With 2016 now behind us, I’d like to reflect on a few things as we slide into 2017. The IAMSS Board of Directors developed five strategic initiatives to help position our Association, and to identify key areas for the Board to focus on in the years to come, they are:

Go Green. Move from paper intense to paper light. We’ve made a lot of great strides at improving the way we provide information via our state website to limit the amount of paper we are printing. Especially during conference time! We will be sending out a mass mailing to try to help increase the awareness of IAMSS and the benefits of our Association to individuals in our field that might not be aware that we exist. I want to thank Rachel Barta, IAMSS Membership Chair, for her work and leadership on that effort. But wait, there is more. We can now accept online payment on our IAMSS website! This has been a work-in-progress since we transitioned to the new website—and over this past year, Melinda Wheeler, IAMSS Treasurer, made our dream a reality! Thank you, Melinda, for all your hard work getting that service set-up.

Succession Planning & Orientation. Allowing new Board membership to participate in a Board meeting prior to stepping into their new roles has proven to be a very beneficial strategy for all parties involved. I think it helps with the transition, and provides some opportunities for guidance and training prior to taking on new roles on the Board. We will continue to enhance this process as we see opportunities to do so. We also want to welcome Connie McLaughlin and Stephanie Giberson to the Board!

Continued Education. We have sent out a survey to get some feedback on hosting another Credentialing 101 or Provider Enrollment 101 class in 2017. There are plans for a discussion forum at the 2017 conference to understand what our members view as “Advanced Credentialing”. We’ve had many requests for this course; however, such a course hasn’t been developed by NAMSS or anyone in our industry due to the fact that “Advanced Credentialing” can take on several different meanings. We will collect ideas from you on what you view as Advanced Credentialing and see if there is an opportunity to create our own course! More to come on that.

Networking. Networking is vitally important to us and the reason our Association exists. To provide a community for people in our profession to ask questions, provide feedback and advice on day-to-day issues we encounter. It takes a village, and I’m happy to have the IAMSS village to reach out to and also to give back to when I have information to contribute. Don’t forget about the IAMSS Discussion Forum on our website!! This is a very useful platform to network.

Develop Partnerships. With the transition of going from a one-day conference in the Spring and Fall, to an annual two-day conference, IAMSS is in a position to be more appealing to outside organizations and vendors. We are looking to add more Vendor Partnerships as our conference grows. Jodi Ridder, Past President, is doing an amazing job of developing information and engaging those outside entities on ways that they can participate in our annual conference. Thank you, Jodi!

2016 was a big year with many great things to reflect on and appreciate. As with all things, there isn’t time to sit idle for too long. We have already kicked off the planning process for the annual conference in April (April 6th and 7th – SAVE THE DATE). We will be providing more information in the upcoming months. I hope to see you all there!

Brandi Zevenbergen, MS, CPMSM, CPCS, MSOW-C
IAMSS President
1. Family: Married with two married children, a daughter and a son; blessed with six grandchildren (3 boys, 3 girls ranging in age from 3 to 18). Our son and daughter-in-law are in the process of adoption and are anticipating a baby at any time.

2. Likes: I love music and playing the piano (mostly by ear), and also love raising flowers.

3. Dislikes: Snow and cold winters in Northwest Iowa.

4. How long have you been in this profession? Following a brief reprieve to be home with my young children, I returned to healthcare at Sioux Center Health. In February 2017, I will begin my 37th year at SCH.

5. Advice to New Members? Take every opportunity possible to attend IAMSS Conferences to receive education and hands-on experience from keynote speakers and associated IAMSS members—this is the best part of being in IAMSS.

6. Something you may not know about me: I received no prior educational experience in healthcare other than the school of hard knocks. I've learned medical terminology pretty much by listening along with a reliable medical dictionary and assistance from kind and patient staff.

National Medical Staff Services Awareness Week

Medical Services Professionals (MSPs) all over the nation recently celebrated their profession November 6-12, 2016. National Association Medical Staff Services (NAMSS) shared a State of the Profession Report and Fast Facts on the Medical Services Profession, in addition to numerous other resources to help each of our facilities share in the recognition.

“MSPs follow processes. Remarkable MSPs find ways to make these processes better—because they can’t help themselves!”

Donna Goestenkors, CPMSM | Medical Staff Services Professional & Healthcare Consultant at Team Med Global Consulting

HAVE YOU COMPLETED THE SURVEY YET?

Melinda Wheeler, CPCS, emailed a survey on January 17th with just two simple questions regarding Credentialing 101. If you haven’t had the opportunity yet, click here, and you will be directed to the Survey Monkey survey. Thank you to those who’ve responded—your feedback is very helpful!

PROVIDER ENROLLMENT—

A revised CMS-855R (4/16) Application was posted to the CMS website in August 2016. Sections 4 and 5 are now optional. Click here to access the new application.
Contact Rachel Barta, IAMSS Membership Chair, for a flyer on ‘5 Reasons to Become an IAMSS Member’. This is a wonderful tool to pass along to someone who you think may benefit from being a Member of IAMSS. The IAMSS Board recognizes the changing landscape of medicine, credentialing, and general job tasks of a Medical Services Professional, and we are scheduling speakers for the 2017 IAMSS Educational Conference to cover topics applicable to each of your focuses.

