



American Hospital  
Association

**HIGHLIGHTS**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**AHA Section for Small or Rural Hospitals**  
**March 3 – 4, 2017 ★ Rosemont, IL**

Representatives from the Council of the AHA Section for Small or Rural Hospitals met March 3 – 4, 2017 in Rosemont, IL. Agenda items for the meeting included a presentation on health care trends and discussions of health care coverage design, AHA's roadmap for health reform and improvement, affordability and the next generation of physician leaders. In addition, members were briefed on legislative advocacy and regulatory policy for the new Administration and Congress. They received and responded to a presentation on [Futurescan 2017- 2022](#) by the AHA Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development. A **roster of the Section's council** is available on our [Web site](#) .



**Washington Legislative Update:**

Members listened to a briefing on the political environment and leadership in the new Administration and Congress. They heard the AHA message on legislative priorities including a rural hospital advocacy agenda and studied the possible approaches for ACA repeal and replacement. Members reviewed the timetable of impending legislative actions and a timeline for proposed Congressional action. Members were privy to a significant discussion of Medicaid redesign, which received considerable attention. Members endorsed the importance of the **AHAPAC** and the work of the **Coalition to Protect America's Health Care** to take our message to the public.



**Washington Regulatory and Policy Update:** Council members were briefed on and discussed AHA's efforts to relieve the regulatory burden for hospitals in general and rural hospital in particular. Members reviewed letters sent from AHA to the Administration and Congressional leaders outlining our regulatory relief priorities. They considered the impact of President Trump's executive orders on immigration and the delays to regulation as well as eliminating regulations.



**Health Care Trends:** Members participated in an informational session covering baseline information on current trends so that they have the latest information available to inform their subsequent discussions. Included were the latest trends in coverage, quality, costs and hospital financial status as background for discussions on health care reform and affordability.

**Health Care Coverage Design:** The new Congress and administration will pursue significant health care reforms and policymakers are engaged in discussions about what a coverage design should look like. Members gave input on emerging health care reform design features with a specific focus on coverage and commented on AHA's activities to educate lawmakers and the new administration about the potential impact of these policies on hospitals and health care systems.

**Roadmap for Health Reform and Improvement:** Recently, the AHA Board drafted a Roadmap for Health Reform and Improvement. The roadmap provides a framework for accelerating our progress as we advance health in America. It is centered on the following five principles:

1. Ensure adequate health care coverage;
2. Advance transformation and innovation;
3. Enhance affordability and value;
4. Improve quality and patient safety; and
5. Reduce regulatory burden



Members offered feedback on the Roadmap and the role of disruptive innovation and the importance of access to big data.

**Affordability:** The AHA’s new Committee on Health Care Strategy and Innovation will take on the crucial issue of affordability. Members provided input on how the AHA should address the issue of affordability in health care, including how to define the issue, which factors to address, and the best strategies to pursue.

**Next Generation Physician Leadership:** The AHA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees approved a rapid cycle task force to consider how to develop AHA as the go-to source for catalyzing and advancing physician leadership in the field and provide input on the framework for AHA’s physician activities. Members offered insights into the Physician Leadership Advisory Task Force on member hospital relationships with physicians, tools and resources that would be most useful, and where breakthrough partnerships or offerings could be considered for AHA’s physician activities.



**Futurescan 2017 – 2022:** The AHA Society for Healthcare Strategy & Market Development’s [Futurescan 2017–2022](#), publication highlights trends that will shape the future healthcare landscape and is an important tool for helping organizations plan for the future. Members offered insights on the emerging trends and gauge their priorities as they lead the transformation of their hospitals and health systems toward a new system of delivery.



The [AHA Rural Hospital Leadership Award](#) recognizes CEOs and administrators who have achieved improvements in local health delivery and health status through their leadership and direction with a **\$1,500 stipend** to offset the cost of attending an AHA educational program. The 2016 Application can be found [HERE](#). Contact Jumel Ola 312-422-3345 for additional information.

**For more information** about the topics covered in these highlights or on the **AHA Section for Small or Rural Hospitals**, contact John T. Supplitt, senior director, at 312-425-6306 or [jsupplitt@aha.org](mailto:jsupplitt@aha.org).