

1 **OREGON SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS**
2 **Report of the Public Affairs Liaison**
3 **Annual Report**

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5 **Period ending, May 2022**
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7 The responsibility of this committee is to field and answer questions from the general public and
8 medical community including managers, physicians, medical assistants, and other public entities.
9 Questions that are of a legal matter are forwarded to CEO and Legal Counsel of the American
10 Association of Medical Assistants. The Public Affairs Team was developed in 2009 and accepted
11 by the OSMA House of Delegates in 2010. The vision for this Team is to have one person who
12 can tend to the numerous inquiries, questions, and concerns as it relates the profession of medical
13 assisting and the CMA (AAMA) credential.
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15 The duties are as follows:
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- 17 • Provides the public voice of OSMA.
- 18 • Responds to both written and oral inquiries regarding Scope of Practice; Right to
19 Practice; exam eligibility; and much more.
- 20 • Team may accomplish this task by providing information via mail, email, or in-person.
- 21 • Team defers questions that need further explanation or of legal matter to CEO/Legal
22 Counsel of AAMA, depending upon the nature of the question.
- 23 • Provides a quarterly report to the OSMA Board regarding activities.
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25 Chair has received 44 emails over the year with a variety of topics to be answered. Below
26 are just a few of them. Chair does include AAMA CEO and Legal Counsel on many of the
27 emails that come to Oregon especially anything with an underlying legal tone.
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- 29 • Scope of Practice in Oregon still leads as a number one concern. President recommends
30 that we put a link to the AAMA Scope of practice page on the AAMA website.
- 31 • Chair received an email regarding who is eligible to supervisor medical assistants. Chair
32 enlisted CEO and Legal Counsel of AAMA, Don Balasa to help answer this question.
- 33 • Several questions regarding employment and continuing education.
- 34 • Email regarding training of non-educated personnel. This was a concern of a medical
35 assistant who was tasked to train someone with no experience or MA training
- 36 • Email regarding performing tasks without the presence of a licensed professional
- 37 • Several emails regarding advertising on our website
- 38 • Chair also received information about another high school that is doing a Health Science
39 program of 40 hours with minimal to no clinical training but, NHA does allow the high
40 school graduates to sit for the CCMA (Certified Clinical Medical Assistant) credential.
- 41 • Last, but not least, Chair received an email from a medical assistant whose provider was
42 holding her and a peer responsible for a err in procedure with a patient. Chair did not
43 answer the email but deferred it immediately to Don Balasa, AAMA CEO and Legal
44 Counsel.
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Chair has also learned the following and it will be reported it was reported in an AAMA article: The Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Program (formerly, the Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Program) will be ending December 31, 2021, because of the provisions of the 2009 HITECH Act and the regulations of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Legislature could not come to an agreement that would decide on this matter; therefore, the requirement ends. So, end result, a credential will no longer be required to work in a clinic starting January 2022.

Chair has kept abreast of all changes as it relates to affecting the role of medical assistants in Oregon.

All correspondence has been handled in a timely manner and deadlines have been met.

Chair would like to thank President Miller and the executive Board for allowing her to serve with this organization.

Paula Purdy, CMA (AAMA)
Chair, 2021 - 2022