

REFELECTIONS



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President's Letter

Christine Ifft, CRCE

Three Rivers AAHAM Chapter President

As 2021 comes to a close, we have made it through yet another challenging year full of sickness, financial hardship and tremendous uncertainty. We continue to prove that even in the darkness, there is always something good to be found.

The changes that we have endured as a Nation, and within the healthcare Revenue Cycle has been unprecedented, but we are seeing a lot of stability as the months go on.

We have also seen a lot of changes for the better. We are experiencing the paradigm shifting to a more remote work environment that is here to stay in a lot of cases. With the remote work environment, some are finding the ability to recruit talented individuals that may not have been attainable due to relocation. It also opened opportunities for the employer to retain talent if the employee needed or wanted to move to a different environment. The good was found!

We have seen the way that we network change as well – some may find it beneficial to be able to attend the education sessions virtually as so many of us have an increased workload that doesn't afford us to be out of the office for that long or there is a fear of gathering while we are challenged with these variants. We have all become experts in Zoom and Teams and learned how to communicate a little better. Another light in the darkness!

With that said, as we see the virus rearing its ugly head again in different variants, we are still hesitant to schedule an in person meeting for the remainder of this year. We have, however booked our ever popular IN PERSON annual Spring Payor meeting at the RLA in Cranberry for April 8th. The Education Committee is busy trying to figure out a way to make it beneficial for those of us that would love to finally meet in person, but still offering a virtual session for those that may not be able to get out to the event. We will have more information on that shortly and we do hope to see most of you in person, so save the date!

While we didn't get to do a lot of what we wanted to do in terms of our in-person meetings, we did see our membership stay stable and tried to keep the education plentiful by joining forces with our fellow Pennsylvania Chapters and nearby New Jersey Chapter. We saw some AAHAM chapters fold due to the hard times upon us. One of those Chapters was here in our own state of Pennsylvania.

The good news is that they will be absorbed into the Keystone and Philadelphia Chapters. We plan on offering our joint meetings for the foreseeable future because it just makes sense! We hope you found value in these joint meetings!

As we move into the new year, the changing of the guard, so to speak, with Three Rivers AAHAM Board of Directors is going to be taking place shortly. At this time, I would like to thank the current Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for their tireless and selfless time and effort that they put in to keeping the Chapter thriving. They did all of this while figuring out their own personal and working environments knee deep in a pandemic over the last two years. Kudos to a wonderful team! Some of you will be moving out of the current officer positions, but we look forward to keeping you all involved in some capacity in our many committees! Who knew two years ago when I started my journey as your humble President, that I would be challenged with not only trying to learn the role but reinvent it! And I certainly didn't do any of that by myself! As the Beatle's song goes.....I get by with a little help from my friends – in this case, a lot of help! Thank you all again!

This paragraph will be a staple in my letters. I am going to ask you all to get engaged with our Chapter. To join a committee, sit in on a Board meeting, ask questions, make suggestions, and become certified. We would love to hear what you have to say, get fresh ideas, and have you involved! We will have a lot of opportunities for you to become involved and to continue our succession plan, building up Three Rivers and setting it up for success for our future members. I implore you to get involved to allow our region of Pennsylvania to stay strong and allow us to offer the great education and networking opportunities that has benefited us all in some capacity. We want to pave the way for our future Revenue Cycle colleagues!

Please make sure you follow Three Rivers AAHAM and National AAHAM on social media for up-to-date information. Three Rivers is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for your convenience.

With my sincerest appreciation and warmest holiday wishes to you and your loved ones,
Stay safe, stay well!

CHAPTER EXCELLENCE REPORT

Brenda Fraas

Each year, local Chapters have to complete the Chapter Excellence Report (CER) and submit to National AAHAM by March 31. The deadline has been extended the past two years due to the pandemic, but we'll be back on track in 2022. Completing the CER helps to identify when a Chapter may need assistance with education, certification, sponsorship and/or their membership programs and is a requirement that Chapters complete.

