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SUMMER  
2011

# PRESIDENTS LETTER

Dear Show-Me Chapter,

It's hard to believe my President year is already over, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped this year in any capacity – on committees, with registration, setting up programs, etc. Our volunteers devote a lot of time and effort to this chapter and I want to make sure it does not go unnoticed. I can't recognize everyone by name, but I would like to specifically thank Janet Taylor and Kyle Lee – they have done a wonderful job with programs this year. Donna Epperly for taking on our sponsorship program this year, Mary Lonon for publishing our quarterly newsletters and Kalon Mitchell for maintaining our website (and I know I sent him a lot of updates)!

I'd also like to thank Greg Shaw - without his "prompting" I don't know that I would have taken on this role. This experience is one that has allowed me to meet so many people, develop wonderful friendships and has really been an amazing year. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president - I have enjoyed being a part of this leadership team. I have taken on the role of Treasurer for the next two years, so I will still be actively involved in the chapter, but will be handing the reigns over to Kory Stout later this month! I have complete confidence that he and our leadership team will continue to improve upon our chapter's success!

As a reminder, the Joint Spring Conference will be held May 18-20 in St. Louis. We will be doing officer installation for the 2011-12 year during Thursday's lunch. I hope you will be able to attend the conference!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ogden  
Show-Me Chapter President



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# **Annual Joint Spring Conference St. Louis, MO May 18-20, 2011**

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# Registration

## Annual Joint Spring Conference in St. Louis, MO

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 — 11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, May 19, 2011 — 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Friday, May 20, 2011 — 7:30 a.m. - Noon

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MEMBERS:	NONMEMBERS:
____ \$145 received before April 15	____ \$175 received before April 15
____ \$195 received after April 15	____ \$225 received after April 15
____ \$99 Thursday only	____ \$125 Thursday only
____ \$75 Students/HFMA members in job transition	
____ \$50 Additional entertainment guest ticket (Includes reception & dinner)	

**Total Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*Final registration deadline is on 4 p.m. CST on Friday, May 13, 2011.  
There will be no registrations allowed after this point.  
Cancellation Policy: For cancellations received before May 13 a full refund - minus a \$25 processing fee per registrant - will be granted.  
Cancellations made after this date and non-attending registrants are responsible for the full registration fee. Substitutions are encouraged.*

***In our efforts to continue going green, you are encouraged to bring your laptops.  
The session handouts will be posted on the websites (www.hfmashowme.org & www.hfmastlouis.org) for you to save to your laptops. A link to the handouts will be emailed to all registrants a week prior to the conference.***

***Internet Access will be FREE in the conference rooms and all overnight rooms.  
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### **Email or Fax:**

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HFMA Association Manager  
Office: 501-316-1229  
Fax: 501-316-5341  
[hfmastlouis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hfmastlouis@sbcglobal.net)

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HFMA Greater St. Louis  
c/o HFMA St. Louis  
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**Regional Executive Message**



Incoming officers and committee chairs are looking for volunteers to staff the many committees it takes to run a successful chapter. I encourage you to talk to them and get involved! You will find it very rewarding and your individual capabilities will help make each chapter stronger.

“It’s hard to believe that the 2010-2011 chapter year is two thirds over. It has been a real pleasure for me to work with each of the chapters this year – so many extraordinary volunteers! As each of your chapters begin planning for the upcoming 2011-2012 year I’d like to talk to you, the individual HFMA member, about how important your involvement with HFMA is!

Now is the time to express an interest in “Stepping Up” your involvement in your chapters with your incoming Presidents. The volunteer experience is a great opportunity for personal growth. Incoming officers and committee chairs are looking for volunteers to staff the many committees it takes to run a successful chapter. I encourage you to talk to them and get involved! You will find it very rewarding and your individual capabilities will help make each chapter stronger.

I would also encourage you to take a look at the many educational opportunities that HFMA has to offer at a state, regional and national level. It’s difficult to balance all of the stresses of our busy lives, but keeping abreast of the constant changes in healthcare are made much easier for HFMA members due to the quality programming we have available. Did you realize that the webinars you attend from your own desk not only educate you, but they also count as educational credit toward your chapter’s successful achievement of their goals on the chapter balanced score card? Don’t forget to share this education with others in your organization as well. Many of the topics, especially on healthcare reform are of interest to others outside of the financial areas of our organizations. A brown-bag webinar presentation is a great way to get everyone involved!

I want to share with each of you, again, what a great group of chapter leaders you each have representing you this year! They personify this year’s HFMA chairman’s theme, “Step up and make it happen!” Please be sure to thank them for their dedication and hard work.

***Vicki L. Mills, Region 8 Regional Executive***

2011–2012  
HFMA Show-ME of Missouri  
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±

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University of Missouri Health System

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Sales Executive  
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**John M Weiss, Jr.**

CEO  
The Audit Group, Inc.

