Don’t Lose that Lovin’ Feeling

CCMS Executive Director Alexandra Silver asks members to take the time to remember why they love the practice of medicine.

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The Vaping Epidemic

From 2017 to 2018, e-cigarette use increased by an alarming 78 percent for high schoolers, and 48 percent for middle schoolers. Learn why this dangerous habit is becoming a serious threat to our community.

Inside Cover

NSMA 2019 Legislative Matters

From opioid law refinement to mandatory e-prescribing, learn what issues are at the front of our legislative efforts for 2019.

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

The Vaping Epidemic

By Jeffrey Roth, M.D.
President, Clark County Medical Society
Member Since 2003

The Surgeon General of the United States has declared that vaping is an epidemic among U.S. teens.

An epidemic refers to an increase, often suddenly, in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected in that population in that area. A pandemic refers to an epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, usually affecting many people.

Vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol, often referred to as vapor, produced by an e-cigarette or similar device. The term is used because e-cigarettes do not produce tobacco smoke, but rather an aerosol, often mistaken for water vapor, that actually consists of fine particles. Many of these particles contain varying amounts of toxic chemicals, which have been linked to cancer, as well as respiratory and heart disease.

Vaping has grown in popularity with the rise of e-cigarettes, which were introduced to the mass market in the U.S. in 2007. Vaping devices include not just e-cigarettes, but also vape pens and advanced personal vaporizers (also known as ‘MODS’). E-cigarettes, which resemble smoked cigarettes, and vape pens, which resemble large fountain pens, are typically simpler in design and less expensive than devices that have been customized by the user.

“Many teenagers and young adults report that ENDS flavors are a compelling reason why they try—and then continue to use—these products. This is very similar to the old tobacco sales strategy of making candy cigars and cigarettes.”

Generally a vaping device consists of a mouthpiece, a battery, a cartridge for containing the e-liquid or e-juice, and a heating component for the device that is powered by a battery. When the device is used, the battery heats up the heating component, which turns the contents of the e-liquid into an aerosol that is inhaled into the lungs and then exhaled.

The e-liquid in vaporizer products usually contains a propylene glycol or vegetable glycerin-based liquid with nicotine, flavoring and other chemicals and metals, but not tobacco. Some people use these devices to vape THC, the chemical responsible for most of marijuana’s mind-altering effects, or even synthetic drugs like flakka, instead of nicotine.

The newest and most popular vaping product is the JUUL, a small, sleek device that resembles a computer USB flash drive. Its subtle design makes it easy to hide, which helps explain why it has become so popular among middle and high school students. It now accounts for about 72 percent of the market share of vaping products in the United States, and comes in several enticing flavors like; crème brûlée, mango and fruit medley. Every JUUL product contains a high dose of nicotine, with one pod or flavor cartridge containing about the same amount of nicotine as a pack of cigarettes.

According to the National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) released by the U.S. Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product among youth since 2014. In 2018, 20.8 percent of high schoolers and 4.9 percent of middle schoolers reported current use of e-cigarettes. From 2017 to 2018, e-cigarette use increased by an alarming 78 percent for high schoolers and 48 percent for middle schoolers. Over 3.6 million high school and middle school students currently use e-cigarettes. The increase in e-cigarette use has driven a 38 percent increase in use of any tobacco product among high school students (from 19.6 percent in 2017 to 27.1 percent in 2018).

The same survey found that among those students who had used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days in 2018, 27.7 percent of high schoolers and 16.2 percent of middle schoolers were frequent users of e-cigarettes, using e-cigarettes on at least 20 of the preceding 30 days. This amounts to more than 900,000 middle and high school students who were frequent users of e-cigarettes. The American Medical Association and other medical organizations have called on the FDA to act. Under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, the FDA has authority to regulate all tobacco products, including electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) such as e-cigarettes.

The use of e-cigarettes and vaping products is unsafe and can cause addiction. The AMA has called upon the FDA and other stakeholders to counteract the marketing and use of e-cigarette and vaping devices, including but not limited to bans and strict restrictions on marketing to minors under the age of 21, and to prohibit the use of flavoring agents in tobacco products, including e-cigarettes.

Many teenagers and young adults report that ENDS flavors are a compelling reason why they try—and then continue to use—these products. This is very similar to the old tobacco sales strategy of making candy cigars and cigarettes.

Big tobacco recognizes opportunity when it sees it. Tobacco giant Altria (formally Philip Morris), recently invested $12.8 billion in JUUL, taking a 35% stake in the company. As part of the deal, Altria agreed to give top-shelf space so JUUL pods are displayed alongside Altria’s Marlboro cigarettes. It will also help JUUL with its distribution and logistics, including Altria’s sales organization that covers about 230,000 retail locations. The deal will also likely help JUUL navigate legal and regulatory challenges.

Criticism of the deal was swift. Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids President Matt Myers called the combination a “truly alarming development for public health.”

“There is no longer any question that JUUL has been the driving force behind the skyrocketing youth e-cigarette epidemic that has teens and families across the country struggling to deal with nicotine addiction,” Myers said, “JUUL’s growth has been powered by its success in addicting kids, and the company’s owners have just become billionaires as a result.”

We have recognized what vaping is, a powerful tool for addiction and subsequent disease. We know the origin of the disease, and how the epidemic is spread. It is now time as medical professionals to act. Individually, we can act by talking with our patients. Many patients and their families do not even know there are nicotine and other toxic substances in the vaping liquid. We can act on a larger public health platform, both locally and nationally. Organized medicine is poised to intervene in this capacity. Please be part of the solution. Please help us combat this epidemic.

Jeffrey J. Roth, M.D.
President
Clark County Medical Society

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!
Online renewal available at www.nvdoctors.org
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Don’t Lose that Lovin’ Feeling

By Alexandra P. Silver | Executive Director
Clark County Medical Society

OK, so maybe the subject of this month’s article is a bit of a cliché since it’s February and you may believe the holiday is a bit cheesy or materialistic, but think about it for one moment -- it is the one day of the year we celebrate L-O-V-E! It offers the perfect excuse to take a minute and think about those we love and for what we love. Instead of focusing on the pressures of making a reservation for the impossible-to-get restaurant, or overpaying for roses (my husband is lucky, I do not want flowers), stop and smell the proverbial roses and think about what makes you happy, what ignites your passion. I invite you to take a step back for a moment and ask yourself if you still love practicing medicine. If not, what is missing in your practice or your career that CCMS can help with to reignite your passion for medicine and caring for your patients? With the onset of stricter regulations, low reimbursement rates, managing staff, staying compliant and the shortage of doctors here in Clark County, have you lost that loving feeling for your chosen profession?