This past year, Three Rivers AAHAM Chair, Lisa Hennigan, compiled information secured from reports, e-mail communications, Board meeting notes, etc. and saved them to a central location in order to upload them when it came time to complete the CER. Some of the items Lisa has to include in the report:

- List of Officers and Board Members
- Financial information as of 12/31 from the prior year
- Board meeting minutes
- List of local-only members
- Examples of e-mail correspondence sent to the membership
- Educational programs provided throughout the year
- Number of certified members
- Complete list of Corporate Sponsors supporting our Chapter
- Community outreach
- Member recognition

The reports are reviewed and graded by two different Chapter Presidents who are not in the same division as their Chapter. If the score of the two graders is more than a 5-point difference, a third person grades the report.

Lisa has done a phenomenal job the past few years compiling and completing the time-consuming report.



THREE RIVERS REFLECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Brenda Fraas

Three Rivers continues to produce an award-winning newsletter. A chapter newsletter is a major commitment and can entail a lot of work but is valuable with the content and design that's provided. Three Rivers Newsletter Chair, Tessa King, knows the importance of sharing Chapter news and has done an outstanding job the past two years identifying articles that engages interest to our members. She not only has to determine the length and frequency of the newsletters, but she also works hard to solicit articles for the newsletter and recruits our Corporate Sponsors to support the newsletter.

Tessa has done an exceptional job stepping up as Chair in order to get in front of our members and share what's happening with our Chapter.

The Board of Directors is very proud of both of these awards because it shows that even through a pandemic, Three Rivers AAHAM continues to maintain a presence in the community and is still the premier professional organization in healthcare!

Awarding Excellence

at the Virtual AAHAM Holiday Awards Showcase

*Congratulations
to all of our winners!*

CERTIFICATION EXCELLENCE AWARD:

Highest score for the first time taking the CRCE:

Timothy Breen, CRCE from The Virginia Chapter

Highest Score on the CRCP:

Kristin Berkeybile, CRCP from The Pennsylvania Three Rivers Chapter

CHAPTER MILESTONES:

35 Years

The Pennsylvania Three Rivers Chapter

40 Years

The Colorado Rocky Mountain Chapter

The Florida Sunshine Chapter

The Illinois Chapter

45 Years

The Iowa Hawkeye Chapter

Chapters with 200 Members:

The Illinois Chapter

The Virginia Chapter

The Western Region Chapter

The Texas Bluebonnet

The Philadelphia Chapter

Chapters with 300 Members:

The Florida Sunshine Chapter

Chapters with 400 Members:

The Maryland Chapter

NATIONAL JOURNAL AWARDS:

Chapters with less than 60 National Members

- **First Place:** The Massachusetts Chapter "In & About"
- **Second Place:** The Colorado Rocky Mountain Chapter "The Peak"

Chapters with 61-99 National Members

- **First Place:** The Pennsylvania Three Rivers Chapter "Reflections"
- **Second Place:** The Maine Pine Tree Chapter "The Chickadee Post"

Chapters with 100-199 National Members

- **First Place:** The Pennsylvania Keystone Chapter "The Keystone Journal"
- **Second Place:** The Vermont and New Hampshire Twin States Chapter "Ledyard Ledger"

Chapters with more than 200 National Members

- **First Place:** The Texas Bluebonnet Chapter "Tumbleweed"
- **Second Place:** The Maryland Chapter "AAHAM Connection"

CHAPTER EXCELLENCE:

Chapters with less than 60 National Members

First Place: Tie between The Massachusetts and The South Dakota Rushmore Chapters

Chapters with 61-99 National Members

First Place: The Pennsylvania Three Rivers Chapter

Second Place: The Minnesota Gopher Chapter

Chapters with 100-199 National Members

First Place: The Pennsylvania Keystone Chapter

Second Place: The Utah MountainWest Chapter

Chapters with more than 200 National Members

First Place: The Virginia Chapter

Second Place: The Maryland Chapter

CAN A PATIENT'S WORKERS' COMPENSATION ATTORNEY RECOVER A FEE OF 20% OF A MEDICAL PROVIDER'S ACT 44 REIMBURSEMENT?

