

8th District Branch, MSSNY
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On August 13, 2018 the MSCE hosted a meeting with representatives of the DEA to better understand the DEA's role in audits and investigations of buprenorphine providers. Representing the medical community were: Thomas Madejski, MD, MSSNY President, Gale Burstein, MD, Chair, Public Health Committee (MSCE) and Commissioner-Erie County Department of Health; Nancy Nielsen, MD, PhD, Senior Associate Dean for Health Policy, Medicine, SUNY at Buffalo; and Christine Nadolny. Representing the DEA were: Edward Orgon, Resident Agent in Charge-US DEA, Joseph Cowell, Group Supervisor . US DEA Diversion Squad and Michael Cereo, Group Supervisor, US DEA Tactical Diversion Squad. Discussion provided insight as to the types of visits a prescriber might receive from the DEA and the reasons why audits are conducted. There was mutual agreement that an event be scheduled for Fall 2018, whereby the DEA representatives will present at a meeting of all physicians in the District.

The MSCE hosted a luncheon with the first-year medical students at the Jacobs School of Medicine on Tuesday, August 14, 2018. Mandatory for all students to attend, this was an exceptional opportunity to review the benefits of membership and resulted in a number of medical students expressing their interest in serving on MSCE committees, to be involved in designing a new website and social media presence and designing a new logo for the MSCE. Currently first year membership stands at over 85 of the 180 first year students.

Meetings continue with BlueCross BlueShield of WNY and the MSCE. On August 21, 2018 Drs. Bartels and Gillespie met with Mark Perry, MD (BCBS Medical Director) to discuss their adoption of new transparency initiatives which include the use of the CAVE consulting tool which will assist in improving quality and efficiency of selected specialties. Initially the insurer will be working with cardiology and gastroenterology practices throughout WNY. Also reviewed were the HEDIS changes for 2019, which the insurer was quick to point out had not yet been finalized. They did not that there will be additional services that will allow for telehealth visit reimbursement. Plans were also finalized for a town hall meeting for representatives of the leadership of the 8th District, and a key primary care physician with the leadership of BCBS. The meeting will take place on Friday, October 26, 2018 in the MSCE conference center.

The MSCE welcomed 52 new members as a result of the agreement which was reached with General Physician, PC. The multispecialty group came on board as of July 1st.

Discussions have begun in earnest with the residency program directors at both the Jacobs School and the Catholic Health System. Both organizations have identified programming needs that offer the opportunity for the MSCE's standing committees to meet with the directors and establish programming to begin in early winter and into the 2019 calendar year.

The MSCE is proud to announce that Doctor Gale Burstein, MD (Chair, Public Health & Education) and Erie County Commissioner of Health was presented with the National Association of County and City Health Officials Large Local Health Department of the Year at their 2018 annual conference. The award recognized the collaborative community-wide leadership in developing programs and strategies to combat the opioid epidemic.

The MSCE is proud to recognize Daniel P. Schaefer, M.D. who was recently elected President-Elect of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. The group has 650 members and approximately 100 international associates. Doctor Schaefer has been designated by the Executive Board to be the first recipient of the 5th STARS AMONG US+MSCE campaign recognizing the accomplishments of members of the MSCE.

The MSCE presented the first training session on Sexual Harassment to members of the Executive Board and their practice administrators on July 19, 2019. Presenters were Bar Association of Erie County Health Law chair and co-chair of the MSCE Health Law committee, Ms. Jennifer Scharf and Attorney Lisa Cappola. Dates are being finalized for additional programming to take place this fall.