

Board Briefs
September 24, 2007

CPA Matt Wilson, Rogers Anderson Malody & Scott (RAMS), presented the annual review for period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. SBCMS' total assets are \$1,857,899 as compared to \$1,676,432 in 2006. Net assets are \$1,671,355 as compared to \$1,489,751 in 2006.

SBCMS has used Great Plains (GP) accounting software for many years. It is a very sophisticated program designed for large organizations. Mr. Wilson recommends that SBCMS change from GP to QuickBooks Nonprofit (QB). The QB software is easier to use and not as costly to maintain. The program also has built-in audit trails, which allow RAMS to note any irregular activities. In addition, most bookkeepers are familiar with QP, thus SBCMS will be able to attract more affordable applicants. The Board approved the purchase of QB software.

IEHP's total membership is 324,951; Medi-Cal enrollment is 266,745 with 46,750 enrolled in the Healthy Families program. Healthy Kids enrollment for San Bernardino County is 5,711; Riverside's Healthy Kids is 3,712. IHSS enrollment is 929. Dual Choice Medicare is 1,104. The August auto assignment was 49 percent. Membership continues to grow particularly in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families.

CMA Trustee, Dev GnanaDev, MD, reported the 2007 CMA House of Delegates (HOD) will hold a memorial tribute to Dr. Bangasser on Saturday afternoon, October 27.

2007 has been one of CMA's better years with not one single issue being lost. By the end of the session, the 2% tax was off the table, the attempts to expand scope of practice to nurse practitioners and physician assistants had all been defeated, and the legislature had passed a bill clarifying that insurance companies cannot cancel or modify contracts after treatment has been provided by a physician.

Dr. GnanaDev reported the SCHIP program helps to fund immunizations, preventive care and hospitalization to children of the poor and working poor parents. The CHAMP Act would expand outreach to children who are eligible but not enrolled and would call for increased tobacco taxes to fund the expansion. The bill also contains important provisions, including one that stops the 15% Medicare physician payment cut and another that provides a GPCI update, while holding all California physicians harmless from immediate GPCI cuts. SBCMS sent letters to Senators Boxer and Feinstein and to Congressmen Baca and Lewis asking for support of the SCHIP Healthy Families and Medicare programs in the House-Senate Conference Committee Agreement (HR3162-CHAMP Act and S1893).

Because congressional leaders have been unable to come to an agreement on the legislation, it is very likely that the Medicare provisions will be eliminated so reauthorization of the SCHIP is not delayed. If these cuts take effect, the private payers in California will follow Medicare and reduce their rates. The impact on physician practices would be devastating and many physicians would be forced out of practice. The President is threatening to veto this bill. CMA will continue to work with congressional leaders to stop the impending payment cuts before they take effect January 1, 2008. Senate leadership has committed to adopting Medicare physician payment reform legislation before the end of 2007.

Doctor Rodney Borger reported the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) received two large donations in September - \$5,000 from Community Hospital of San Bernardino and \$5,000 from Chino Valley

Medical Center in support of ongoing MRC activities. The monies were the result of the MRC's August fundraising campaign. Solicitation letters were mailed to major businesses, hospitals, and chambers and included the MRC 4-color brochure and newsletter.

SBCMS President, Cliff Walters, MD, noted a number of revenue and expenses have changed since the 2007/08 budget was approved on May 21, 2007. The updated budget represents \$549,400 total revenue, \$531,135 total expenses, with \$18,265 excess revenue over expenses after depreciation. It was noted the 2007/08 budget initially approved in May 2007 had revenue of \$533,650 and total expenses of \$513,765, with \$19,885 excess revenue over expenses after depreciation. The board approved the updated 2007/2008 budget as submitted.

SBCMS, RCMA, and the District II Delegation endorse Dev GnanaDev, MD, for the 2007 President-Elect of the CMA. Elections will take place on Saturday, October 27 at the CMA House of Delegates (HOD) in Anaheim.

SBCMS will gear its recruitment efforts at 1,593 physicians in San Bernardino County. The 1,593 represents physicians who have hospital privileges in our county but who are not members of SBCMS or the CMA. The board reviewed recruitment efforts for a 14-month period, June 2006 through August 2007, which resulted in 281 new members (240 of the 281 are medical students). SBCMS spent \$5,523.54 on the recruitment efforts that resulted in new dues revenue of \$16,040.

If Dr. GnanaDev is elected CMA President-Elect, the board nominated Dr. Victor Ching to replace Dr. Dev GnanaDev as the CMA Trustee representing District II.

Doctor Rick Murray was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Doctor Rodney Borger, CMA Alternate Delegate.

The board nominated Doctor Dev GnanaDev to fill the vacant AMA Alternate Delegate seat previously held by Doctor Victor Ching.

On September 29, Doctors Walters, Valenzuela, and Rajasekhar, along with staff members Linda Stratton and Rebecca DeLeon, joined other physician leaders from CMA for an interactive day of learning skills to assist in confidently speaking on the value and benefits of membership. The Physician Leadership Training was held at the Oakland Airport Hilton Hotel.

The board was provided a list of upcoming hospital medical staff meetings. Board members are needed to make presentations. Doctors Walters and Shover volunteered to speak.

In August 2007, the Medical Society received two grants from the Medical Leadership Council on Cultural Proficiency (MLC). The statewide MLC database lists interpreters, patient education information in languages other than English, local nonprofit organizations offering services in languages other than English, and other resources available now to physicians, medical office staff, patients and the public at www.medicalleadership.org. The monies are designed to improve the quality of care received by San Bernardino County patients with limited English proficiency (LEP).

The first grant (\$3,000) will allow SBCMS to identify language access and patient education resources in San Bernardino County and will build upon, update and expand the existing MLC statewide

searchable database. The project focuses on interpreter services and other resources accessible by small physician offices, including multiple language patient materials from reputable sources.

The second grant (\$12,500: \$6,250 to each SBCMS and RCMA) will educate the medical office staff in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties about language access needs and solutions. The grant was awarded to the SBCMS/RCMA to work in collaboration to implement a pilot project in the two counties that could offer training modules for key personnel in physicians' offices. The pilot will help assess medical office staff knowledge about language access issues and offer assistance in tailoring curricula to the needs of this target group.

Dean Chalios recently announced his departure from CALPAC to the California Dental Association. CMA has hired David Pruitt as the new Executive Director of CALPAC.

The new federal Medicaid security prescription law will take effect October 1, and implementation will not be postponed. To help ease the burden of this new requirement, CMA has negotiated a 20 percent member discount on tamper-proof pads that meet both federal and state security prescription requirements.