

Pennsylvania Three Rivers Chapter

**AAHAM**

American Association of Healthcare  
Administrative Management

*Empowering the future of healthcare  
revenue cycle excellence.*



# Spring 2026 Newsletter

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

[THREERIVERSAAHAM.COM](http://THREERIVERSAAHAM.COM)

# Table of Contents

**01**

Letter from the President

**02**

Recap of March Joint Event

**03**

The No Surprise Act Developments

**04**

CMS Annual Technology Summit

**05**

2026 Events

**06**

Call for Speakers

**07**

Our New Board Members

**08**

Thank You to our 2025 Sponsors

**09**

Treasurer Note

**10**

May 2026 Save the Date

**11**

September 2026 Save the Date

**12**

Join AAHAM Today



# A Letter from the President

Dear Members of the PA Three Rivers AAHAM Chapter,

We've officially made it through winter, and it's wonderful to welcome the arrival of spring!

We kicked off the year on a strong note with our annual Board of Directors strategy meeting in February. During this four-hour session, we reviewed roles and responsibilities and aligned on our chapter operations and strategic goals for 2026.

We are excited to welcome several new members to our Board of Directors:

- Julie Hardy, Chapter Vice President
- Brianna Hinch, Chapter Secretary
- Dennis Breen, Government Relations Chair
- Colin Sibley, Newsletter Chair



Be sure to check out the "Get to Know You" section of this newsletter to learn more about our new chapter leaders.

We also have several open committee chair positions and would love your involvement! Current opportunities include Membership Chair, Finance Chair, and additional committee roles that would benefit from volunteer support. Getting involved is a great way to connect and make an impact within our chapter.

In March, we were thrilled to host a joint event with HFMA and AAHAM at Rivers Casino. Be sure to read Sharon and Julie's article highlighting the valuable education and insights shared during the event.

Our Education Committee has been hard at work planning an exciting lineup of webinars and in-person events for the remainder of the year. Be sure to mark your calendars—we look forward to seeing you there!

As we wrap up the previous sponsorship year, I'd also like to extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors. Their continued support makes it possible for us to provide meaningful programming and events for our members.

Wishing you a wonderful spring season! We look forward to connecting with you at our upcoming webinars next month.

Sincerely,

Alyshia Ravida

President, PA Three Rivers AAHAM Chapter

# 2026 Western PA Healthcare Symposium Recap

1

Jolene Calla with HAP started our day out with “Threats to Hospital Financial Sustainability are Real, and Growing.” It was a wake-up call first thing in the morning, but an important one. She reminded us that organizations that don’t actively rethink operations, reimbursement, and cost structure will fall behind.

2

Mark Servco, CEO at AHN was the conference morning keynote as he shared his thoughts on the “Headwinds & Opportunities in Healthcare.” His perspective that the challenges are real, but so are the opportunities was welcomed by all.

3

Dennis Breen, president at Source1 Consulting got us excited and gave out great tips on the “12 Step Program for RCM & Compliance Excellence.” The main takeaway from Dennis was that excellence isn’t about one big fix, but about consistent execution across the revenue cycle.

4

Greg Wilson from Turnkey Pharmacy Solutions started the second half of the day with 340B updates gave attendees tips to ensure they approach the program with active management and strategy because it’s no longer a passive program.



# 2026 Western PA Healthcare Symposium Recap

Success is an understatement when describing the March 2026 Western PA Healthcare Symposium that was presented by Three Rivers AAHAM, Western PA HFMA & ACHE of Western PA. More than 130 attendees filled the Rivers Casino in downtown Pittsburgh, coming together around one central theme: healthcare is changing quickly and standing still is not an option!

4

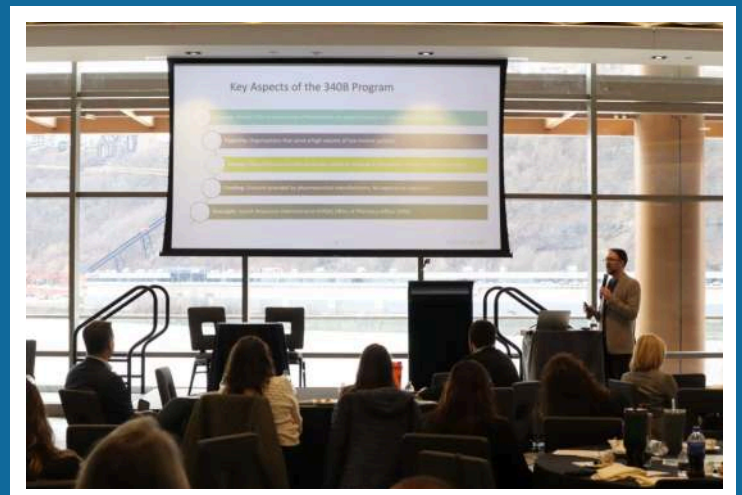
Next, Phil Martino with RSM talked about the latest AI in healthcare. This presentation got everyone to go from asking “should we use AI?” to “where do we start?”