In order for the Clark County Medical Society to prescribe the right ‘love potion’, we must understand what is keeping you, our members, up at night. Is it how AB 474 is affecting your practice and care for your vulnerable patients? Is it low reimbursement rates, or competition from nurse practitioners? Is it managing your life work balance, debt from medical school, or wanting to invest in new technologies for fear of being left behind by the latest high-tech treatments if you don’t? Could it be you are tired and stressed because medicine has changed since you first took the Hippocratic Oath? CCMS, your medical society, needs to know why you feel this way, and I want to know what issues are important to our members. I want to know what issues are important to our doctors, because that will help me better meet your needs as a valued member of our society.

This month we have several opportunities that will help you ‘get it on’ and move the needle on these important issues. On February 25, join us in Carson City as we get up-close and personal with legislators to educate them on the issues that are of concern to physicians. Spend the day with your colleagues and friends from across the state and ensure lawmakers hear your compassion and your concern for your patients and community so they can make educated decisions on upcoming health care policies.

On February 27, join us and the Las Vegas Medical District for a town hall on new medical technologies, where you can learn about cutting-edge innovations that will help you care for your patients right here at home.

Physicians are the heartbeat of our community, and you as our members are the heart and soul of our organization. You are our healers, our protectors and economic drivers. Take advantage of your membership and join a committee, attend an event, engage on social media, and recommit your affection and dedication to this worthwhile organization that is here to serve you.

At last, with gratitude and respect,

Alexandra P. Silver
Executive Director

Alexandra P. Silver is the Executive Director of the Clark County Medical Society and can be reached at Alexandra.Silver@clarkcountymedical.org or 702-739-9989 ext. 101

LET’S GET SOCIAL

Don’t forget to follow Clark County Medical Society and let us know when your practice has news!

Facebook: /ccmsnevada
Twitter: @ccmsnevada
Instagram: @ccmsnevada
A synopsis of the January 15th Executive Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Roth at 6:16 p.m.

Announcement: Dr. Roth congratulated staff member Josh MacEachern on his one-year anniversary working at CCMS, and promotion to Communications & Marketing Manager.

Introduction: Dr. Roth welcomed Dr. Julio Garcia to the CCMS Board of Trustees. Dr. Garcia has been in Las Vegas since 1988, and is a Board Certified Plastic Surgeon. He has served as Vice Chief of staff at Humana Sunrise Hospital, and Chief of Plastic Surgery at both Humana Sunrise and Valley Hospitals. He has also served as the Senior Tactical Physician for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's SWAT team, assuring that the SWAT team members have access to immediate life saving care in the field. He has also served on the Medical-Legal Screening Board, and is the current chairman of the Aesthetic Surgery Education and Research Foundation (ASERF), the research and education arm of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS).

Special Building Report: The CCMS office was burglarized over the holiday weekend on 12/31/18 and 1/1/19. A police report has been filed, and staff has reviewed security footage with the police. New locks have been installed and keys issued, and the Building Committee is reviewing overall security. Insurance has been notified.

Action Items:

Minutes: by Dr. Roth
The Minutes from the December 18, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the December 18, 2018 minutes (M/S Reeves/Adashek - Approved)

Financial Report: by Dr. Kuhls (written report submitted with verbal additions)
Written Report:
Profit & Loss Budget Performance (Page 1)
Income Highlights (Round numbers)
• 3310 Dues from active members - $81,460.00, YTD $115,892.36, YTD budget is $102,960.00
• 3312 Dues from new members - $2,150.00, YTD $4,040.00, YTD budget is $3,999.96
• 3335 Newsletter Advertising - $4,411.25, YTD $11,491.25, YTD budget is $13,800.00
• 3345 Rental Income - $3,400.00, YTD $9,200.00, YTD budget is $8,899.98
• 3365 Pictorial Directory Ad Sales - $400.00, YTD $6,850.00, this year's budget is $20,000.00
• 3435 Installation Dinner income - $0, YTD $2,000. We are trying to account for the dinner in the fiscal year of the event, rather than carrying over to the next year. This year's budget is $90,000

Expense Highlights (Round numbers)
• 4000 Operating expenses - $21,767.60, YTD $100,273.46, YTD budget is $140,449.80
• 4200 General Office Expenses - $2,007.29, YTD $13,358.11, YTD budget is $14,674.86
• 4300 Meeting/Events - $410.10, YTD $15,926.32, YTD budget is $25,700.00
• 4350 Newsletter & Directory - $1,835.00, YTD $10,730.50, YTD budget is $21,000.00
• 4400 Adv/Legal/Accounting - $1,500, YTD $4,510.42, YTD budget is $25,700.00
• 5399 Other Building Expense - $0, YTD $13,205.30, YTD budget is $5,249.94

***Total Income this month is $91,900.32, YTD $165,075.04, YTD budget is $180,309.84

***Total expenses this month were $31,260.76, YTD $184,024.86, YTD budget is $231,099.26

NET INCOME: +$60,639.56, YTD -$18,949.80, YTD budget is -$50,789.42

Verbal Additions:
• Directory advertising sales are significantly down, staff reports that when they contacted prior advertisers that they were informed many companies no longer purchase directory ads specifically.
• CCMS is seeing the income from renewals come in at an expected rate, and Dr. Roth noted the membership committee has done a great job of tracking down lapsed members.
• Overall, CCMS is doing well in comparison to last year.

Motion to approve the December Financial Report (M/S Reeves/Meeks* - Approved)

Applicants to go before the BOT*:
Physicians: Wonchon Lin, MD
Medical Students: Christopher Cornell
*No motion made to approve, members will be resubmitted at February BOT meeting by Dr. Roth

Other Reports:
NSMA: by Catherine O’Mara (moved up in agenda as courtesy due to travel arrangements)
• The NSMA has provided the BOT with their legislative matters for 2019.


CCMS Board Minutes continued...

- The legislative session begins on February 4, January 16 is the State of the State where Governor Sisolak will lay out his policy agenda for the year.
- Health care was a major factor during the election, so NSMA is expecting several bills relating to health care will be presented during the session.
- NSMA’s first Legislative Core Group meeting is February 11, members who are interested in participating can contact NSMA or CCMS to learn how to get involved.
- Dr. Baron, Cat, and Richard Perkins met with Governor Sisolak in December, the issues of tort reform and KODIN came up, and it is important that we stay vigilant as the session begins.
- Bills on opioids, maternal mortality review, Medicaid, surprise lapse in coverage, and others are being monitored by NSMA.
- NSMA is working on how they want to address any mandatory e-prescribing bills that may come up.
- A group called Gender Justice of Southern Nevada is bringing back a bill that would criminalize any kind of medical procedure on a child before the age of assent on their genetalia – this bill was opposed by NSMA last year and they will continue to work to ensure physicians ability to care for patients isn’t hindered.