On October 31, 2016, NAMSS shared an update regarding the new Verification of Graduate Medical Education Training Form, recently released in April 2016:

The National Association Medical Staff Services (NAMSS), in partnership with the American Hospital Association, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, and the Organization of Program Director Associations, released a new Verification of Graduate Medical Education Training Form in April 2016. This form, developed over the past several years, seeks to standardize the process for the verification of a practitioner’s internship, residency and fellowship experience in compliance with healthcare accreditation organizations’ standards. Over time, each hospital, managed care organization and other healthcare entities developed their own unique forms for obtaining verification of training. This created an inefficient system in which training programs received multiple variations on requests for the same information, slowing the credentialing and onboarding of practitioners and creating extra work for all involved. This new verification form eliminates these inefficiencies through standardization. Since its release, the form has already been downloaded over 6,000 times and is being implemented in hospitals and other healthcare organizations across the country.

The Verification of Graduate Medical Education Training Form is available for download HERE.
A Message from Chris Hinton, CPCS, CPMSM
It has been my pleasure to serve at your NAMSS Director at Large over the past three years. Your new Director at Large will be Debbie Kesselring. She will bring her years of experience and enthusiasm to her position and is excited to visit your state conference during her term.

- Register for the March 10-11, 2017 NAMSS Education Summit in Orlando, Florida no later than January 27th and earn a discount.
- NAMSS Leadership Certificate Program In-Person Course will be held in conjunction with the Education Summit.
- Check out the NAMSS Website for their NAMSS FIRE sale.

NAMSS is eager to serve you, if you have any questions don’t hesitate in contacting them.

Born in a Barn Quilts by Jill Walton, Winneshiek Medical Center

I always admired the beautiful quilts on barns, sheds, houses and fences on our trips across the Midwest. I’d even make my husband drive the secondary roads to find new ones to gawk at. So, in 2001, when we finally got our dream acreage with a beautiful barn on it, I knew I wanted to challenge myself and make one. Thankfully, my daughter was in 4-H a few years later and for a county project, the 4-H clubs made barn quilts for anyone willing to donate the money for the material. She learned the basics of what kind of plywood, how to prime it, draw out the design and painting it. They were very large 8 foot square quilts. The next year she and I tackled a smaller 4 foot square eight point star for her own 4-H project to take to the fair. I was hooked! I started out just making smaller 2 foot square blocks and giving them to friends. Then the word got out and I was one busy painter. I’ve done anything from John Deere tractors to Nebraska Husker (I gagged the entire time!) designs. Some have gone for charities and fund raising, church bizarre items and three of them have been donated to the Association of Iowa Fairs Conference live auction held every year in Des Moines. (I even made a Notre Dame Fighting Irish for a priest’s Jubilee celebration!) Making them for wedding gifts is my favorite.

Yet, I still hadn’t made one for my own barn. What bad advertising is that? So a few years ago, I finally took the time to make one per my husband’s request. I mean if he had to drill holes in the new red tin, it better be for what he wants! He loves it and it’s been a great backdrop for many a picture of our family and friends. Painting is a wonderful getaway if my day gets stressful, I can just go paint. Except if someone comes into my “studio”...my husband and daughters said my famous quote is “Don’t touch it!”.
Creative Hospital Fills Big Bags with Blessings

Excerpt from IHA Blog post—Click here for full article.

Employees at Mercy Medical Center—Clinton pull together to create ‘blessing bags ’ for those in need. ‘Blue wrap’, a waterproof, plastic mesh material is typically thrown away after use. “We’ve always looked for something that we could do with it,” notes Leigh Anne Piper, Mercy’s director of perioperative and cardiac services. “It’s such a sturdy fabric that throwing it away seemed wasteful.”

Twenty-four employees brought in sewing machines and sewed bags together, while numerous other employees donated supplies and volunteered time over lunch to fill the bags. Each bag contains a bottle of water, a blanket, hat, gloves, socks, toiletries, flashlight, food and a reference list to find help, if needed. More than 108 bags were created and filled and are now ready to be given to patients in need.

IAMSS Welcomes New Board Members
Effective January 1, 2017, the following individuals joined the IAMSS Board of Directors:

- Connie McLaughlin—Secretary
- Stephanie Giberson—Website

Thank you to their immediate predecessors, Karen Russell (Secretary) and Lisa French (Website), for the smooth transitions. Welcome aboard, ladies!

DEA Online Renewal Application
The Federal DEA no longer sends its second renewal notification by mail. Instead, an electronic reminder to renew is sent to the email address associated with the DEA registration. This change was effective January 2017. Click here for more information.

EDITOR’S NOTE:
2017 is my final year as Newsletter Chair. I encourage any of you who crave a little more creativity in your job, to consider running for the position. You will learn a lot, make great connections, and have fun! Elections will be held later this year.

GREAT LEADERS DON’T SET OUT TO BE A LEADER...THEY SET OUT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. ITS NEVER ABOUT THE ROLE—ALWAYS ABOUT THE GOAL.

Forward topics, articles, or photos to me for future publications!

Teri Allan, BA, CPCS | tallan@regmedctr.org
10 Things Mentally Strong People Won’t Do

Click [here](#) to read full article by Travis Bradberry at Forbes.com.

1) They don’t dwell on mistakes.
2) They don’t hang around negative people.
3) They don’t stop believing in themselves.
4) They don’t wait for an apology to forgive.
5) They don’t feel sorry for themselves.
6) They don’t hold grudges.
7) They won’t let anyone limit their joy...
8) ...and they don’t limit the joy of others.
9) They don’t get lazy.
10) They don’t get negative