5

Julie Hardy, partner at RubinBrown explained the who what where \$50 billion investments mean for rural health in Pennsylvania. The key takeaway was to ensure organizations align early to capture the value.

6

Closing the education day with a fireside chat with WVU Medicine CFO, Nick Barcellona & Allison Lutz, VP of Finance at Independence Health was a perfect way to wind down the conference. They covered mergers, AI, concerns and even what’s exciting in healthcare today. The interaction from the audience was awesome!



# 2026 Western PA Healthcare Symposium Photos



# No Surprise Act Updates

Law Firm of Charles J. Hilton & Associates, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

The federal No Surprises Act became effective on January 1, 2022. This Act provides protections for patients against surprise medical bills from doctors, hospitals, and air ambulances for out-of-network emergency care and for care provided by out-of-network providers at in-network facilities.

First and foremost, the No Surprises Act requires the payer plan or issuer to either make an initial payment or send a notice of denial payment within 30 calendar days after receipt of a “clean” claim. When the payer plan issues a payment to a provider under the No Surprises Act, the EOB should be reviewed carefully to make certain that the payer plan is in compliance with the Act’s disclosure requirements. If the out-of-network provider receives an initial payment and explanation of benefits from the payer plan, make certain the EOB provides (1) the qualified payment amount (QPA), (2) a statement notifying the out-of-network provider of the option to initiate the 30-day open negotiation period to resolve a payment dispute, and (3) the payer plan’s contact information to initiate open negotiations. If the 30-day open negotiation period does not resolve in settlement, then the provider may initiate the federal Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) process after the end of the open negotiation process.

Also of note, if the out-of-network provider intends to open a 30-day negotiation period, the provider must use the standard open negotiation notice form to send to the payer plan as required by the Act. If the 30th business day of the negotiation period ends without settlement, or the payer plan does not respond during the 30-day negotiation period, then the provider may initiate the IDR process. The federal IDR process must be initiated within the 4-business day period commencing on the 31st business day after the start of the open negotiation period.

Without getting into the nuts and bolts of the IDR process, if the IDR entity awards the provider a specific sum of money on the disputed claim, the next question is, how does the provider get paid. In other words, how does the provider enforce the award against the insurer? Well, unfortunately, the federal courts have made that problematic by holding that providers do not have a private right of action to collect the award from the insurer under the language of the No Surprises Act. See, *SpecialtyCare v. Aetna*, 2025 WL 3719227 ( M.D. Pa. 2025). Therefore, at the present moment, in order to attempt to enforce an IDR Award, the provider’s only recourse is to file a complaint form with the No Surprises Help Desk, which is part of CMS, and hold out hope that CMS will exert pressure on the insurer to pay the award. The No Surprises Help Desk may be reached at 1-800-985-3059 or a complaint may be submitted at <https://www.cms.gov/nosurprises/policies-and-resources/providers-submit-a-billing-complaint>. Unfortunately, this is the current state of the law with regard to collecting IDR Awards under the NSA. Stay tuned for potential further developments.

If you have any questions about the federal No Surprises Act or any other questions regarding healthcare reimbursement, please feel free to contact Attorney Charles J. Hilton at 412-435-0162 or email at [chilton@cjhiltonlaw.com](mailto:chilton@cjhiltonlaw.com).

Law Firm of Charles J. Hilton & Associates, P.C.  
Attorneys at Law  
Oakmont Station Two  
527 Cedar Way, Suite 203  
Oakmont, PA 15139  
(412) 435-0162  
Email: [chilton@cjhiltonlaw.com](mailto:chilton@cjhiltonlaw.com)

# ASTP/ONC 2026 Annual Meeting – TEFCA Conference Summary

Dennis Breen, Government Relations Chair

The ASTP/ONC 2026 Annual Meeting drew more than 1,000 in-person attendees and thousands of additional participants via livestream, reflecting heightened national focus on health IT and interoperability. Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy and National Coordinator for Health IT Thomas Keane, MD, MBA, delivered the keynote address, outlining significant progress made over the past year and reinforcing data liquidity as the meeting's central theme. Federal participation from HHS, CMS, and other agencies highlighted that interoperability is now a coordinated, cross-agency priority rather than a siloed health IT initiative.

A major takeaway from the meeting was the continued maturation of TEFCA, which has moved well beyond its launch phase since going live in December 2023. Federal officials reported that nearly 500 million health records have been exchanged through the network, positioning TEFCA as a single, trusted national framework for health data sharing. Speakers emphasized that hospitals and physician practices should no longer view participation as optional and should actively evaluate their readiness and vendor connectivity strategies.