Chuck Hilton

The answer is perhaps, but unlikely. Suppose your patient's medical bill was denied by the workers' compensation carrier as not work related. Your patient then hires an attorney to file a Claim Petition before a Workers' Compensation Judge to recover both his/ her lost wages and payment of his/ her medical bills. Under Pennsylvania workers' compensation law, the fee due a patient's workers' compensation attorney is governed by Sections 440 and 442 of the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Act. The patient's workers' compensation attorney must get his/ her fee approved by the Workers' Compensation Judge. In regular practice, the Workers' Compensation Judge virtually always approves an attorney fee of 20% of a patient's lost wages. However, when an attorney wants to get 20% of the provider's money in addition to the 20% of the patients lost wages, the attorney has tougher hurdles to overcome before a Workers' Compensation Judge will approve that request.

In *Neves v. Workers' Compensation Appeal Board*, No. 1431 C.D. 2018 (May 14, 2020) the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania ruled that an attorney's fee of 20% of medical compensation awarded is recoverable by the patient's attorney in cases where the contingency agreement between the patient and his/ her attorney is broad enough to encompass both medical compensation, as well as wage loss compensation, and the patient acknowledges the inclusion of medical expenses as part of his or her attorney's contingency fee agreement.

However, the patient must also expressly acknowledge that he or she may be liable to his or her medical provider for the 20% withheld and sent to his/ her attorney as a fee.

According to the holding in the *Neves* case, the patient's attorney would not only have to show the Workers' Compensation Judge that the contingency fee agreement with the patient was broad enough to encompass the patient's medical expenses, in addition to his/ her lost wages, but also that the patient understood that 20% of the recovery of medical expenses was going to be included in his lawyer's fee and could subject the patient to liability to medical providers. In *Neves*, the patient submitted an Affidavit stating that he understood that under the fee agreement, he could be liable to his medical providers for the 20% balance that was paid to his attorney.

The above referenced scenario is unlikely because patients would rather seek a lawyer who would handle his/ her case on the standard contingency fee basis of 20% of his lost wages only. Patients do not want to retain a lawyer, who in addition to taking 20% of his wage loss recovery, would then attempt to take as a fee 20% of his medical providers' payment because that could expose to the patient to pay out-of-pocket the remaining 20%. I believe most workers' compensation attorneys know this and therefore stay away from these types of fee agreements.

If you have any questions or inquiries, please feel free to contact Attorney Hilton.

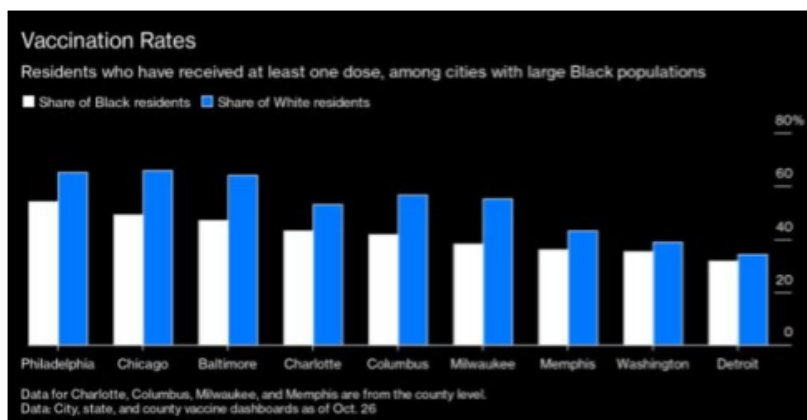
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The Revenue Cycle Law Firm



Philadelphia Recruits Black Doctors to Boost Covid Vaccine Rate

Earlier this year, Philadelphia's partnership with the student-led group Philly Fighting Covid Inc. abandoned testing sites in Black neighborhoods. It seemed like the latest affront in a long legacy of racism that has fueled distrust in the medical system, dating back to the infamous Tuskegee experiments in the 1930s. But Philadelphia, after a slow start, is closing out the year with one of the highest Black vaccination rates in a major U.S. city. In Philadelphia, 54% of Black citizens are now vaccinated. That puts it at the top of a group of the country's 10 most Black cities, with populations of 500,000 or more and with Black people making up anywhere from 77% to 28% of the population. (The country's second-largest city, Los Angeles, has vaccinated 55% of its Black residents, but they're just 8% of the population.)



