



American Hospital
Association

HIGHLIGHTS
GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING
AHA Section for Metropolitan Hospitals
March 2-3, 2015 ★ Washington, DC

The Governing Council of the AHA Section for Metropolitan hospitals met March 2-3, 2015 in Washington, DC. Agenda items for the meeting included a discussion of reforming the delivery system, maintaining a health care presence in certain urban communities, improving behavioral health services, a hospital “star” rating system and integrated health care leadership. In addition, the AHA Board liaison facilitated a discussion of the AHA Strategic Plan. A **roster of the Section’s governing council** is available on our Web site.



Washington Legislative Update: Members received a briefing on the political environment and fiscal cliffs.

They were provided AHA’s current legislative dashboard, and reviewed the key legislative and regulatory issues affecting the health care field including expiration of the physician payment fix on March 31. Members shared the AHA’s advocacy message with their Congressional delegations. They endorsed the importance of the **AHAPAC** and the work of the **Coalition to**

Protect America’s Health Care to communicate our message to the public.



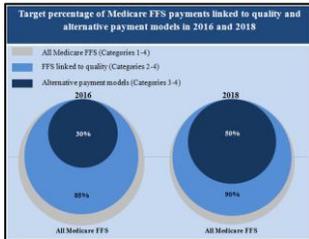
Washington Regulatory and Policy Update: Governing Council members reviewed and discussed AHA’s efforts to relieve the regulatory burden for metropolitan hospitals especially readmissions penalties, alternative payment models, RAC reform and flexibility in achieving meaningful use of electronic health records. Members were alerted to the impact of a MedPAC proposal to introduce [site neutral payments](#) for hospital outpatient departments. They also were briefed on rulemaking for [340 B drug discount pricing](#) and orphan drugs.



AHA Strategic Plan: The AHA’s strategic plan has a series of specific efforts the AHA will undertake to help members in areas of prime importance, such as performance improvement, clinical integration and consumerism. AHA strategic planning assumptions and the broader strategic plan are fundamental to the AHA working in partnership with the field to understand the envisioned future as we pursue the Triple Aim. After reviewing the nine strategic planning assumptions, members discussed how the activities represented there are being addressed by hospital leaders and how AHA can help.

Maintaining a Health Care Presence in Certain Communities: Many communities face unique challenges and pressure points on their health care infrastructure such as poor access, limited workforce, and constrained resources. Members identified key factors for maintaining an adequate health care presence in urban areas.

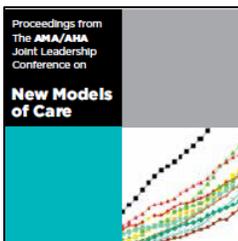
Patient Experience and Hospital Star Rating: As part of a new initiative to add five-star quality ratings to its web sites, CMS plans to add [HCAHPS Star Ratings](#) to the Hospital Compare Web site in April 2015. They contend that star ratings will make it easier for consumers to use the information on the Compare Web sites and spotlight excellence in healthcare quality. Members reviewed and commented on principles for public reporting of data in the context of a star rating system.



Reforming the Health Care Delivery System: Most leaders agree, new payment and delivery system models are needed to improve health, health care, and reduce per capita cost of care. AHA has heard both member support for and significant concerns about specific [goals recently set by CMS for moving providers to alternative payment models](#). Members discussed key barriers to participating in current CMS models and to share factors contributing to alternative delivery models in the private sector.



Improving Behavioral Health Care: Effectively integrating behavioral health care into community's health care infrastructures is critical in order to improve the overall health of the community. Members shared actions that hospitals can take as well as ways AHA can support and advocate for improved integration of physical and behavioral health care.



Integrated Healthcare Leadership: In October 2013, under the auspices of the [Physician Leadership Forum](#), the American Hospital Association's and American Medical Association's *Joint Leadership Conference on New Models of Care* furthered the conversation among health care provider organizations, clinicians, and policymakers on the need for greater alignment to meet the goals of a more effective delivery system. New payment and care delivery models are encouraging hospitals and physicians to work more closely together. During this session members reviewed and commented on several principles for a collaborative model that focuses on integrated physician and hospital leadership.



2015 will bring about even more changes for health care, and you'll be part of the action. Please join the country's foremost political, policy, opinion and health care leaders as we forge paths in the new terrain. [Register now](#) for the 2015 AHA Annual Membership Meeting in Washington, DC on May 3-6.

For more information about the topics covered in these highlights or on the **AHA Section for Metropolitan Hospitals**, contact John T. Supplitt, senior director, at 312-425-6306 or jsupplitt@aha.org.