Medical School Reports:

UNLV School of Medicine: by Dr. Feikes (written report)

- 2nd year medical student Maran Shaker, a former Army combat medic, hosted a panel discussion: “Healthcare for Veterans” at the School of Medicine December 17th. We had a very good turnout and attendees received valuable information.
- The School of Medicine hosted a Holiday Open House for prospective students December 18 with great turnout.
- An additional Information Session for Prospective Students is scheduled for January 16 at the School of Medicine.
- Associate Dean for Community Engagement Dr. Laura Culley will talk about the Health Improves Together (HIT) program January 24. “HIT” is a volunteer initiative open to undergraduate and post-bac students. Through classes and extended externships at public, private and non-profit organizations, HIT participants learn about the social determinants of health, the inequities of the current health care system and they develop strategies to attempt to balance the inequities as much as possible.
- While members of our charter class are preparing for the Step 1 exam, members of the Class of 2022 returned to campus January 7, embarking upon eight weeks of Gastroenterology, Endocrinology, and Reproductive study.
- Applications for the class of 2023 have continued to rise above expectations.

Roseman University: by Dr. Penn (written report)

- Dr. Penn noted that the UNLV Healthcare for Veterans panel was excellent.

Touro University: by Dr. Meeks (verbal report)

- Our new dean, Dr. Wolfgang Giliar sends his apologies for not being able to attend tonight’s meeting. He is currently in Germany attending a family member’s funeral, but he wants this committee to know that he is excited to be a member of CCMS, to attend these meetings and to get to know all of you. Once he returns, he would like to set up some meetings/perhaps lunches for him to meet one-on-one with CCMS leaders.
- Our Geriatric Medicine fellowship is accepting applications. We have 3 spots. If you know someone who might be interested, please direct them to us. We are pushing to completely fill this fellowship as we recognize the great need in our community for Geriatricians.
- Our mobile clinic in partnership with Nevada HAND will have a “kick off” meet & greet next week on Jan 19, 20, & 21. They will then begin providing care to local residents three days a week every single week. Our DO students will be going out on rotations with them as part of their community service. 3 locations (Aliante, Rainbow and the 5, and downtown Henderson).
• In an effort to recognize and increase awareness of diverse populations, TUN has a float that will be participating in the MLK parade in Las Vegas on Monday, Jan 21. Students will be in white coats and scrubs and we will have children’s scrubs for the kids to wear.
• Thu. Jan 17 at 6pm we will have a Mixer and Info Session (see handout) for the Advanced Practice Clinician Fellowship that is being sponsored by HealthCare Partners.
• On Jan. 21st from 5:30-8:00 we will be hosting an event by the “Israel Trauma Coalition” where we will learn how they are assisting the first responders and victims from the Oct. 1st terror attack.

SNHD: by Dr. Iser (written report)
• Influenza Update – The Southern Nevada Health District is reporting data collected from local acute care hospitals and other health care providers. Through week 52 of the influenza season (Dec. 29), influenza activity increased at the local and national level, and the Health District reported Clark County’s first flu-related deaths. One of the deaths occurred in a child in the 0-4 age group. The two adult patients who died were in the 50-64 age group. There were 106 influenza-associated hospitalizations during the same reporting period. The proportion of emergency room visits and urgent care clinic visits for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) was 6.1 percent in week 52, which was higher than the proportion in week 51 (4.3 percent). Approximately 58 percent of area ER and urgent care visits for ILI were children under the age of 18. The Health District will continue to update the public on the flu season and encourage people to get vaccinated. Vaccination is recommended for everyone but is especially important for those most at risk for complications from the flu. At-risk groups include pregnant women, people with underlying medical conditions, and people who care for infants younger than 6 months and their family members, as they are too young to receive the vaccine and are vulnerable to the virus. Health District influenza surveillance updates are available at http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/stats-reports/influenza-surveillance.php.

• Imported Measles Case – The Health District confirmed an imported case of measles in Southern Nevada on Dec. 24. This is the first case of measles in Clark County since 2015. The patient was a previously vaccinated adult with a history of international travel. The Health District notified individuals who might have had contact with the patient and provided information to the public about their exposure risk. People at risk of exposure were advised to review their immunization status and to contact their health care providers if they were not fully immunized against measles and have not already had the disease. They were also advised to contact their health care provider if they developed symptoms consistent with measles within 21 days of potential exposure to the patient. More information on measles and the Health District’s full release is available at http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news18/20181227-Health-District-reports-imported-measles-case.php.

• Nevada Ranks 39th in Protecting Kids from Tobacco – On Dec. 14, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids released its annual report assessing how states use their share of tobacco settlement funds to address public health problems caused by tobacco use. Nevada was ranked 39th nationwide in funding programs that prevent kids from using tobacco and help smokers quit. The report found that Nevada spent $1 million in 2018 on tobacco prevention and cessation programs, which is 3.2 percent of the $30 million recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Other key findings include:
  • Nevada will collect $230.5 million in revenue this year from the 1998 tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes but will spend only 0.4 percent of the money on tobacco prevention programs.
  • Tobacco companies spend $64.2 million each year on marketing their deadly and addictive products in Nevada – more than 67 times what the state spends on tobacco prevention. Nationwide, tobacco companies spend $9.5 billion a year on marketing – more than $1 million every hour.

• Legislative Update – The Health District worked with its local and state counterparts to advocate during the interim session on behalf of a dedicated funding stream for foundational public health services. As a result, the Legislative Committee on Health Care is sponsoring a bill draft request that will appropriate $5 per capita to build public health infrastructure and capacity in the upcoming regular session. The BDR will require the Nevada Division of Health and Human Services to establish a Public Health Improvement Fund that must be utilized to improve public health and be allocated based on population to public health agencies. The Health District is looking forward to working with our agency and community partners to support this legislation. If successful, it will be beneficial to supporting and improving the public health infrastructure throughout Nevada.

CCMS Alliance: (written report submitted with verbal additions by Estela Hansen)
Written Report:
• Delivered the donated Holiday drive gifts to two of our charity’s this year: New Vista and Sunshine Nevada in
December, the third UNLV FOCUS will be delivered this month.

- We are actively recruiting for Sponsorship for our 18th Annual Fashion Show Luncheon benefiting families affected by autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Our HSP donors’ names and/or logos are proudly displayed on the digital billboards around town with a Happy Holiday Greeting. The Message will change depending on the season throughout the year.

Verbal Additions:
- The CCMSA Holiday Scholarship project is finished, with 15 student applications currently under review.
- CCMSA will report on the amount of funds to be distributed at the next BOT meeting.
- The Fashion Show is Tuesday, March 19.
- The BOT thanks Dr. Jameson for matching funds for the CCMSA scholarship project.

