

County Federation Report

Executive Representative

June 3, 2021

Aaron Kumar, MD, MBA, Executive Director (Suffolk)

- We first would like to thank Dr. Bonnie Litvack for her work, dedication and support to all the counties and the members we serve.
- We would also like to congratulate and welcome Dr. Joseph Seller as the new MSSNY President. We look forward to continuing and growing, the relationship the Counties and MSSNY share.
- The Executive Directors of the Federation met on May 6, 2021.
 - At the meeting we discussed the MSSNY database search that would increase efficiency and enhance efforts, both at the state and county levels. We thank Mr. Oechsner for including the counties in reviewing capabilities of candidates.
 - HOD developments, questions and concerns were discussed. A HOD update meeting was requested.
 - Proposed Workers Compensation changes, which were first presented downstate, have risen upstate. “Delegated Credentialing” continues to be a concern on the work process, quality screening, and financial impact on the counties.
- Mr. Oechsner and Dr. Kumar continue to meet regularly and have increased the frequency to bi-monthly discussions on collaborations, processes and enhancements for the State and County Medical Societies.
- May 10, 2021 Dr. Kumar met with Dr. James Tacci, the Medical Director, Executive Medical Policy Director of the New York State Workers’ Compensation Board. At the meeting Dr. Tacci and Dr. Kumar discussed the proposed changes, objectives and impacts of these proposed changes. Dr. Tacci welcomed a follow up conversation with additional leadership on both sides.
- On May 18th the Federation of County Executives met with Laurie, Michael, and Troy to discuss 2021 HOD updates and concerns. We thank them for their work in managing, preparing and adapting to the numerous challenges that are involved with this year’s House of Delegates. A major point of concern was/is the limitations in hotel availability due to external events, financial risk/benefits ratio of blocking too many rooms, and the equal and appropriate representation of virtual delegates at the HOD. To address this, suggestions were made for alternate hotel accommodations not in the immediate area as well as the possibilities of shared rooms, blocking a new set of rooms at another hotel and scheduling changes for the HOD. Unfortunately, this will affect the camaraderie and networking normally shared at the in-person House; However, the business of the House to be able to be carried out with equal delegate representation. As this year’s House of Delegates is a hybrid version of in-person and virtual, there was a reassurance that all delegates will have equal authority and representation.