Vendor participation and readiness were a recurring focus throughout the sessions. Major EHR vendors reported rapid onboarding of hospitals and practices onto TEFCA, with thousands of hospitals and tens of thousands of clinics now live on the network. Attendees were encouraged to directly engage with their health IT vendors to confirm TEFCA connectivity, understand which Qualified Health Information Network (QHIN) is being used, and ensure there is a clear pathway for participation, particularly for practices relying on third-party or ancillary systems.

The meeting also marked a significant shift in information blocking enforcement. ASTP/ONC announced the initiation of its first oversight actions under existing certification regulations, including issuing notices of potential non-conformity to certain health IT developers. While these actions are directed at vendors, conference leaders noted that provider organizations may experience downstream impacts related to system functionality, certification status, data exchange capabilities, and contractual obligations if vendors fall out of compliance.

In addition to enforcement activity, federal officials discussed regulatory changes aimed at reducing burden on health IT developers. The proposed HTI-5 rule would remove or revise a substantial number of existing certification criteria in an effort to streamline requirements and reduce compliance costs, while maintaining interoperability goals. ASTP/ONC also previewed future rulemaking under HTI-6, expected to focus on health applications and further facilitating data exchange, encouraging stakeholders to submit feedback during the HTI-5 comment period.

Payer data exchange readiness was another key topic, particularly as CMS highlighted approaching API requirements set to take effect in January 2027. Conference discussions focused on improving payer participation in trusted data exchange to support patients and providers, as well as transitioning away from fragmented approaches. HHS also finalized requirements related to real-time prescription benefit tools and electronic prior authorization for medical and pharmacy benefits, with significant projected administrative cost savings tied to these efforts.

Finally, ASTP/ONC previewed upcoming data standard expansions, including the release of draft USCDI v7 in January 2026. The draft proposes additional standardized data elements intended to strengthen interoperability across clinical, quality, nutrition, adverse event, and behavioral health use cases. Officials also announced behavioral health IT pilot programs supported through federal investment, reinforcing that future certification updates will require continued system enhancements and coordination with health IT vendors, particularly for community-based hospitals and physician practices.



# EVENT SCHEDULE 2026



**13-14**  
 MAY

**PA/NJ AAHAM AI @  
 WIND CREEK BETHLEHEM**  
 Golf outing  
 Evening reception  
 Educational meeting  
 Networking



**19**  
 MAY

**WEBINAR SERIES**

Denials That Start in the Chart: A Nurse Auditor's Perspective: Understand why medical necessity denials happen and what staff can do to prevent and resolve them.



**2**  
 JUN

**WEBINAR SERIES**

Rural Health Revenue Cycle: Doing More With Less: Rural hospitals and clinics don't have armies of specialists. This session focuses on practice survival strategies when one person wears five hats.



**23**  
 JUN

**WEBINAR SERIES**

Process Improvement for People Who Don't Have Time for Process Improvement: Small, doable fixes that staff and supervisors can implement without consultants or new software.



**15-16**  
 SEPT

**FALL CONFERENCE @ OMNI  
 RESORT, BEDFORD SPRINGS**  
 Engaging panels  
 1.5 days of education  
 Networking



**3rd or 4th**  
 DEC

**HOLIDAY PARTY + MEETING**

Silent auction  
 Networking and fun!  
 Variety of education

**More Information**

<https://threeriversaaham.com/>

# CALL FOR **SPEAKERS!**

Are you currently working in  
healthcare revenue cycle?

Pennsylvania Three Rivers Chapter

# AAHAM

American Association of Healthcare  
Administrative Management

Speak at our **SEPTEMBER**  
*event!*

**APPLY NOW**



# Our New Board Members

Julie is a Partner at RubinBrown LLP, where she leads the firm's Revenue Cycle Consulting practice and works closely with healthcare organizations to improve performance, strengthen compliance, and navigate the complexities of reimbursement.

With experience across hospitals, health systems, and physician practices, Julie is known for her practical approach and ability to turn strategy into action. She's also a frequent speaker and advisor, helping organizations stay ahead in an increasingly challenging healthcare environment.

In addition to her consulting work, Julie serves as Vice President of Three Rivers AAHAM, where she supports the organization's mission to advance professional development and collaboration across the revenue cycle community.

Outside of work, Julie enjoys traveling, exploring new restaurants in and around Detroit, reading, meditating, and spending football season cheering on her favorite teams.



**Julie Hardy**

# Our New Board Members



Brianna first joined Phoenix Physical Therapy in February 2020 as their Revenue Cycle Support Specialist and then quickly moved into the Patient Access Quality Analyst role. She works closely with their Front-End Training team, by tracking and trending their collections and write-offs to help identify areas where some may need more training.