AMA: (written report submitted by Dr. Jameson, with verbal additions by Dr. Adashek)

Written Report:
- **Moving Forward** – 2018 was a year of important wins for the AMA that will set the stage for 2019. These wins include: Tackling the Opioid Epidemic, Gun Violence Prevention, Enhancing Access to Care and Limiting Prior Authorization.
- **Tackling the Opioid Epidemic** – For the last several years the opioid epidemic has been a serious problem in our nation. Last year the AMA successfully improved access to medication assisted treatment (MAT) coverage for opioid use disorder in Pennsylvania by eliminating prior authorization for MAT. With this success it is the hope that in 2019 AMA will be able to advocate for more funding for multidisciplinary pain care and treatment for substance use disorders as well as increased enforcement of mental health substance use disorder parity laws.
- **Gun violence prevention** – Unfortunately, 2018 was a very rough year as far as gun violence is concerned. There were 94 school shooting incidents last year, 23 of those incidents had casualties. This number is the highest recorded in American history. Due to these facts, the AMA has successfully advocated for a federal ban on bump stocks and also partnered with AFFIRM, which is a physician-led nonprofit dedicated to gun violence research. In 2019, the AMA will approach federal and state policy makers to fund research on gun violence prevention, and strengthen background checks and other measures that can prevent deaths and injuries from firearms.
- **Prior authorization relief** – Prior authorization has been a very serious issue for physicians in the United States. Limiting prior authorization was one of the key victories in 2018 for the AMA. During 2018 the AMA was able to successfully create

Verbal Additions:
- Dr. Adashek noted that the AMA website has detailed information the different measures and referendums under review at any given time.
- Physician-Assisted Suicide was one of the major topics of discussion at the recent meeting.
- The AMA maintains the position that there should be no prior authorization requirements whatsoever for medical treatment.

NSBME: by Dr. Havins (verbal report)
At the last NSBME meeting, several violations relating to opioid prescribing were reviewed. Consequences were mainly mandatory courses; no licenses were lost.

Committee Reports:

Bylaws Committee: by Dr. McHale (verbal report)
- The Bylaws Committee met on 1/14/19 and reviewed some of the concerns raised regarding bylaws.
- There are a few changes that will be recommended to the members of the Bylaws Committee, and then reviewed by Dr. Havins before being presented to BOT at the February meeting.

CHPR & Subcommittees: by Dr. Hunt (written report)
- The Physician Burnout post-event survey had 5 responses, all grading the quality of content highly while remarking that obtaining the CME credit online after the event instead of in-person wasn’t ideal.
- The CHPR Committee is in the early planning stages for a CME event for April, most likely a pre-built event from one of our partners.
- The CHPR Committee is also planning a CME event in June updating the membership on changes to the Opioid Law during the legislative session.
- The MiniMED Internship has been renamed the “Wear the White Coat” Internship.
- The WWC Adult Internship will take place March 4-14, with the recognition dinner at Spiedini Ristorante March 14.
- The Physician Volunteer application is included in the BOT Packet, please volunteer for this important program.
- The upcoming Membership Needs Assessment Survey will also solicit interest for participating in the Speaker’s Bureau.
- Interested members will be provided with CCMS talking
points and media training prior to being listed for the Speaker’s Bureau.
- Upon completion of those two steps, Speaker request forms or topic browsing will be added to the CCMS Website.
- NORCAL has purchased 24 weeks of sponsorship for the CCMS Weekly Roundup email blast.
- CCMS has secured Tricia Kean of Channel 13 to be our MC for the Installation Dinner.
- Nominations for the 2019 Winged Heart Awards will open to the public soon.
- The website is being re-worked and updated with new MBA information, as well as our Corporate Partners and a Job Board.
- The first draft of the Membership Needs Assessment survey is complete and in the BOT Packet.
- The CHPR Committee has decided to print an extra 100 copies of the February County Line for distribution to doctor’s lounges across the valley, with the help of BOT members with hospital privileges to deliver. A signup form is available during the BOT listing all the hospitals in the valley, please volunteer to deliver the magazines to hospitals where you have access.

Medical Students & Residents Subcommittee: by Claire Chen, Chair (written report)
- 2019 MSRC leadership – NSMA delegate and alternative have been nominated. CCMS staff to send bylaws to committee members to ensure adherence.
- Touro/UNLV social mixer – Awaiting response from PKWY Tavern (delayed due to holidays), Claire will vet dates for post UNLV STEP 1 dates.
- Mentorship program – Claire and Sarina to meet 01/11 to review program mission, format and presentation. Possible weekly meetings to be held for consistent review of status.
- Installation Dinner – Class availabilities re 06/01/19 have been communicated to CCMS staff. Several committee members have confirmed support and attendance.

Membership Committee: by Dr. Reeves (written report submitted with verbal additions)

Written Report:
- Renewals - As of December 2018, total 2019 renewal data reflected 245 renewals with $79,740 received. Membership Committee active in assisting with contacting members for 2019 Renewals. NSMA will be sending out current 2019 Dues Paid Report and a Membership Nonpaid Report (reflecting payments received up to 12/31/18)
- Weblink/Customer Relations Management System - Company will be informing CCMS, WCMS, and NSMA when all data will be uploaded with a go live date. Counties and NSMA will participate in a beta testing period
- Membership Bylaw Review - Member types and categories need to be changed to mirror NSMA and WCMS member types/categories

2019 Membership Goals and Objectives:
- Individual physicians
- Groups
- Kidney Specialist of Southern NV
- Desert Orthopedics
- SMA-Legislative considerations
- Nellis AFB and VA
- Silver State ACO
- Dispatch Health
- Healthcare Partners
- Working with hospitals to engage new physicians and presenting at provider meetings

New Member Applicants - Wonchon Lin, MD

Verbal Additions:
- CCMS Staff has been hard at work continuing to clean up the database.
- Sarina and Dr. Reeves attended a large meeting at Nellis AFB, and are scheduled to meet with the Chief of Staff for the VA.
- CCMS has prepared a list of lapsed members to follow up on, the BOT has agreed to look over the list and reach out to any physicians they know personally.
- CCMS Staff are in the process of determining the financial impact of discounts based on existing membership.

Nominating Committee: by Dr. Adashek (verbal report)
The committee has begun the process of developing the 2019-2020 slate, as of now their work is confidential.

Scholarship Fund: by Dr. Ellerton (written report)
- Dr. Ellerton and staff attended the scholarship luncheon at Touro. Dr. Adashek was also present. The fund gets special mention at this event.
- Dr. Ellerton and staff attended a reception for UNLV Medical School scholarship awardees. This was the first year that the fund supplied scholarships to UNLV students. Again the fund got special recognition from the dean and we met with several of the recipients, a particularly energetic group.
- On the financial side, the fund is stable. I review the financial reports with Mr. Buckley several times a month. The fund management ensures cash reserves to fund our annual awards. Although the fund has taken a small hit on tech stocks the fund has done well in other sectors and remains stable. Most of the investments provide dividends and we have worked with Brian Buckley to minimize costs and fees and will continue to do so.
- In future meetings we will continue to discuss the long-term goals and activities of the fund. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Dr Ellerton.

President’s Report: by Dr. Roth (verbal report)
- Installation Dinner plans are underway, the members of the
BO Turns are encouraged to consider supporting this event by purchasing a table, providing a sponsorship, or donating/soliciting donations for items for the silent auction.

