

AHDI - COLORADO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

April 2009

Newsletter Contents

President's Message

**2009 AHDI-Colorado
Board of Directors
Contact Information**

Introduction of

2009 Board Members

**Registration form
for 2009 AHDI-Colorado
Convention**

**2009 AHDI-CO
State Convention
Speakers**

**Component Contact
Information**

**Advocacy Summit
2009**

Do's and Don'ts

Advertising Rates

You are invited to:
AHDI Colorado 2009 Annual Convention
(Association for Healthcare Documentation
Integrity) in Grand Junction, Colorado
June 12 and 13, 2009
Grand Vista Hotel
1-800-800-7796
970-241-8411 Direct

Confirmed Speakers for the event:
Dr. Mark Griffin – Deafness & Cochlear
Implants
Kevin Cotner - Ergonomics
Dr. Bruce Faber - Lupus
Dr. Masi Khaja – The Pill Cam
Elaine Barnett, RHIA, CHP – HIPAA
Investigation Trends and Safeguards
David Baer – EMR and HER Solutions
Dr. Ryan Scotting – Alternative Medicine
Susan M. Lucci, RHIT, CMT, AHDI-F
Sara Burns – Author

Confirmed Vendors
MD-IT Intelligent Transcription
Pikes Peak Transco
Newspirit Naturals – 1005 pure vitamins
and supplements
Stedman's Medical Word Books
Celebrity Solutions Group
Arbonne Skin Care Products

National AHDI 2009 Convention will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on July 29 through August 1, 3009.

Important News: The AHDI-Colorado 2009 Board has voted to merge with Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming in 2010 as the Mountain States Region with the agreement of those states.

*****President's
Message

Certification, Why?

Why do I need to be certified? Will it pay more? I can do my job without being certified, so why go through all the expense and time to get certified, what is in it for me?

If you have asked these questions, please consider that every recognized professional has credentials, whether they are in the medical field, real estate, schoolteachers, etc.

What do you think certification means to transcriptionists? I believe in order for medical transcriptionists to be recognized as a professional by the medical community and other professionals, we need to be certified. Although this is costly and time-consuming, I believe it is essential.

I am not saying that medical transcriptionists are not professionals (we all require a very high degree of specialty skills), but that without certification the medical community will not recognize transcriptionists as professional. As medical transcriptionists, we all do appreciate the dedication, skills, and expertise that are required to be an excellent transcriptionist. The reality though is that professionals have recognized credentials.

Therefore, is it not worth the time and effort to obtain credentials after our names? Does this not make us want to be professionals and be proud of what we do as transcriptionists/editors? Does it make us want to be recognized like other medical professionals for the specialty that we offer? As medical transcriptionists, whether we are editing or transcribing or both, we should want and need to be recognized by the medical community, state, and nationally for our specialized abilities.

I have never regretted going through the process of being certified, nor getting the credits required for recertification. To me personally, one of the most important payoffs as a certified medical transcriptionist is the invaluable knowledge I have gained with recertification, which has given me extra abilities, skills, and expertise that I would have not achieved from any other source. With credentials, I am recognized and respected for knowing my job well. Without being certified, I would have missed an opportunity to be the best I can be at my profession as a medical transcriptionist.

I encourage all of you to think about whether or not you want to be recognized and respected as a professional by the medical community, what it would mean to you as a person, as a transcriptionist. I believe you will find that this is just what you need to truly feel great about being a medical transcriptionist, and that this will increase an awareness and an interest in your job that you did not have before. Go for it! It is well worth it!

**E. Danielle Butler, CMT, President of ADHI-Colorado 2009
February 17, 2009**

AHDI-Colorado 2009 Board of Directors
Contact Information

Danielle Butler, President
1148 Grand Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Work: 970-244-1968
Home: 970-242-5154
Danielle.Butler@stmarygj.org
daniellebutler15@msn.com

Beth Sutherland, MA, CMT
President Elect and Secretary
6413 Mesedge Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
719-599-0629
beth.sutherland@md-it.com

Marty Ealey CMT, AHDI-F
Immediate Past President
147 Larry Drive
Grand Junction, CO 81503
970-245-5536
mealeycmt@hotmail.com

Michelle Jarvis, Treasurer
2872 Bear Canyon Court
Grand Junction, CO 81503
970-243-8956
970-260-3003
Michellejarv@gmail.com

Rashell Coleman, Delegate
220 Mansfield Ct
Grand Junction, Co 81503
970-241-0290
Rashell.coleman@gmail.com