The Black Doctors Covid-19 Consortium, a group of 50 Black health-care professionals, is a big reason Philadelphia—where Black people are 38% of the population—turned vaccination rates around. Doctors fanned out into hard-hit neighborhoods citywide, initially using their mobile unit to test residents. As demand grew, they worked with community leaders to set up testing sites in churches and community centers. They also conducted general health checkups, treating any ailments they could. “From Day 1, we were trust-building,” says Ala Stanford, a pediatric surgeon and founder of the consortium. The group has administered more than 53,000 shots, of which about 80% went to African Americans. On some days it vaccinated more than 1,000 people, reserving shots for poorer ZIP codes and keeping clinics open late into the evening. And because some residents were reluctant to provide personal details, the consortium streamlined and simplified the sign-up process.

The city government helped by repurposing its census outreach team to go door to door combating vaccine misinformation. “The neighborhoods that are what the Census Bureau calls hard to count aligned pretty neatly with our low-vaccination neighborhoods,” says Stephanie Reid, who heads Philly Counts, Philadelphia’s census canvassing program. Now the city is honing its messages to reach residents aged 18 to 44, the Black age group with the lowest vaccination rates.

That demographic is also a reason why vaccination efforts are lagging in Black communities in many other cities. Detroit, for instance, has vaccinated less than a third of its Black population, says Denise Fair Razo, its chief public health officer. The city has launched a new campaign under the tagline “Get the Vax, Not Fiction,” targeting unvaccinated millennials and other younger adults who are susceptible to social media misinformation, such as the false claims that vaccines make people magnetic or infertile or cause mutations, she says.

It remains a mystery why what works in one place may not work in another. Detroit, which has the largest share of Black residents among big cities, has already tried most of the same things that succeeded in Philadelphia. City workers have gone back out and knocked on 320,000 doors. The city has 10 fixed sites and a mobile unit, and it offers in-home vaccination to residents who request it, usually within 24 hours. It’s even offered shots at restaurants, churches, festivals, barbershops, and salons. “This is not a sprint, it’s a marathon,” says Fair Razo

Membership Update

Stacey Jenson

Welcome New Members for 2021!

Adam Balliet	Change Healthcare
Heather Schneider	Penn Highlands Healthcare
Ashley Orringer	Change Healthcare
Leigh Barker	St. Clair Hospital
Emma Hohman	University of Pittsburgh
Lora Person	University of Pittsburgh
Lauren Ridge	University of Pittsburgh
Laura Scales	University of Pittsburgh
Taylor Belloma	UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital
Leslie Carter	Highmark Health
Jacqueline Drazdzinski	University of Pittsburgh
Carlee Hallo	MedCom Solutions
Alyssa Huckestein	University of Pittsburgh
Charles Morris	Robert Morris University
Sirish Nama	University of Pittsburgh
Simara Rivera	National University College



We are approaching the end of another year. It's been a struggle these past two years with the pandemic but we've able to maintain a strong hold on current members and even bringing a few new members in. We fully anticipate to continue to grow these numbers through the next year. Our yearly membership dues have remained the same for over five years at just \$30.

For the first time ever we are offering a Buy One Membership, Get a Membership free campaign. What would normally cost you \$30.00 a person is now only \$30.00 for both. If you join and have not been a member in the past two years, come back and bring a friend a friend with you. Come take advantage of the excellent programming and networking opportunities our fine organization has to offer.