**Terry D . Boyce**

Financial Analyst  
Phelps County Regional Medica Center

**Kathryn M. Watterson**

Accountant  
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**2011 - 2012 Board of Directors**

Allison Lewis

Brad Brotherton

Tina Gillespie

Jennifer Doll

Greg Shaw

Josh Wilks

# Educational Events

**May 18-20**

Harrah's  
St. Louis, MO

**Annual Spring Conference**

**(Greater St. Louis and Show-Me Chapters)**

We are going to hold our annual HFMA planning meeting on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> prior to the start of our Joint Conference in St. Louis at Harrah's.

**All members are welcome to** attend and we will be providing more information as the date approaches.

Thanks - *Kory Stout*

**August 24-26**

Kansas City, MO

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**Show-Me Chapter Conference**

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## State Budget Crises – an Update

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Shanna Hanson, FHFMA  
February 28, 2011

Here is an interesting question: what are a state's two largest budget line items? The answer: Medicaid and education. In Alaska, for example, Medicaid accounts for about a third of that state's budget.<sup>i</sup> On average, states spend 22 percent of their budgets on Medicaid.<sup>ii</sup> It is not surprising that, after a state has cut everywhere else it can, it comes back around to cutting Medicaid and/or education.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that was passed in 2009 (which included increased funding for Medicaid) requires states to maintain the same level of Medicaid services they provided in 2008 regardless of the hit that their revenues have taken since then. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), signed by President Obama in March of 2010, contains a similar "maintenance of effort (MOE)" provision.<sup>iii</sup> Under the PPACA, states stand to lose their Medicaid reimbursement if they toughen eligibility requirements before 2014 when state-run insurance exchanges open.

So what does a state do when it has a legal requirement to balance its budget and it can't cut eligibility?

In January, 33 governors and governors-elect asked President Obama and congressional leaders to remove the "maintenance of effort" Medicaid requirement from the PPACA. Don Berwick, the Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said there's "no simple answer" for solving states' Medicaid woes. Berwick said the agency is crafting numerous possibilities to help states avoid massive cuts to Medicaid rolls. "We will use all the leverage we have in the law to reach out to them with dollars and tech support," Berwick told the Families USA Conference. "We're here to protect beneficiaries and states."<sup>iv</sup>

States are reacting and making preparations in different ways:

- Arizona cut out Medicaid payments for transplants (with 100 people waiting for them). It has submitted a waiver to the federal government requesting a reduction in eligibility for Medicaid, a move that would eliminate Medicaid coverage for approximately 280,000 adults (or about a fifth of the state program's enrollment).<sup>v</sup>
- Texas may implement a 10% cut in Medicaid fees to hospitals. A fee cut could mean job losses and less tax revenue for local communities.<sup>vi</sup>
- New York developed a Medicaid Redesign Team to both reduce costs and increase the program's quality. The team will submit its findings in a report to the governor by March 1.<sup>vii</sup>
- Hospitals in Arizona and Tennessee have asked their respective governors to impose or renew a hospital assessment fee to fund Medicaid and pull down matching federal dollars (rather than a provider payment cut).
- The governor of Florida released a proposed budget that would 1) slash hundreds of millions of dollars from health and human services agencies, 2) bank on a future expansion of Medicaid managed care, and 3) hold down Medicaid costs by imposing 5% rate cuts on hospitals, nursing homes and other types of non-physician providers.<sup>viii</sup>
- To tackle rising health care costs in Massachusetts, the administration in that state plans to stop paying those hospitals with re-admission rates higher than the statewide average, when low-income patients return within 30 days.<sup>ix</sup>

- Under scrutiny in Ohio: aid to cities, funding for education, changes to Medicaid, possibly privatizing the Ohio lottery or leasing out the Ohio Turnpike. That's just a partial list. The governor also promises to take on public employee unions and their pension/benefit plans.<sup>x</sup>
- Residents of Utah who receive health coverage under Medicaid could be required to do community service in order to receive benefits under a proposal that passed the state's House of Reps. It would set up a pilot program in which 100 unemployed people between 19 and 64 would be required to do community service, provided the state can be granted a waiver from the federal government. "It would allow a population to reimburse in a sense their services through Medicaid through voluntary service," House Assistant Majority Whip Rhonda Menlove said. "The side benefit is we will have people volunteer in schools, in other areas throughout the community where we seriously need assistance due to budget cuts."<sup>xi</sup>
- One recurring theme: merger or consolidation of state agencies, as well as reduction in the number of agencies, authorities and commissions. Kansas will move to eliminate eight state agencies. New York's long term goal is to reduce them by 20%.
- Hospitals and health plans are getting involved. In Minnesota, for example, a group of seven health plans and hospitals floated a cost-cutting plan that they feel could eliminate nearly a third of the state's budget shortfall. One of their recommendations would move individuals with disabilities into managed care.<sup>xii</sup>
- Proposals to alter services and/or benefits, such as those listed below, is something many states have in common:
  - Adult dental and vision benefits.
  - Home healthcare visits for adults.
  - Meal delivery to the infirm.
  - Hospice.
  - Reducing the number of speech, physical and occupational therapy visits.
  - Moving people with disabilities into managed care programs.
  - Imposing higher co-payments for emergency and hospital care.
  - Eliminating benefits to some legal immigrants who have been in the United States less than five years (in some states).