Andrea Pieterick, CMT
Director At Large
6774 Beech Drive
Arvada. CO 80004
303-435-4928
apieterick@comcast.net

Charlene Brown, CMT
Director At-Large
PO Box 76318
Colorado Springs, CO 80970
719-380-0236
719-302-1072
Charbrown_nt@yahoo.com

Brett A. McCutcheon, CMT, AHDI-F
Director At Large
925 Humboldt St Apt 202
Denver, CO 80218
home: 303-323-8865
work: 303-669-7178
mobile: 303-854-7756
brett.mccutcheon@gmail.com

Pikes Peak Component Colorado Springs, CO Contact Information	Four Corners Component Durango, CO Contact Information	Western Slope Component Grand Junction, Colorado Contact Information
Beth Sutherland, MA, CMT President 6413 Mesedge Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80919 719-599-0629 beth.sutherland@md-it.com	Judy Sewell, CMT, Interim President 1204 Camino Vega Farmington, NM 87401 505-327-4362 505-325-5011 x 3090 jsewell@sjrnc.net	Michelle Potter Secretary 1750 14 Road Loma, CO 81524 970-858-3923 Michele.Potter@stmarygj.org

INTRODUCTIONS OF THE 2009 AHDI-COLORADO BOARD MEMBERS

Danielle Butler, CMT, President

I am a native of Colorado, born in Denver, raised on the Western Slope. I have been in transcription for 29 years this April. I first became a certified medical transcriptionist, I believe in 1985. I am very thankful that I became a certified medical transcriptionist again in the late 1990s. I have learned so much more since then, and enjoy increasing my medical knowledge almost daily. Medical transcription is very interesting and never boring. I am very fortunate in that I greatly enjoy my job as a transcriptionist/supervisor. I have served on the AHDI-Colorado board for several years, first as a board member, then secretary, and now president. I have been married to my wonderful husband for 45 years. I have 2 children, and 3 grandchildren. I have been very blessed in my life, and I am very fortunate and thankful to have chosen the career of a medical transcriptionist. It is a career that is very interesting and where the learning never ends.

Marty Ealey, CMT, AHDI-F
Immediate Past President

I did my first transcription job in 1966, became a part-time medical transcriptionist in 1971, took over an existing transcription business in 1973, moved to Grand Junction in 1977, began Word Works that became Medical Language Specialists, Inc. in 1979, which has grown to 23 employees now. In the meantime, I've been married 40+ years, have raised 4 children, have 4 grandchildren with a 5th in the oven as we speak. I've gained degrees and certificates of all kinds. I have taught medical transcription since 1984 when I discovered I couldn't do it all by myself--I've taught at the college level for 5 semesters, but most of the training I've given has been in my home. To this point I've trained 9 CMTs, have 4 more ready to take the CMT exam this fall, and 3 ready to become RMTs this summer. Oh, in 1997 my husband (an analytical geochemist) joined the business and has become my top cardiology expert, as well as the reason MLS quit losing money. He's a much better manager than I. We now live and work together 24 hours per day. He's the primary babysitter for our grandkids, though, because his schedule is more flexible than mine. I love medicine, and I love learning and teaching. I don't think there will ever be a situation or a time when I will know all the answers, but I'm confident I know most of them. I plan to work another 3 years until Dennis can retire, and then work part-time pretty much until I die or it becomes physically impossible for me to do this. It's just too much fun to quit!

Beth Sutherland, MA, CMT
President Elect and Secretary

My name is Beth Sutherland. I have been a CMT since 1983. I started my career in an x-ray department in Fort Worth, Texas. I moved home to Colorado in the late 1970s and started work for Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs. I went back to school at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs because I thought I wanted to do some other than medical transcription. After obtaining my bachelor of communication, I decided I really did like what I do as a medical transcriptionist.

Beth Sutherland (continued)

I am currently teaching medical transcription courses at Pikes Peak Community College (PPCC) and have done so for 10 years. During my time at (PPCC), I completed a master of communication with an emphasis on health communication. I have served in many roles in AAMT/AHDI over the years because I believe continuing education is very important for medical transcriptionists. The easiest way to obtain the continuing education is through a local association. I am happy to service once again on both the local level and the state level to help provide affordable continuing education for MTs.