She has been a member of Pennsylvania Three Rivers AAHAM since September 2023 and is currently a member of the Education Committee. She has also assisted with social media flyer creation and you're likely to find her helping with the set-up/clean-up for our chapter events as well as selling 50/50 tickets.

In her free time, Brianna enjoys baking, traveling, reading, spending time with her two cats and building LEGOs with her husband, Jon.



**Brianna Hinch**

# Our New Board Members



**Dennis Breen**

Dennis is a healthcare industry veteran with over 35 years of experience. He is one of the original founders and President of Source 1 Healthcare Solutions.

Dennis has a wealth of experience in compliance management, financial analysis, and Medicare and Medicaid regulatory compliance. He is also skilled in strategic planning, project management, and client relations. Dennis holds a Bachelor's in Business Management from St. Francis University and a Master's in Healthcare Administration from Ohio University. He is also certified in compliance.

Dennis enjoys spending time with his children, travelling with his wife, and organizations that help victims of human trafficking.

# Our New Board Members



Colin joined Source 1 Healthcare Solutions in October 2024 after graduating from the University of Dayton earlier that year. He was hired as a Level I Consultant Client Liaison, specializing in Privacy and Regulatory Compliance. In this role, Colin supports clients by assisting with compliance initiatives and regulatory requirements across the healthcare landscape.

As a newer member of the healthcare consulting field, Colin is highly motivated to expand his knowledge and develop foundational skills that will support long-term professional growth. He is currently studying for the Certified in Healthcare Privacy Compliance (CHPC) examination, which he plans to complete by the end of April.

Outside of work, Colin is an avid golfer who enjoys any opportunity to be on the course. He also enjoys skiing, spending time with his dogs, Willow and Cooper, and following a variety of sports.



**Colin Sibley**

# Thank You to Our 2025 Sponsors!

The Pennsylvania Three Rivers AAHAM Chapter extends our sincere appreciation to all our 2025 sponsors. Your support has allowed us to deliver outstanding educational programs and valuable networking opportunities throughout the year.

Our 2025 sponsorship period officially ended on March 31st. If you're interested in partnering with us for 2026 and helping us continue to provide top-tier educational events, please reach out to Christine Ifft at [cifft@phx-pt.com](mailto:cifft@phx-pt.com).

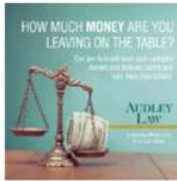
We look forward to another year of collaboration and excellence.

## Diamond Sponsor



Charles J. Hilton & Associates, P.C.

## Platinum Sponsor



Audley Law Offices, P.C.



Credit Management Company

## Gold Sponsor



## Silver Sponsor



## Bronze Sponsor



# Treasurer Note

## Account Balance from Spring 2026

Account	3/30/2026 Balance
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Non-Profit Checking xxxxxx1315	15,077.11
Scholarship	3,856.99
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>18,934.10</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>18,934.10</b>

VS.

## Account Balance from Spring 2025

Account	4/29/2025 Balance
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Non-Profit Checking xxxxxx1315	17,690.70
Scholarship	3,856.99
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>21,547.69</b>
<b>Liability Accounts</b>	
<b>TOTAL Liability Accounts</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>21,547.69</b>

SAVE THE DATE



PA / NJ AAHAM  
**Annual  
Institute**

**SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!**

*Wednesday*

**May 13,  
2026**

*Golf Outing*

Venue

Olde Homestead  
Golf Club

*Wednesday*

**May 13,  
2026**

*Networking  
Reception*

Venue

Wind Creek  
Bethlehem

*Thursday*

**May 14,  
2026**

*Education  
Conference*

Venue

Wind Creek  
Bethlehem



**SCAN QR CODE FOR  
ROOM BLOCK RESERVATIONS**



2026 FALL MEETING

**SEPTEMBER  
15 & 16  
2026**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

Omni Bedford Springs  
2198 Sweet Root Road  
Bedford, PA 15522

Pennsylvania Three Rivers Chapter

**AAHAM**

American Association of Healthcare  
Administrative Management

*Empowering the future of healthcare  
revenue cycle excellence.*

Pennsylvania Three Rivers Chapter



American Association of Healthcare  
Administrative Management

*Empowering the future of healthcare  
revenue cycle excellence.*

# WE SAVED YOU A SEAT

Level up your revenue cycle game! Join Three Rivers AAHAM and connect, learn, and grow with professionals who are shaping the future of healthcare reimbursement.

- ✓ Expert connections
- ✓ Practical education
- ✓ Industry insights
- ✓ Career growth

**Join Today!**

<https://threeriversaaham.com/join>

