

OREGON SOCIETY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

Report of the Public Affairs Liaison Annual Report Courtyard by Marriott, April 2020 Corvallis, OR.

The responsibility of this committee is to field and answer questions from the general public and medical community including managers, physicians, medical assistants, and other public entities. Questions that are of a legal matter are usually forwarded to CEO and Legal Counsel of the American Association of Medical Assistants. The Public Affairs Team was developed in 2009 and accepted by the OSMA House of Delegates in 2010. The vision for this Team is to have one person who can tend to the numerous inquiries, questions, and concerns as it relates the profession of medical assisting and the CMA (AAMA) credential.

The duties are as follows:

- Provides the public voice of OSMA.
- Responds to both written and oral inquiries regarding Scope of Practice; Right to Practice; exam eligibility; and much more.
- Team may accomplish this task by providing information via mail, email, or in-person.
- Team defers questions that need further explanation or of legal matter to CEO/Legal Counsel of AAMA, depending upon the nature of the question.
- Provides a quarterly report to the OSMA Board regarding activities.

Chair has received 24 emails year to date (as of the writing of this report) including a Chiropractor who was questioning the validity of MA training and what the state is doing to monitor medical assistants. Other topics included the following:

- Scope of Practice in Oregon, and the proper credentials. (*more on this topic in this report*)
- Issues regarding misconduct of medical assistants. It was determined the MA was not a CMA (AAMA)
- Questions regarding licensing in Oregon
- Questions regarding AAMA CEUs

Chair has also informed the Board about the following information:

- New AAMA credential pathway (pilot)
- Kaiser requiring their MAs to now have a credential and PCC has developed an on-line review class to help the MAs student for an exam. Kaiser prefers their MAs take the CMA (AAMA) but it could depend on the medical assistants' education.
- There is a new on-line MA program offered to high school seniors. This is an approximate six-hour class and upon completion of this program NHA will offer the CCMA exam, which means there will be high school graduates with a MA credential who have not been trained in clinical skills OR completed an extern. This program is offered in Portland, and up and down the I-5 corridor.

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- Oregon is now dealing with apprenticeships. The state is offering an apprenticeship program that pairs a non-trained or educated individual with an experienced MA to teach the individual medical assisting skills. The state has done presentations all over in the Portland area. The Oregon Clinic, Legacy, and Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinics have seen the presentation but are not sold. The next employer to see this presentation is OHSU.
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- During the Leadership Workshop registration process, Chair realized that a large employer who presents Oregon, Washington, and California is allowing their medical assistants to use the initials CMA. Chair worked with CEO and AAMA Legal Counsel and sent a “soft” message to this employer stating that there are no CMA credentials and that these initials in Oregon represent Certified Medication Aide. Chair also indicated that the initials are proprietary to AAMA and that AAMA used these initials before changing their credential. No response has been received.
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62 Chair has kept abreast of al changes as it relates to affecting the role of medical assistants in Oregon.

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

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

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70 Paula Purdy, CMA (AAMA)
71 Chair, 2018 - 2019

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