Rashell Coleman, Delegate

Hello Colorado Members,

My name is Rashell Coleman. I was first introduced to AAMT/AHDI in October 2006 when I attended my first WSAMT educational meeting and I have been serving every since. I became the Colorado Delegate for AHDI-Colorado in January 2008. Being apart of an organization that is not only focused on healthcare documentation but also on medical transcription is why I like this association. Although, my medical transcription career was short lived due to an injury I still understand the importance of the work each of you do every day. I hope in the role of Delegate and serving as a Director on the State Association board I will be able to represent you well within our community.

I am currently attending Mesa State College to get my teaching certificate. My goal is to help high school students get excited about careers in healthcare documentation by teaching science. With that focus in mind I recently attended a meeting sponsored by the Colorado Department of Education to develop the post-secondary and workforce readiness statement in the State of Colorado that focused on increasing the availability of training for the healthcare profession in the state.

Andrea Pieterick, CMT, Director At Large

I began my career as a court reporter for 10 years. I loved all the medical depositions. Took 9 years off to stay home with three little boys, and when they were all in school I went into medical transcription so I could work at home (this was in Wisconsin). I worked part-time for two internal medicine physicians, and in 1997 we moved to Colorado and I became full-time. I now work for Silent Type out of Englewood, NJ. Still at home, although my three "little boys" are now all in college! Just me, the cats, the dog, parakeet, and guinea pig!

I have been a CMT for nine years. I believe it is a very important goal that every MT should strive for. I decided to join the board because I didn't want to see the State Association vanish. I am not very "politically oriented," but I very much enjoy the meetings, getting to know other transcriptionists, hearing all the different speakers, and continuing to grow in the profession.

Charlene A. Brown, CMT

First, and foremost, I am a transcriptionist! I have been for 30-years and I think I always will be. Even in my corporate responsibilities each day, I view most of my endeavors from the point of view of a medical transcriptionist. That is who I am!

Charlene Brown (Continued)

I learned from my mom 30 years ago sitting at our dining room table with an Olivetti typewriter and a reel-to-reel dictation machine! I learned the trade from the very best MT I've ever known – thanks Mom! She taught me to strive for quality documentation because we owe it to the patient. That concept of quality is what I strive for every day in running my own company. I procrastinated in taking the CMT test until last October 2008 when I took it and passed the test....I cried tears of joy sitting at the computer at the testing center! I recently became involved with AHDI at the coaxing of one of our company independent contractors, Karen Fox. CMT, AHDI-F. She encouraged me to become involved and be a voice for our profession, and it just makes sense that we should all come together as one to better our world! Since I always jump in with both feet, I took the plunge and here I am less than 1-year later very, very involved and loving every minute of it. I look forward to the upcoming 2 years with anticipation and excitement to learn, legislate, and recruit for our ever-growing profession of medical transcription.

Brett McCutcheon, CMT, AHDI-F

Greeting to my fellow AHDI-Colorado members (and potentially the new AHDI Mountain States Region members)!

My name is Brett McCutcheon, and I am very proud to be serving on the AHDI-CO Board of Directors. In 1995, I answered a newspaper ad from a very small MTSO in Columbus, Ohio. Fortunately, the proprietor had faith in me, and my career began. A few years later, I moved to Denver and was offered my first position as supervisor/editor. This was a great experience, which led to my taking (and passing) the CMT exam, and that really fueled my interest in the profession. After a string of bad experiences, I found my way to my current employer, and I've never been happier. On my 2-year anniversary with TRS, I earned my AHDI Fellow designation.

I really had never before thought of myself as a leader. However, while at TRS, I started the TRS-AHDI corporate chapter, and our membership is up to almost 25% of the entire company! In 2008, I first served on a committee at the national level (Ethics Committee) and attended my first Advocacy Summit and ACE - two life-changing experiences! This year I was asked to chair the Ethics Committee, which I considered to be a huge compliment. When I heard that AHDI-CO was in need of volunteers, I quickly stepped up to serve on the Board of Directors. I am proud to serve my fellow Coloradans, and I believe we can make our state association better, larger, and stronger in the years to come! I would like to finish by pointing out that this is YOUR association. We are here to serve you and act as your voice, so please let us know if you have any ideas at all on how to make AHDI work for you!!

SPONSOR AND ADVERTISING INFORMATION

If you are interested in sponsoring or advertising in the AHDI-Colorado Newsletter, sponsorship for the convention is \$100 and includes an ad in the Convention Program and a logo on the website.