- The Israel Trauma Coalition are hosting an event focusing on the first responders who were present at the October 1 mass shooting. CCMS members are encouraged to attend.
- CCMS members are also invited to a meeting on Monday, January 21 regarding the effects of AB474 on physicians and their patients.
- Dr. Roth continues to meet with Alex on a weekly basis.

Executive Director’s Report: by Alexandra Silver (written report)

Written Report:

- CCMS Staff Update: Unfortunately, we need to reopen our search for the Executive Assistant/Office Manager position. Yami Started on Wednesday, December 26th, and yesterday was her last day. Once again, I must ask you to bear with the staff as we are short-staffed at a pivotal time of year. The search for her replacement will start asap.
- Membership Renewals are still going on, if you have not renewed your dues please do so. We can show how to do so today and can take credit cards or checks at the BOT meetings. This is also, a great opportunity to ask your colleagues, partners and referrals to join CCMS/NSMA today to. The more the merrier. Deadline to Renew was December 31st and are now past due. www.nvdoctors.org
- Nomination Committee met January 3rd to start working on the 2019-20 Board slate. Please start considering your plans for the next board year and if you know of anyone you would like to nominate for the board…Several trustee positions and exec council spots are open. The committee is working diligently to install a dedicated, hard-working and qualified board for 2019-20.
- Installation Dinner Plans are underway. We have sold our first table and we need your help to make the 65th Installation Dinner the best and most lucrative yet. Please sell or fill a table. Every Board member should be a table captain and sponsor/purchase or fill a table. If we all pitch in we will make a significant impact on the success of our event and budget. Sponsorships are available and we are seeking auction items to benefit our scholarship fund.
- We are in need of Docs to participate in the adult mini internship – March 4-14th…please mark your calendars. And fill out forms at CCMS BOT meeting.
- Thank you to Josh for a successful first year at CCMS, I look forward to seeing what the next year brings. Thank you for all you do.
- If you are not following us and engaging with CCMS you should be. We are on Facebook, twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Please take 2 minutes and follow CCMS on all social media outlets. Please follow us personally and have your practices do the same.
- Vendor quotes are coming in for Presidents Stone and donor tile wall

- CCMS Holiday office Closings: January 21st for MLK Day.

New Business:

Dr. Burkhead proposed the formation of a committee to assist with the planning and execution of the annual Installation Dinner. Membership on this committee would not be limited to CCMS members. Dr. McHale will present this to be added to the bylaws as a standing committee at the next Bylaws Committee meeting.

Motion to form a committee for the planning and organization of the Installation Dinner (M/S Burkhead/Reeves – Approved)

Future Board of Trustees Meeting – February 19, 2019 6p.m.

Adjournment: 7:53 p.m.
ARE YOU HIPAA COMPLIANT?

- Is your network secure?
- Are you prepared for an audit?
- Do you have a disaster recovery plan?
- Do you have policies and procedures in place?
- Have all of your staff been trained on security practices?
- Are you prepared for a ransomware attack?
- What do you do if you have a breach?

Running a medical practice involves much more than treating patients. You must protect their personal information and we can help.

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TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS THROUGHOUT LAS VEGAS
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ProAssurance has been monitoring risk and protecting healthcare industry professionals for more than 40 years, with key specialists on duty to diagnose complex risk exposures.

Work with a team that understands the importance of delivering flexible healthcare professional liability solutions.
WHATEVER AILS YOU,

our Healthcare Professionals Advocacy Group will help you with:

✔ Board Representation
✔ Regulatory Requirements and Compliance
✔ Credentialing and Privileges
✔ Malpractice Defense

MEET YOUR HEALTHCARE BANKING EXPERT:

Kim MacClafferty
AVP, Relationship Manager
Direct Line: 702.252.6309
KMacClafferty@bankofnevada.com

Bank on Accountability
bankofnevada.com | 702.248.4200

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Tell us how you first got involved with CCMS?
I first got involved in CCMS shortly after my arrival in town in 1998. It was then and continues to be a major force in shaping policy and representing all Clark County Physicians. Dr. Howard Baron invited me to become involved over 10 years ago when I participated as a board member and helped lead the speaker’s bureau. In addition, and had the opportunity to participate with the political action committee and interview prospective judges and politicians.

What have you come to learn about organized medicine and our community through your role as a Trustee?
I quickly learned that participation can make a difference and that the state and community value CCMS. As medicine becomes big business and the bulk of physicians are employed, it becomes more important than ever for physicians to have a collective voice speaking on behalf of our patients, our colleagues, and the medical community at large.

Tell us how you first got involved with CCMS?
I have been involved in CCMS on more than one occasion. Recently my partner, Dr. Brill, urged me to get more involved again to help shape the direction of the medical community going forward.

What have you come to learn about organized medicine and our community through your role as a Trustee?
There are so many roles for organized medicine that we overlook when we are in our day-to-day practices. Organized medicine takes an active role in things such as lobbying for legislation to protect patients and the delivery of safer, better care. There is a role also in promoting the well-being of the community as a whole. Organized medicine serves the physicians as well. As the future of medicine continues to morph into new organizational structures it helps provide information and guidance to physicians along the path.

What do you find most rewarding about being involved with CCMS?
I am proud to have a role as an advocate for physicians in practice during discussions about new policies that affect the way we deliver care to patients.

If you were not a physician, what would you do for a living?
If I were not a physician, I would have been a teacher. I majored in English in college and still love to read and write. Despite the time constraints dictated by trying to help run a pediatric surgery private practice, I truly enjoy rounding with the residents and discussing pediatric surgery.

What is your favorite thing about living in Las Vegas?
I love Las Vegas because it’s a little town within a big city. It offers all the advantages of a large metropolitan area with fewer disadvantages such as massive traffic congestion and a torrid pace. I appreciate the friendly attitude of Las Vegans and believe that it welcomes all-comers and accepts people without judging them. I remain very proud of the medical care provided in the community, as our physicians are dedicated to providing the best care possible. I think this was demonstrated in the response to the shooting tragedy of October 1, as the entire community pulled together to save the lives of so many victims.

If you were not a physician, what would you do for a living?
I probably would have been a math teacher, at least that is what my kids think. I would rather have been a ski bum.

What is your favorite thing about living in Las Vegas?
I love the community, the ease of living here, and the access to the outdoors -- the majesty of the mountain west. People don’t think of Las Vegas as an outdoor community, but the cycling, mountain biking, hiking and outdoor activity add an unexpected and refreshing element. Being able to travel to the mountains here and in Utah opens up many national park areas to be cherished and enjoyed.
We kicked off 2019 with a great Luncheon at Marakesh celebrating 70 (seventy) years of existence. Every year for seventy years, a working board that is one hundred percent voluntary has led the Clark County Medical Society Alliance (CCMSA). The CCMSA is much more than a group of physician spouses. It is the only organization of its kind that provides a support system for the unique challenges of life in a medical family.

