

8th District Branch Council Report
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The MSCE was advised on October 20th that a local payroll company has abruptly closed. A few practices have noted that payroll checks were not received, phone numbers were reported out of service. It was learned that payroll taxes and pension payments had not be made. A survey has been sent to the membership to determine how many practices may have been affected. Further information will be reported.

The MSCE is pleased to report that they have placed the name of Nancy H. Nielsen, M.D. PhD, in nomination for the 2017 John P. MCGovern Compleat Physician Award which is presented by Houston Academy of Medicine. This prestigious award recognizes a physician who has made extraordinary contributions to medicine and humanity, who has enriched the field of medicine with excellence and humaness.

Pain management for the disabled in WNY was the most recent issue brought before the MSCE Opioid Task Force. A local agency advised the task force that due to unforeseen circumstances over 100 patients, who require pain management, have been discharged to the primary care community. It was reported that most of these patients are either unable to, or have limited communication skills and require additional time in the office/home setting for medical services due to co-morbidities. Although the discharged patients were provided with a care plan, problems in accessing care have been reported. Representatives of the NYS Health Department, the NYS OPWDD and MSCE are meeting with the Agency to determine how to provide continuing care to this patient population.

As was previously reported, the Gosy Pain Treatment Center which had re-opened under the direction of Dr. James Hitt is providing care in a timely manner and in terms of clinical flow is stable. The practice was at 10 advanced practitioners in 2015, but may have really amounted to 6.5 based on production and duties. Currently there are 4 NPs, with the hope to add 1-2 providers over the next year. WorkersqCompensation carriers continue to be a negative drain on the business, with sub-par reimbursements and delay tactics. There has been some interest by outside investors to assist in helping the practice out of the deficit created over the past 6 months. The practice has identified a physiatrist (and chiropractor) who shares the vision for multidisciplinary treatment and physical rehabilitation. Doctors Nancy Nielsen and Robert Milch continue to provide assistance to the practice when help is requested.

MSCE Board and committee members continue to meet with elected officials and attend local fundraisers. Those members who have been endorsed by MSSNY have been presented with their plaques. A legislative breakfast has been scheduled for January.