Three Rivers as well as National AAHAM now offers FREE membership for students. If you know a college student interested in healthcare, have them click on the link to go directly to Three Rivers AAHAM Membership page: <http://threeriversaaham.com/membership/> to join.

2022 National Membership Dues Renewal

As a thank you for your membership, we are continuing the "pandemic dues renewal discount" of \$188, payable in one lump sum by 12/31/21. If you are unable to take advantage of this discount, we offer [payment plans](#) to help ease the dues burden. Remember, we also offer a [one-time dues waiver](#) as a member benefit as well. If you have retired from healthcare, there is no fee to renew. [Click here](#) to see if you qualify.

If you would like more information about these options or need an electronic copy of your invoice, please contact Moayad Zahralddin at moayad@aaham.org or 703.281.4043 ext 4.

Certification Dates

UPCOMING CERTIFICATION EXAM DATES FOR 2022

January 17-21, 2022
January 2022 exams

February 21-25, 2022
February 2022 exams

March 21-25, 2022
March 2022 exams

April 18-22, 2022
April 2022 exams

May 16-20, 2022
May 2022 exams

June 20-24, 2022
June 2022 exams

July 25-29, 2022
July 2022 exams

August 22-26, 2022
August 2022 exams

September 19-23, 2022
September 2022 exams

October 17-21, 2022
October 2022 exams

November 14-18, 2022
November 2022 exams

December 12-16, 2022
December 2022 exams

** Applications to take an exam are due in to the AAHAM office 30 days prior to a testing period.



Upcoming Webinars

Mentorship – Changing Lives One Conversation at a Time

When: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

Speaker(s): Jessica Yard, MBA, CSBI, CRCR, Vice President of Revenue Cycle at Healthfuse

Registration Deadline: January 19, 2022

AAHAM CEUs Earned: 2

Mentorship can be life changing as well as career changing. In this webinar, you'll learn about mentorship; what it means to be a mentor, what it means to be a mentee and how to make it successful.

Understanding Gender Diverse and Transgender Terminology

When: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

Speaker: Kimberly Brewer, CPA, CMPE, Practice Administrator at Northampton Area Pediatrics, LLP

Registration Deadline: February 2, 2022

AAHAM CEUs Earned: 3

This webinar provides a base of knowledge of gender identity terminology. Participants will learn up-to-date gender diverse terminology including what terms to use and what terms or questions to avoid. We will discuss the challenges that gender diverse people face on a daily basis. Participants will also learn to recognize stereotypes and how to communicate with those whose lifestyle may not mirror yours. The hope is that participants can gain the knowledge to create a safe, respectful, comfortable space for patients, employees and visitors to your practice, organization or facility.

Don't Deny Your Denials: Understanding the Trends, Challenges and How to Successfully Manage Your Complex Claims