AHDI Colorado Newsletter advertising Rates

¼ -Page \$25

½ -Page \$50

Full Page \$100

Your sponsorship fee can be sent to: AHDI-Colorado C/O Michelle Jarvis
2872 Bear Canyon Court
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Advocacy Summit 2009

June 2-4, 2009

Arlington, VA

Who? What? When? Where? These are the questions I thought of when I was asked to participate in a “LIG webinar for the Advocacy Summit 2009.” I was so extremely nervous to participate in something that I had absolutely no idea what it was I was logging in to! One of our affiliate MTs, who is quite involved with AHDI just said to log in and see what I thought....problem is I didn’t have any thoughts at all! None!!! I did not even understand a lot of the lingo that they were throwing around during the webinar....I felt like a goldfish in a piranha tank, for sure! But, I hung in and continued listening and trying to absorb. Once I logged off the webinar, I immediately went to the AHDI home and did a little digging around to see what they were so excited about. I have to say that they absolutely piqued my interest! I was so curious, and most of all, I really wanted to know what they were talking about.....I suppose that is because I am, after all, at heart a transcriptionist, and I just think I need to know everything about everything....LOL! ;)

Who? YOU!! We are our own strongest advocate. Your voice is your friend and especially when it relates to issues relating to your profession. If you don’t speak your mind and hold your ground on issues that deal with your profession, you may as well just lie down and take it. If you are unhappy with the direction the profession is going, and you don’t say anything or do anything about it, then you only have yourself to blame, right?! Be your own advocate as well as the voice for others who aren’t willing to speak up.....gather information, meet your legislative representatives, and find out what is going on in government that could affect your income and your profession! Take it seriously folks, because if you don’t do something about it, someone else will!

What is advocacy? By definition, according to Webster’s, it is the act of advocating in support of a cause or a recommendation. An advocate, according to Webster’s is a person who speaks or writes in support of some cause, argument, or proposal. So advocate, join us, speak up, stand your ground, support your profession, and let’s all make a difference!

Advocacy Summit (Continued)

When and where is Advocacy Summit 2009? The event runs from June 2 through 4, 2009. We will be staying in Arlington, Virginia and traveling to the Hill on June 3 & 4. But, you don't have to travel to Arlington to make your voice heard!

We do letter writing campaigns, e-mail campaigns, and we need help doing research and finding out whom to talk to about the issues at hand.

We also have a monthly LIG (Legislative Issues Group) meeting via webinar and you are all welcome to sit in and be as confused as I was at first; and then after a few visits, you'll have it all down and know all the terminology and be oh-so-comfortable with it! There is on-the-job training being provided in the form of webinars that will begin very shortly to get us all prepped and ready to go meet and greet on Capitol Hill – you don't want to miss it! Next webinar February 16, 2009, at 9 a.m. PST (11 a.m. MST) – see you there, too!

Where is Advocacy Summit 2009? We will be “marching on Capitol Hill” and meeting with Congressmen and women, their aides, and State Senators. It will be so exciting and full of energy. There is an evening bus trip planned to visit all of the landmarks in Washington, DC. The cost for the summit is only \$40 (amazingly inexpensive, considering we are making our own history while participating in this event). Of course, air fare and hotel will be extra. We look forward to seeing you there and if you have more questions, please don't hesitate to contact me (char@pikespeaktransco.com), or Brett McCutcheon (brett.mccutcheon@gmail.com). Again, you don't have to travel to participate! Please participate and let your voice be heard in e-mails, letter-writing campaigns, and sitting in on the webinars so that you may be an informed advocate.

Below is an outline of the guidelines we are working on as well as the actual groups that have been put together so far. We need lots and lots of volunteers to sit in on and help create these focus groups and get this moving! So, join us and let's get advocating!

Focus Group Guidelines

- Determine what key points will come from the topic
- Obtain current data to support key points
- Establish a plan to educate members on the topic
- Research key/champion legislators to target
- Identify current legislation or action that connects to key points
- Create introduction and closing messages specific to topic – 2-minute elevator speeches
- Identify champion allies to collaborate with
- Map out plan match members to champion legislators
- Create and execute followup
- Establish a year-long relationship with key legislative aides

LIG 2008-2009 FOCUS GROUPS

I. Document Standards

- a. **CCHIT & Narrative/EHR** - Sherry Doggett, Kat King, Kristin Hagen, Debbie Hahn
(Admin Role – Sheryl Williams)
- b. **Health Information Technology** - Kim Bundy, Beth Watts, Richard Browne, Kristin Hagen (Admin Role – Sheryl Williams)

Advocacy Summit (continued)