Our mission is education and charity. The CCMSA (Alliance) projects include health education, health advocacy, initiation and support of healthcare related charitable endeavors and assistance to the Clark County Medical Society health related projects.

For years, the Alliance has also participated in community Health Projects like awareness on the opioid drug abuse crisis. The Alliance introduced the Faux Paw Internet Safety Program in schools in the Clark County area. Through Team Alliance, we have participated in Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Light the Night walk for Leukemia and Lymphoma society, the St. Rose Regatta, Toys for Tots and fundraising to provide shoes and socks for the homeless.

Other than our monthly luncheons and Team Alliance activities, the Alliance members and Board of Directors stay busy with two main projects every year. They are the Holiday Scholarship Project and the Annual Spring Fashion Show Luncheon.

Thanks to our community supporters, since its inception in 1949, the Clark County Medical Society Alliance has provided scholarships to deserving, local nursing and medical students through an annual then called Holiday Greeting Card and now the Holiday Scholarship Project. In 2001, the Alliance started the first Spring Fashion Show Luncheon to benefit an organization in the local Las Vegas and Henderson area. This year, the Annual Fashion Show Luncheon will be on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at the Four Seasons Hotel from 10a.m. to 2p.m., we invite everyone to attend and for more information please go to our website at ccmsa-lv.org and CCMSA19.givesmart.com. We thank all of our past and present members and Board of Directors for their continued support throughout the years and we look forward to another 70 years of working diligently together to build a healthier Southern Nevada.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
CCMS & NSMA

February 4
NSMA Medical Practice Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m. | Las Vegas & Reno

February 6
Resident/Fellow & Medical Student Committee Meeting
5:30 p.m. | CCMS Office

February 11
NSMA Legislative Core Group Meeting
6:00 p.m. | Las Vegas & Reno

February 12
Membership Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. | CCMS Office

February 13
Community Health & Public Relations Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. | Las Vegas & Reno

February 19
Board of Trustees Meeting
6:00 p.m. | CCMS Office

February 20
NSMA Public Health Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m. | Las Vegas & Reno

February 25
Physicians’ Day at the Legislature
9:00 a.m. | Carson City

February 25
NSMA Legislative Core Group Meeting
6:00 p.m. | Las Vegas & Reno

February 27
LVMD Town Hall on New Technology
5:00 p.m. | Las Vegas City Hall

February 28
NSMA Internal Affairs Commission Meeting
6:00 p.m. | Las Vegas & Reno

For a full list of upcoming CCMS Events and committee meetings, go to www.clarkcountymedical.org/calendar
The Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees welcomes its newest member, Dr. Julio Garcia (Member Since 1989)

The Clark County Medical Society (CCMS) is proud to announce the addition of Dr. Julio Garcia to its Board of Trustees.

Dr. Garcia is a board certified plastic surgeon who has been in Las Vegas since 1988. Dr. Garcia has served as Vice Chief of Staff at Human Sunrise Hospital, and Chief of Plastic Surgery at both Humana Sunrise and Valley Hospitals.

Dr. Garcia was appointed by CCMS President Dr. Jeffrey Roth to fill the position left open by the tragic passing of Dr. Peter Mansky in August of 2018.

“He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge,” Dr. Roth said. “We look forward to working with him on the Board of Trustees.”

In addition to having served on the medical-legal screening board, Dr. Garcia served as the Senior Tactical Physician for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department’s SWAT team, assuring that SWAT team members have access to immediate life-saving care in the field.

Dr. Garcia is the current chairman of the Aesthetic Surgery Education and Research Foundation (ASERF), the research and education arm of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS).

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Garcia to the Board of Trustees!
Taking on Cardiovascular Disease during American Heart Month and Throughout the Year

Joseph P. Iser, M.D., DrPH, MSc | Chief Health Officer, SNHD
Member since 2013

American Heart Month is commemorated each February to raise awareness of heart disease and create opportunities for people to lead healthier lives. In Nevada, heart disease and stroke continue to be among the leading causes of death for our residents. The United Health Foundation released its America’s Health Rankings Annual Report in December 2018, and its findings further support the need for cardiovascular health education, resources, and outreach in our community.

In the recently released Health Rankings, it was reported that Nevada’s age-adjusted death rate due to all cardiovascular diseases was 294.2 per 100,000 population. The age-adjusted rate for the United States was 256.8 per 100,000 population. This disparity is also evident at the gender and race/ethnicity subpopulation levels. In Nevada, the age-adjusted death rate for cardiovascular diseases for females was 234.5 per 100,000, while the U.S. rate was 212.7. The age-adjusted rate for men was 360.0, compared to the U.S. age-adjusted rate of 310.3. The rate for Black/African Americans in Nevada who die from cardiovascular disease is 365.7 per 100,000. The U.S. rate is 327.6 per 100,000.

The Southern Nevada Health District continues to offer resources for both patients and health care providers that are designed to decrease risk factors for cardiovascular diseases. One of the Health District’s more recent initiatives, the Barbershop Health Outreach Project, was launched last year as a pilot program during American Heart Month. Barbershops were identified as places where men gather to talk and as ideal venues for providing education and outreach to a priority population in a safe, comfortable environment. Barbers also play a vital role in the African American community for the personal connections they develop with their clients that can help influence positive behavioral change.

The Barbershop pilot program initially worked with three barbershops to train barbers in “blood pressure 101” and provided information to clients that promoted awareness, free blood pressure screenings, education, and resources. Barbershop clients found to have elevated or high blood pressure were provided additional resources to ensure they received follow-up health care services. Each year since 1996, the American Heart Association has compiled a list of major advances in heart disease and stroke science. In 2018, one of its top advances included a study of black men with uncontrolled hypertension who were regular patrons of barbershops that offered programs and interventions. This study further validates the effectiveness of the strategies used by the Health District to deliver services to the community in non-traditional settings.

The Health District also provides resources for health care providers to assist when talking to patients about making better choices to improve their cardiovascular health. The GetHealthyClarkCounty.org website hosts a wealth of information for health care providers and patients. The Health Care section of the website is home to resources including the High Blood Pressure Resource Toolkit and the Stroke Resource Toolkit.

The High Blood Pressure Toolkit includes clinical guidelines for providers and recommendations for monitoring blood pressure, self-monitoring interventions for patients, and fact sheets that health care professionals can distribute. The Stroke Resource Toolkit includes the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale, treatment resources, and information sheets designed to complement provider conversations with patients and their families. The Health District also offers downloadable referral forms that list program resources for clinicians to “prescribe” to their patients.

