

Alliance with the Medical Society of the State of New York

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Onondaga County

Our Mission:

to support our physicians and promote health in our communities

MSSNY Council – Alliance Report

September 15, 2016

The 2016 AMA Alliance Annual Meeting was held in Chicago, June 11-14. The theme of the 93rd annual meeting was "Focus on the Future". In her speech, Julie Newman, outgoing AMA Alliance President, said that "this event is an opportunity to celebrate what makes the Alliance unique: the connection as united and empowered physician families". Rosemary Xavier, incoming AMA Alliance President, said that "now is the time to move forward, and embrace the vision to take the next journey". The AMAA has developed a 3-year Strategic plan that will move the organization into the future. The main focus is on increasing membership and to continue strengthening partnerships with the AMA and shared common interests.

The keynote speaker, Sam Quinones, journalist and author of "Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic", described how the over-prescribing of pain medications in the 1990s and the "massive influx of black tar heroin", in combination "continue to lay waste to communities from Tennessee to Oregon, Indiana to New Mexico". His talk helped to serve as an introduction of the new Alliance Education Project: The Opioid Abuse Epidemic. The AMA Alliance, in partnership with the AMA's Task Force to Reduce Prescription Opioid Abuse, has developed an Opioid Abuse Awareness Program. It is the AMAA's belief that its strength as an organization, at all levels, is in the education and mobilization of its members to confront a public health crisis. The task force has developed a brochure, an informational card and a DVD for members to share with families and the physician community. These materials are meant to raise awareness and focus on prevention as well as the signs of opioid abuse and addiction. The AMAA states that, "this is an opportunity to once again take a leadership role on an issue that impacts all families regardless of ethnic, racial or socio-economic background".

The Alliance with the Medical Society of the State of New York held its Long Range Planning teleconference meeting on August 2, 2016. The AMA Alliance is encouraging state Alliances to take the informational materials from the Task Force to their Medical Societies to help encourage physicians to restrict the use of opioids. It should be noted that the New York State Alliance and Medical Society have been proactive in this area with the mandated 7 day limited opioid prescriptions.

Increasing membership is one of the goals of Barbara Ellman, Co-President. She has suggested that one of the ways to increase membership would be for Alliance members to accompany MSSNY leadership to County Society meetings as guests and hopefully encourage new members to join. Unfortunately, the Jefferson County Alliance has made the decision to disband. Kathy Rohrer, Alliance Executive Director, has indicated that she will consider them Members-At-Large and bill them accordingly.

Please save the date. The Alliance will hold its annual Fall Conference on October 16-17 at the Parker Inn/Aperitivo Bistro in Schenectady. You may make your reservations by calling the Parker Inn and Suites at 518-688-1001. Mention that you are part of the State Medical Alliance to secure the group rate of \$119, plus tax. Additional details will be available soon. Please mark your calendars. In the meantime, please contact Kathy Rohrer, Alliance Executive Director, if you have any questions. She can be reached at 1-516-488-6100 x396 or by e-mail at krohrer@mssny.org

Respectively submitted,

Valerie Semeran, Bonnie Liebers, Barbara Ellman, Co-Presidents

United for a Healthy Future