- c. **Patient Safety/Risk Management** – Brenda Hurley, Lisa Johnson Williams, JoAnn MacBeth (*Admin Role – Karen Fox*)

Workforce Development

- a. **Credentialing** - Bonnie Monico, Gigi DeLuca, Brett McCutcheon, Tammy Moore (*Admin Role – Kelly Kappmeier*)
- b. **Military Spouse Initiative** – Tammy Moore, Steve Dunkle, Carol Croft, Genny Smith (*Admin Role – Kelly Kappmeier*)
- c. **Business Incentives** - Dave Woodrow, Charlene Brown, Trudi Griffith, (*Admin Role – Sheryl Williams*)
- d. **Continuing Education** - Judy Maudlin, Brenda Wynn, Mary Monroe, Jacque Taylor - (*Admin Role – Karen Fox*)

DO’S AND DON’T (When Transcribing Medical Reports)

- 1. DO: The patient had 500 mL of normal saline.
DON’T: The patient had 500 cc of normal saline.
(NOTE: cc is a dangerous abbreviation, never use cc).
- 2. DO: The patient was given 0.0125 mg of Xanax.
DON’T: The patient was given .0125 mg of Xanax.
- 3. DO: The baby weighed 6 pounds 8 ounces.
DON’T: The baby weighed 6 lbs. and 8 oz.
- 4. DO: The patient had a head injury in the 1990s.
DON’T: The patient had a head injury in the 1990’s.
- 5. DO: The patient drinks approximately three 16 ounce Pepsi’s per day.
DON’T: The patient drinks approximately 3 16 oz Pepsi’s per day.
- 6. DO: The patient will be seen by Dr. Anderson and Dr. Wilson.
DON’T: The patient will be seen by Drs. Anderson and Wilson.
- 7. DO: The patient states that she takes 3 tablets daily.
DON’T: The patient states that she takes 3 tablets qd.
(qd is a dangerous abbreviation, do not use)
- 8. DO: The patient stated that he is the only one left in his family.
DON’T: The patient stated that he is the only 1 left in his family.
- 9. DO: The patient has zero response to any type pain medication.
DON’T: The patient has 0 response to any type of pain medication.
- 10. DO: The patient stated, “I don’t want an IV.”
DON’T: The patient stated “I don’t want an IV”.

**19th Annual Colorado- Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity
CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
June 12 and 13, 2009
Grand Vista Hotel**

2790 Crossroads Blvd. @ Horizon Drive
Grand Junction, CO 81506
1-800-800-7796 970-241-8411 Direct

Mail to: Michelle Jarvis AHDI-Colorado Treasurer
2872 Bear Canyon Court
Grand Junction, CO 81503

(Make check payable to AHDI-Colorado)

NAME: _____ **AHDI #:** _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Home phone: _____ **Work phone:** _____
e-mail: _____

***AHDI membership number MUST be provided to receive member rate.**
****INSTITUTIONAL members may send only ONE person at the member rate.**
Others must be at the nonmember rate (unless they are AHDI members).

____ Please check here if you are disabled and require special services. Attach a written description of your needs.

____ Check here for a special needs diet. Attach a written description of your needs.

Early bird special: Registrations received before May 11th may subtract **\$10.00 per conference day** from the appropriate category.

PLEASE NOTE:

Lunch is included in the registration. Lunch for walk-ins cannot be guaranteed.
ALL REGISTRATIONS ARE FINAL. NO REFUNDS FOR NO-SHOWS. NO SUBSTITUTIONS ALLOWED.

REGISTRATION FEES

AHDI MEMBER		NONMEMBER		STUDENT MEMBER AND NONMEMBER	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday and Saturday \$125	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday and Saturday \$150	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday and Saturday \$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday only \$65	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday only \$75	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday only \$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday only \$65	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday only \$75	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday only \$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Bird Registration Must be received before May 1st	<input type="checkbox"/>	I will be staying at the Grand Vista hotel.		

Please check the appropriate boxes.

Student registrations MUST be accompanied by proof of student status.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: The AHDI-CO convention will be held at the Grand Vista Hotel, 2790 Crossroads Blvd. @ Horizon Drive in Grand Junction, Colorado. **For reservations:** Telephone 1-800-800-7796 or the local number is 970-241-8411. Rooms will be \$89.00 per night plus 10.65% tax. When you call to make your reservation, be sure to use the reservation #1735. To receive the special rate, your reservation must be made by May 28. We have a block of rooms reserved and really need to fill them to get the special rates on our meeting rooms.