The Tobacco Prevention resource section offers links to materials that can assist health care providers to present brief tobacco-use interventions to their patients as well as information about the Nevada Tobacco Quitline. The Quitline is a free phone-based service for Nevada residents 13 years of age or older. It provides one-on-one coaching and nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) for qualified individuals. Currently, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services has funded the Quitline to provide 12 weeks of free NRT to participants of the Barbershop Health Outreach Project, African American clients, and Hispanic clients. Any patients referred to the Quitline who qualify can receive NRT while funding is available.

American Heart Month is an opportunity to have conversations with the community and individual patients about the importance of cardiovascular health. However, it is essential that we continue our efforts to offer services and programs throughout the year to help our patients improve their health, which in turn will improve the health status of our community.

For more information on Health District services and to access resources go to https://gethealthyclarkcounty.org/community-tools/healthcare/.
Desert Springs Hospital Joins Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) to improve care for older adults

Desert Springs Hospital has earned recognition status with the Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE), a nursing education and consultation program focused on the care of older adults. The recognition underscores Desert Springs Hospital’s ongoing dedication to geriatric care and its implementation of system-wide interventions and initiatives, ranging from staff education to providing helpful information for patients and their families.

“We know a significant number of our patients are at least 65 years old, and arriving for emergency care, a procedure or surgery, recovery time in our acute rehabilitation unit, or assistance through our geropsychiatric center,” said Andrea Davis, Chief Operating Officer for Desert Springs Hospital. “We want to ensure we are providing the specialized care and resources that benefit our senior population. As a NICHE-recognized hospital, we can adopt additional best practices and utilize exceptional materials and education.”

The NICHE program of NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing helps develop age-friendly care for older adults across the continuum. To earn the recognition, Desert Springs Hospital submitted a comprehensive report of their program activities for review by NYU Meyers faculty. NYU Meyers faculty recommends recognition status based on pre-established criteria.

“Desert Springs Hospital is working diligently to meet the needs of older adult patients,” says Mattia Gilmartin PhD, RN, FAAN of NICHE. “The organization’s capacity to bring together geriatric nursing resources and support to enhance care, and marks it as an up-and-coming leader in the field.”

Boris Decourt, Ph.D., Joins Cleveland Clinic Nevada to Lead Center’s First Translational Neurodegeneration Research Lab

Neurobiologist will enhance research capabilities with the addition of translational research to help create new therapies and improve clinical outcomes

Cleveland Clinic Nevada welcomes Boris Decourt, Ph.D., as assistant staff to spearhead its first Translational Neurodegeneration Research Lab.

Decourt, a neurobiologist, brings 15 years of experience to the center’s robust research program, most recently serving as an assistant research professor at Arizona State University. Through his work in fundamental science – a branch of science that provides a foundation of knowledge essential for applying discoveries to patient care – Cleveland Clinic Nevada will now be able to broaden the scope of its clinical trials program.

The addition of this new research capability cultivates an environment for translational research, which builds on basic scientific research to create new therapies, medical procedures, or diagnostics. This will allow physicians to readily apply what’s learned in the research lab to clinical care, helping to improve overall patient outcomes.

“We are thrilled to add a talent like Dr. Decourt to our team, which allows us to elevate our research capabilities through our inaugural Translational Neurodegeneration Research Lab right here in Las Vegas,” said Marwan Sabbagh, M.D., FAAN, CCRI, director of the Camille and Larry Ruvo Endowed Chair for Brain Health at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health. “Cleveland Clinic remains committed to innovation and Dr. Decourt’s expertise and ability to conduct fundamental research will be instrumental in exploring new treatment options for Alzheimer’s disease.”

Decourt received his doctorate of philosophy in neuroscience and pharmacology from The University of Bordeaux in France. He has since conducted nearly 10 influential research projects, specifically targeting early treatment options for Alzheimer’s disease in association with Arizona Alzheimer’s Research Consortium and an Alzheimer’s Association Research Fellowship, among others. In his new role, he will be working in conjunction with physicians on a variety of research projects out of the Translational Neurodegeneration Research Lab located at Roseman University.

“The ultimate goal of my research is to slow down or cure neurodegenerative diseases with early treatment interventions, and I can’t think of a better place to continue my work than Cleveland Clinic Nevada,” said Decourt. “I am enthused by Dr. Sabbagh and the entire Cleveland Clinic team’s proactive approach to the research of neurodegenerative disease and look forward to working alongside them in pursuit of new treatment options for those suffering from these debilitating diseases.”

For additional information about Cleveland Clinic Nevada, visit ClevelandClinic.org/Nevada.
Overall national health spending grew at a rate of 3.9 percent in 2017, almost 1.0 percentage point slower than growth in 2016, according to a study conducted by the Office of the Actuary at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and published today as a Web First by Health Affairs. Medicare spending grew at about the same rate in 2017 as in 2016, while Medicaid spending grew at a slower rate in 2017 than in 2016.

According to the report, overall healthcare spending growth slowed in 2017 for the three largest goods and service categories – hospital care, physician and clinical services, and retail prescription drugs. Details from the slower spending growth in these three largest goods and service categories are:

- Hospital spending (33 percent of total healthcare spending) decelerated in 2017, growing 4.6 percent to $1.1 trillion compared to 5.6 percent growth in 2016. The slower growth for 2017 reflected slower growth in the use and intensity of services, as growth in outpatient visits slowed while growth in inpatient days increased at about the same rate in both 2016 and 2017.

- Physician and clinical services spending (20 percent of total healthcare spending) increased 4.2 percent to $694.3 billion in 2017. This increase followed more rapid growth of 5.6 percent in 2016 and 6.0 percent in 2015. Less growth in total spending for physician and clinical services in 2017 was a result of a deceleration in growth in the use and intensity of physician and clinical services.

- Retail prescription drug spending (10 percent of total healthcare spending) slowed in 2017, increasing 0.4 percent to $333.4 billion. This slower rate of growth followed 2.3 percent growth in 2016, which was much slower than in 2014, when spending grew 12.4 percent, and in 2015, when spending grew 8.9 percent. These higher rates of growth in 2014 and 2015 were primarily the result of the introduction of new, innovative medicines and faster growth in prices for existing brand-name drugs. Retail prescription drug spending growth slowed in 2017 primarily due to slower growth in the number of prescriptions dispensed, a continued shift to lower-cost generic drugs, slower growth in the volume of some high-cost drugs, declines in generic drug prices, and lower price increases for existing brand-name drugs.

The 3.9 percent growth in healthcare spending was slightly slower than growth in the overall economy (4.2 percent) in 2017. As a result, the healthcare spending share of the economy (17.9 percent) was similar to the share in 2016 (18.0 percent). Growth in overall healthcare spending slowed for the second consecutive year, following elevated rates of growth in 2014 and 2015 that were affected by expanded Medicaid and private health insurance coverage and increased spending for prescription drugs, particularly for drugs used to treat hepatitis C.

Additional highlights from the report regarding the source of funds include:

**Private health insurance spending** (34 percent of total healthcare spending) increased 4.2 percent to $1.2 trillion in 2017, which was slower than the 6.2 percent growth in 2016. The deceleration was influenced by slower growth in medical benefits and a decline in fees and taxes resulting from the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2016, which suspended collection of the health insurance provider fee in 2017.

