



American Hospital
Association

HIGHLIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
AHA Section for Metropolitan Hospitals
June 8-9, 2017 ★ Portland, OR

Representatives from the Council of the AHA Section for Metropolitan Hospitals met June 8-9, 2017 in Portland, Ore. Agenda items for the meeting included a discussion of affordability, violence, cybersecurity, marketplace stability and survey and certification by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The council received a report from the AHA Board and received and discussed a Washington update. They also reviewed a case example and discussed managing high utilizer, socially and medically complex patients. A **roster of the Section's council** is available on our [Web site](#).



Washington Legislative Update: Members listened to a briefing on the President's budget for fiscal year 2018 and the challenges of Affordable Care Act (ACA) repeal and replace. They reviewed the major provisions of the American Health Care Act and AHA's strategy as the bill moves to the Senate. Members also reviewed AHA's message on legislative priorities including the federal budget, debt ceiling and budget deficit, Medicaid DSH and the Children's Health Insurance Program. 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. Members reviewed strategies for market stabilization and the importance of cost sharing reductions and Medicare disproportionate share hospital payments. Members reviewed the inpatient prospective payment system proposed rule and discussed AHA's comments to the proposed rule.



Marketplace Stability: Some counties and states are at risk of losing all insurer participation in their Health Insurance Marketplace in 2018. This would leave consumers in those jurisdictions without the ability to access the advance premium tax credits (APTCs) or cost-sharing reductions (CSRs) included in the ACA. Members provided feedback on policy options to stabilize the existing marketplaces for individual health insurance coverage and alternative policies to provide coverage options if the existing markets cannot be sustained.

Superutilizers: Members discussed "Bridges to Health," a program by WellSpan, York, PA to manage socially and medically complex patients. They shared their experiences and approaches to managing the care and providing a medical home for superutilizers.



#HAVHope Initiative Update: AHA is very engaged in community-based efforts to work together to combat all forms of violence, now viewed as one of the major public health and safety issues across the country. Members shared experiences with community action programs to help address violence and the toll it takes on our communities and hospital colleagues. A [national day of awareness](#) was observed on June 9.



Policy Questions in Cybersecurity: Members offered feedback on a range of policy recommendations for addressing cybersecurity, such as incentives to adopt best practices, harmonization of regulations, supporting physicians, developing the cybersecurity workforce and medical device security. The discussion was informed by the new report of the HHS Task Force on Cybersecurity in Health Care.

Moving Forward on Affordability: Given the focus on health care affordability underlying the national health care debate and challenges in ensuring access to care, the AHA Board identified the importance of addressing the issue and identifying strategies for the field and AHA. Members received an update on the work of the AHA Committee on Strategy and Innovation on affordability and were asked to provide feedback on a plan for AHA’s work on the issue, proposed metrics for measuring progress and the concept of an “AHA Center for Improving Health Care Affordability.”



CMS Survey and Certification: The AHA is developing a set of recommendations to CMS for reviewing and updating the S&C process, with a particular emphasis on the state health agency onsite survey process. The goal is a program that effectively promotes vigilance in standards adherence and prioritizes what matters most in keeping their patients safe. Members weighed in on a series of proposed recommendations to modernize on-site condition of participation surveys by state health departments.

For more information about the topics covered in these highlights or on the **AHA Section for Metro Hospitals**, contact John T. Supplitt, senior director, at 312-422-3306 or jsupplitt@aha.org.