bring your questions and comments on the report to the meeting.*

**Practice Area Committees****1. Practice Advancement Committee**

Results from the recent Health Section membership surveys were presented for discussion on a surveys subcommittee conference call on February 19. It was decided that further cross tabulations were needed (to be completed by the SOA Information Services Department), as well as a summary/analysis of the data (to be prepared by Jill Schield of Northwestern University).

Development of an employer-based survey will begin when cross tabulation and summary/analysis of the membership survey is complete.

The Practice Advancement Committee and Health Section Council held a March 5 conference call and are also planning two joint meetings with the AAA Health Practice Council during the SOA Spring Meeting in Hawaii:

- Tuesday, June 23 (11:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m.) Working Meeting
- Wednesday, June 24 (1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.) Open Session—Reporting and Feedback

**2. Practice Education and Development Committee**

A two-day seminar titled "Managed Care: Capitation and Beyond" will be held August 27 and 28, 1998 at the Westin O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois. The seminar will feature double track offerings for attendees who have both limited as well as advanced experience in the area of managed care. Field

experts will use informative and interactive formats to present the latest information.

**Thursday, August 27****Track I**

Managed Care Pricing: Nuts and Bolts (little or no experience required)

**Track II**

Three advanced sessions throughout the day. Topics include:

- Health data sources
- Federal and state regulation of managed care and provider organizations
- Risk contracting: health plans and providers

**Friday, August 28****Tracks I and II**

All attendees participate in panels and interactive forums. Topics include:

- Specialty risk transfer mechanisms
- Risk adjusters

*For more information, contact Sheri Abel, SOA Program Manager, at 847-706-3536.*

**3. Research Committee**

Research projects and experience committees activities are listed below.

**4. Joint AAA/SOA Communications Committee**

Led by committee chairperson Janet Carstens, the joint communications committee is moving to reaffirm its purpose and receive feedback on the mission statement to establish whether activities of the committee could be modified to better accomplish its mission. The mission statement for the task force is: "Promote the availability and awareness of health issues information and activities of the Society of Actuaries and the American Academy of Actuaries to actuaries, health policy academics, government, and the public."

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