



## **Information Technology Committee**

March 8, 2022

### **OFFICIAL MINUTES**

Rubinstein, Mitchell, Chair (NY)

Akseizer, Stephen (N)

Anvar, Bijan (Q)

Aschheim, Kenneth (NY)

Gamache, Geoffrey (3)

Ratner, Craig (2)

Sheth, Snehal (S)

Weisfuse, P. Deborah (NY)

The Information Technology Committee met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, via Zoom. All members attended with the exception of Drs. Ratner, Sheth and Weisfuse. Mr. Michael Herrmann, NYSDA Interim Executive Director, Ms. Betsy Bray, Director, Health Affairs and Ms. Jacquie Donnelly, Manager, Health Affairs also attended.

Dr. Rubinstein called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. The minutes from the Committee's meeting held on November 20, 2020, were adopted as written by unanimous consent.

### **Chair Report**

Dr. Rubinstein began by welcoming the members and acknowledging that the Committee had not met in over a year. He pointed out that during that time; NYSDA had published several articles by Committee members pertaining to cybersecurity and technology during COVID-19. For the benefit of new members Drs. Gamache and Akseizer, Dr. Rubinstein provided background on the inception of the Committee, and an overview of its mission and the types of issues and questions normally addressed. He requested that they, like other committee members, be willing to respond to members as a result of contact initially made with NYSDA staff.

### **New Business**

#### Cures Act Rule

Dr. Rubinstein discussed the interim final rule, which implements portions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act pertaining to "information blocking" and "interoperability". The information blocking portion of the rule applies to dentists as well as other healthcare providers and is defined as "interfering with the access, exchange or use of electronic health information". Dr. Rubinstein believes that although the rule applies to dental practices, it would mainly pertain to hospital type settings.

Dr. Gamache stated that his practice has designated staff to specifically handle patient requests for information. Dr. Akseizer believes that the ADA should be encouraged to create a standard of information involving major dental software companies.

### HL7 Dental Standards

Dr. Rubinstein explained that the ADA worked with Health Level Seven International (HL7) to develop dental standards to improve the sharing of electronic patient health information between medical and dental providers. Dr. Rubinstein stated that both he and Dr. Aschheim are members of the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics. Dr. Aschheim acknowledged that although the infrastructure is in place, he believes it will take some time for it to be put to use and may require federal intervention.

### **Communications for Members**

Dr. Akseizer proposed formalizing a template for email correspondence to identify NYSDA staff and NYSDA committee members' emails. While there was some discussion that it could be helpful in quickly identifying council/committee related information, Dr. Gamache noted that some of the emails exchanged between members on a particular issue is not necessarily the position of NYSDA and should not be labeled as such. It was recommended that the staff could identify NYSDA business more clearly by inserting "NYSDA" in the subject line as a courtesy.

### Subjects Suitable for Brief Articles

Dr. Rubinstein requested that the members supply content for brief articles to be included in NYSDA publications, including e-newsletters. Possible topics could include items from the meeting agenda. He asked that members forward their ideas to him in advance and suggested one topic could include Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotic surgery. Dr. Aschheim informed the members that the ADA would be publishing a whitepaper on AI, which they refer to as "Augmented" Intelligence rather than "Artificial". He suggested that the Committee wait for the publication of the whitepaper, which should be in 3-4 months, and coordinate an article as a companion piece.

Dr. Akseizer suggested articles separated by important IT topics and informational topics for the dental office. He further suggested articles such as; Windows 11 and the integration of office software, especially with Norton Antivirus software; data protection software; and Microsoft Defender Antivirus software. He stated that he recently presented a seminar on data protection and how easy it is to access information without the proper protection software installed. Dr. Anvar pointed out that a multi-layer approach to data protection software is preferred. Dr. Rubinstein believes an article on Windows 11 would be a good start and asked Dr. Akseizer to write an article within the next several months. He offered his assistance.

Dr. Rubinstein asked NYSDA staff to forward a list of publication dates and article submission deadlines for the Journal and NYSDA News to the members, and that each committee member propose at least one topic, and a deadline by which they could complete a brief article or informational piece for the NYSDA News and/or Journal.

## HIPAA

Ms. Donnelly informed the group that the majority of questions received by NYSDA pertain to HIPAA compliance in the dental office and whether or not to hire a HIPAA compliance company. She has also received inquiries from several component dental societies about offering the NYSDA HIPAA compliance course. Dr. Rubinstein suggested that he and Drs. Anvar and Aschheim work together to update the course so that it can be offered again in a revised format. He requested that Ms. Donnelly mail a copy of the current HIPAA Compliance Manual Workbook used for the course to the members along with the PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Anvar suggested developing a "refresher" course for those who have already taken the original HIPAA course.

Mr. Herrmann informed the Committee that NYSDA Support Services (NSS) has been investigating the endorsement of a HIPAA compliance company for NYSDA members. Dr. Aschheim suggested that the Committee be consulted in the final selection. Dr. Rubinstein agreed that the Committee should be a resource for NYSDA and its members. Mr. Herrmann stated that NSS has already vetted several companies and have narrowed their selection to a company named Abyde. He will arrange for a meeting date with Abyde and members of the Committee.

## **Old Business**

Mr. Herrmann introduced the possibility of the Committee becoming a subcommittee of the Council on Dental Practice rather than a Standing Committee of the NYSDA Board of Trustees. He explained that the Committee had many incarnations over the years since it was formed in 2012. Given the fact that there is not always material to discuss on a regular basis, Mr. Herrmann believes that the Committee may be better suited becoming a subcommittee of the Council on Dental Practice. Meetings would be convened when there is something of substance to discuss. The makeup of the Committee would not change

Dr. Rubinstein stated he would be agreeable to the change as long as the rest of the Committee agreed. This suggestion will be discussed further with the NYSDA Board of Trustees.

## **Adjournment**

There being no additional business before the Committee, Dr. Rubinstein adjourned the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mitchell Rubinstein, DMD, Chair