



Florida Chapter

Florida Pediatric Society President's Newsletter Vol.2 No.5

This brief update provides you with a summary of the recent activities of the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the annual meeting of the Florida Medical Association's House of Delegates July 24-26.

Economic News

1. We are closely following the healthcare reform legislation that is being developed in Congress to insure that it meets the needs of children and pediatricians. We hope that you will be able to contact your Congressmen and Senators to voice your opinions. We are preparing information to assist you. Watch for it.

2. The Section on Administration and Practice Management (SOAPM) of the AAP has found that administrative costs for Pediatric practices has risen to 65% of income.

3. Healthcare reform was the most contentious issue at the recent FMA House of Delegates meeting. A majority of the delegates voted to inform the AMA of their opposition to public plans as part of healthcare reform. They were concerned that this would lead to a government take over of healthcare resulting in a British or Canadian style system.

Practice News

1. During the last minute rush to complete work in the legislative session, there was a change in the bill regarding flu vaccination of preschoolers. The childcare centers must inform parents about flu vaccination. Children are not mandated to have a flu shot before entering day care as indicated in my previous newsletter.

2. A resolution expressing concern that the Red Book Committee's latest recommendations on RSV prophylaxis may not be appropriate for conditions in Florida was presented by several of our members at the recent FMA annual House of Delegates meeting. It was referred to the FMA Board of Governors for further study. The AAP will be publishing further information shortly explaining their reasoning.

3. Our Practice Management Workgroup is setting up a Pediatric Council to meet with insurance company representatives to discuss matters of common interest.

Chapter News

1. Our annual meeting will be held in Orlando during the weekend of October 10 - 11. We enthusiastically encourage all members to attend. This year, in addition to the business meeting, there will be a five hour training program on advocacy for children presented in conjunction with the AAP. This is free of charge to all members and will be a mini version of the Legislative Conference that is presented by the AAP in Washington annually.

Further details will be forthcoming.

2. We were very pleased to have a full delegation at the FMA House of Delegate's annual meeting. In addition to myself, you were very ably represented by: Jose Jimenez, David Marcus, Deborah Mulligan, Nancy Silva and Lance Weibel. The delegates did an outstanding job securing the passage of all four of our Chapter's resolutions: Mandatory Booster Seats, Mandatory PE for all grades up to 12, Provision of Insurance Company Fee Schedules to All Physicians and Opposition to any Bill That is in Conflict with CDC and AAP Immunization Guidelines. If you are interested in becoming a delegate to next year's meeting, please let me know.

3. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to John Curran, our District X Chairman, who was presented with The Florida Medical Association Certificate of Merit for his many years of exceptional and outstanding service to the FMA, the medical profession and the public. This is the FMA's highest honor.

4. The two candidates for President elect of the FMA in the election of August 2010 have responded to questions about their positions on items of interest to Pediatricians presented to them by our Board of Directors. The questions and their answers are posted on our web site.

5. The judge in the trial of our lawsuit against Medicaid has postponed the case until mid September. We will keep you posted as the trial progresses.

6. Congratulations to Vananda Bhide who has been named a media spokesperson for the AAP in Florida.

Your comments are most welcome. If you would like further information on any of these topics, contact your regional representative or me at jhisaac@aap.net

Jerry Isaac

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