Facing a brewing revolt among states wrestling with massive budget shortfalls and tattering healthcare safety nets, the Obama administration is intensifying a drive to help state leaders find ways to wring savings from their Medicaid programs.<sup>xiii</sup>

On February 3, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius sent a letter<sup>xiv</sup> to the nation's 50 governors suggesting a range of cuts they can make to Medicaid, including dropping some people from the program. Sebelius said the new healthcare law allows states to cut some people from Medicaid rolls if they are facing budget deficits. And she said she is reviewing the administration's authority to allow states to cut even more people. "The Affordable Care Act gives a state the flexibility to reduce eligibility for non-disabled, non-pregnant adults with incomes above 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Line," Sebelius wrote. Twenty-five states currently offer benefits to these lower-income adults above the threshold.<sup>xv</sup>

Although the federal government requires that state Medicaid programs cover a basic set of benefits, states have historically added to these. These optional benefits currently consume 40% of the benefit spending, according to the administration.<sup>xvi</sup>

Sebelius added, "In light of difficult budget circumstances, we are stepping up our efforts to help you identify cost drivers in the Medicaid program and provide you with new tools and resources to achieve short-term savings and longer term sustainability." <sup>xvii</sup>

States face the "most difficult budget year on record" in the coming fiscal year beginning in nearly every state on July 1, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities says in its latest survey of deficits. <sup>xviii</sup> According to the Center's think tank, nearly all states are considering spending less in fiscal 2012 than they did in 2008. That was the last year before the recession devastated revenues. <sup>xix</sup> Many experts say state tax revenue will not fully recover until the nation returns to "full" employment, which is not likely for several years. <sup>xx</sup>

### The Author



Shanna Hanson, FHFMA, is Manager of Business Knowledge for Human Arc (Cleveland, OH), for 27 years a leading innovator in governmental healthcare-related program eligibility and enrollment solutions for hospitals, health systems and health plans across the nation. She is responsible for research and reporting to executive staff on all legislative and environmental changes and trends impacting Human Arc healthcare markets, services and product development initiatives, including development of new contacts in government agencies to further the company's understanding of changing public health insurance protocols and trends. Prior to her assuming these responsibilities, in 2007, Ms. Hanson served for 14 years as Human Arc's Midwest Operations Leader for its government funded healthcare eligibility screening and enrollment services. She is a Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association, has served as a regional chapter president, and holds the organization's Founders' Medal of Honor.

<sup>i</sup> Bohrer, B., "Alaska governor proposes \$160M supplemental bill," *The Associated Press*, Bloomberg.com, February 2, 2011. Retrieved February 9, 2011, from <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-02/alaska-governor-proposes-160m-supplemental-bill.html>

<sup>ii</sup> Trinko, K., "Forced Spending," *National Review Online*, February 3, 2011. Retrieved February 9, 2011, from <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/258751/forced-spending-katrina-trinko>

<sup>iii</sup> *ibid*

<sup>iv</sup> Millman, J., "Brewer: Florida ruling bolsters case for Medicaid waiver," *Healthwatch THE HILLS Healthcare Blog* posting, February 1, 2011, at <http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/health-reform-implementation/141393-brewer-florida-ruling-makes-case-for-medicaid-waiver>

<sup>v</sup> *ibid*

<sup>vi</sup> Roberson, J., "Local hospitals: We contribute billions to economy — don't cut Medicaid," *The Dallas Morning News*, January 31, 2011. Retrieved February 9, 2011, from <http://www.dallasnews.com/business/headlines/20110131-local-hospitals-we-contribute-billions-to-economy-dont-cut-medicaid-ec>

<sup>vii</sup> Madden, R., "Record Medicaid cutbacks face state," *Watertown Daily Times*, February 2, 2011. Retrieved February 9, 2011, from <http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20110202/NEWS03/302029978>

<sup>viii</sup> Saunders, J., "Budget whacks \$562M from health," *Health News Florida*, February 8, 2011. Retrieved February 9, 2011, from [http://www.healthnewsflorida.org/top\\_story/read/scott\\_budget\\_whacks\\_562m\\_from\\_health](http://www.healthnewsflorida.org/top_story/read/scott_budget_whacks_562m_from_health)

<sup>ix</sup> Bebinger, M., "State Will Stop Paying For Some Hospital Re-Admissions," 90.9 fm WBUR.org, February 8, 2011. Retrieved February 9, 2011, from <http://www.wbur.org/2011/02/08/readmissions>

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