When: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

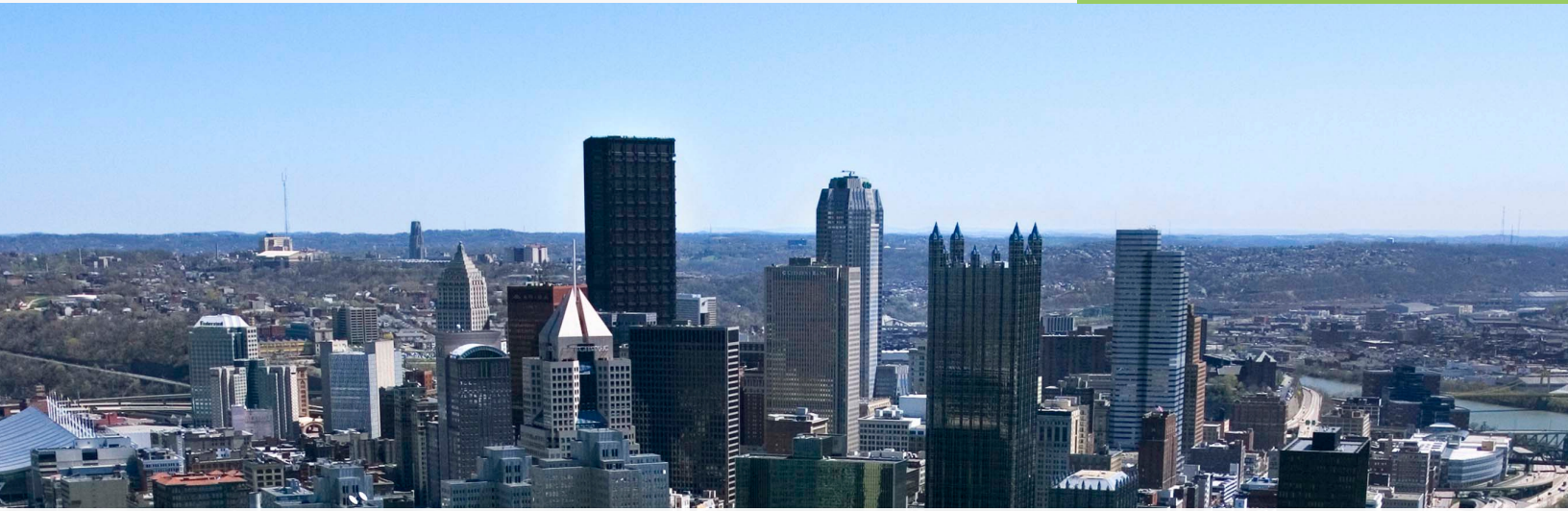
Speaker(s): Jason Smartt, Esquire, CRCR, Vice President of Complex Claims and Bradford Crowther, Vice President of Complex Claims at EnableComp

Registration Deadline: February 23, 2022

AAHAM CEUs Earned: 2

This webinar provides insight into some of the more challenging aspects of working complex claims - Veterans Administration, Workers' Compensation, Motor Vehicle Accident/TPL and ERISA. As the percentage of denied claims continues to rise, it is important to understand some of the avenues of recovery which require specialized expertise in order to experience success in overturning denials. In many cases, legal representation may be the only recourse available. This presentation shares best practices on how to pursue those legal options.

Executive Board



NATIONAL AAHAM ANNOUNCES THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR 2022-2023:

John Currier, CRCE, Chair of the Board
Lori Sickelbaugh, CRCE, President
Lisa Laudeman, CRCE, First Vice President
Erin Miskelly, CRCE, CCT, Second Vice President
Catherine (Kate) Clark, CRCE, CRIP, Treasurer
Steven Honeywell, CRCE, Secretary
Richard Lovich, Esquire, Legal Counsel
Sharon Galler, CMP, Executive Director

Wishing the Board the best during the next two years and would like to send out special congratulations to Lisa Laudeman from the Keystone Chapter and Steven Honeywell from the Philadelphia Chapter! Pennsylvania is proud to have two of our members on the National board and wish them well.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Alyshia Ravida

My current job title is Value Based Reimbursement Strategist.



I work for UPMC Health Plan.

My go-to karaoke song:



Red High Heels – Pistol Annies

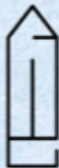
The **best** book I've ever read is:

Angels in the ER by Robert D. Leslie



If I were a crayon, I would be

HOT PINK



Best part of my job is..



I love taking data and using it to **TELL A STORY** about a trend or impact.

Favorite Quote



A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing eyesight?" He replied, "Yes, *losing vision*"

One thing on my bucket list is:



Fishing in Banff National Park, Canada, and staying in the castle-looking resort!

My Favorite



Type of music is

Country - it always speaks to my heart!



Cups of coffee

Per day

HOBBY LOBBY



My favorite thing to do in my free time is **Fish with my husband!** It's hard after 2 kids, but we still get time occasionally.



GOOD NEWS REPORT



Member Alyshia Ravid a little boy, Logan Bryan Ravid, on July 30th. He was 6 pounds, 15 ounces and 19.5 inches long. He is doing great!