**Medicare spending** (20 percent of total healthcare spending) grew 4.2 percent to $705.9 billion in 2017, which was about the same rate as in 2016 when spending grew 4.3 percent. In 2017, slower growth in fee-for-service Medicare (Medicare FFS) spending (1.4 percent in 2017 compared to 2.6 percent in 2016) offset faster growth in spending for Medicare private health plans (10.0 percent in 2017 compared to 8.1 percent in 2016). The trends in Medicare FFS and Medicare private health plan spending are attributed in part to an increasing share of all Medicare beneficiaries enrolling in Medicare Advantage.

**Medicaid spending** (17 percent of total healthcare spending) growth slowed in 2017, increasing 2.9 percent to $581.9 billion following growth of 4.2 percent in 2016. The slower growth in total Medicaid expenditures in 2017 was influenced by a deceleration in enrollment growth and a reduction in the net cost of Medicaid health insurance resulting from an increase in recoveries from Medicaid managed care plans for favorable prior period experience. State and local Medicaid expenditures grew 6.4 percent, while federal Medicaid expenditures increased 0.8 percent in 2017. In 2017, states were required to fund 5 percent of the costs of the Medicaid expansion population, while in prior years these costs were funded entirely by the federal government.

Out-of-pocket spending (10 percent of total healthcare spending) includes direct consumer payments such as copayments, deductibles, and spending not covered by insurance. Out-of-pocket spending grew 2.6 percent to $365.5 billion in 2017, which was slower than the 4.4 percent growth in 2016.

**Sponsors of Healthcare.** In 2017, the federal government's spending on healthcare slowed, increasing 3.2 percent after 4.9 percent growth in 2016. The deceleration was largely associated with slower federal Medicaid spending due to lower Medicaid enrollment growth, a reduction in the federal government's share of funding for newly eligible Medicaid enrollees, and a decline in the net cost of insurance for Medicare and Medicaid enrollees in private plans in 2017. Growth in household spending on healthcare also slowed in 2017, increasing 3.8 percent following growth of 4.8 percent in 2016. The slowdown was mainly driven by slower growth in out-of-pocket spending.

The National Health Expenditure estimates have been revised to reflect the most recent and up-to-date source data that is available (and may not have been available for last year's vintage of the National Health Expenditure Accounts).
NSMA’s priority bill for 2019 is to refine the prescriber guidelines from AB474 (2017). Revisions will keep certain patient protections in place but will enhance clinical judgement, allow multiple practitioners to more easily provide patient care and reduce workflow burdens.

NSMA advocates for comprehensive commitment to ensuring access to care for all patients including Medicaid patients. This includes Medicaid reimbursement and reducing administrative burdens for physicians participating in Medicaid. NSMA expects to see several bills impacting Medicaid including a recurrence of some version of the Medicaid buy-in proposal from 2017, which would allow any Nevadan to buy into Medicaid without limitation.

NSMA continues to fight for fair payment for physicians who provide services to patients in emergency settings. In 2017, NSMA successfully obtained a veto of AB382, a bill that would cap payments to physicians providing care to out-of-network patients at 125% of Medicare or the average contracted rate of the insurer. Governor-elect Sisolak has stated that he will sign a bill to ban the practice of balance billing. NSMA will continue to fight to protect patients when their insurance fails them and to ensure that fair payment is tendered to the physician.

NSMA expects there to be challenges to Keep Our Doctors In Nevada (KODIN), including caps for non-economic damages. NSMA continues to fight vigorously to defend this voter-approved initiative.

The rates of maternal mortality in the United States have increased over the last decade. NSMA’s public policy priority for 2019 is to establish a Maternal Mortality Review Panel that would allow the safe study of causes of maternal mortality to assist in informing best practices.

NSMA supports meaningful insurance coverage and advocates for adequate networks. NSMA works to reduce regulatory burdens such as prior authorization and other insurance policies that may negatively impact patients such as step therapy. Although still developing, we anticipate additional legislation related to: 1) Prior Authorization, Step Therapy, Network Adequacy, Cost and Coverage Issues, and many others.

NSMA opposes mandates without appropriate exemptions and flexibility to ensure that physician practices can modernize without penalty. NSMA expects to see a proposal introduced that will mandate that all prescriptions be transmitted electronically by 2021.

Other issues NSMA will monitor include:
- Workforce Development
- Drug Price Transparency
- Scope of Practice Issues
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Addiction
- State Interference with Standards of Care - Urology/Endocrinology
- Patient and Parent Decision-Making
- Licensing & Discipline
- Gun Safety Initiatives
- Human Trafficking
- Seat-Belt Laws
- Anti-Tobacco Initiatives

For more information, contact Catherine O’Mara at catherine@nvdoctors.org
Join a Committee
More Involvement, More Impact

The Clark County Medical Society (CCMS) invites all members in good standing to participate in one or more of the standing committees. This offers members an opportunity to work with other physicians and influence CCMS policies on issues of interest.

You may choose to participate in more than one committee. We solicit active participation from committee members to achieve the most success in shaping the CCMS. Committee assignments begin in September and end in June 30th of the following year. Please provide a first and second choice of the committee that you are most interested in and email to membership@clarkcountymedical.org.

Name: ______________________________ Phone: ______________________________

Email: ______________________________ Fax: ______________________________

CCMS Standing Committees:

☐ Board of Trustees (Elected Position Only) – CCMS at 702.739.9989
☐ Building Committee
☐ Bylaws, Policies & Procedures Committee
☐ Community Health & Public Relations Committee (CHPR)
   Sub-Committees under CHPR:
       ☐ Mini-Internship
       ☐ Speakers Bureau
       ☐ Winged Heart Awards
       ☐ Resident/Student Outreach
       ☐ Continuing Medical Education
☐ Credentials Committee
☐ Ethics & Grievances Committee
☐ Government Affairs Committee
☐ Internal Affairs Committee
☐ Membership/Credentials Committee
☐ CCMS Delegate: Participate in the Nevada State Medical Association Annual Meeting

If you have any questions about the purpose and obligations of any committee please contact the Clark County Medical Society at 702-739-9989 | membership@clarkcountymedical.org
The “Wear the White Coat” Internship program is held once a year to give individuals an opportunity to observe the practice of medicine by shadowing a practicing physician. Our goal is to offer insight into the professional life of physicians and to expand perspectives on health care issues between the medical community and community leaders. Interns and physicians join together at a recognition dinner on the final evening to share their experiences. The knowledge and awareness gained from this exchange, gives business leaders, legislators and media personnel a valuable resource to rely on when reporting and/or making decision(s) on healthcare.

Recognition Dinner Thursday, March 14 at Spiedini Ristorante

Join fellow physicians and interns to share stories from the program over a delicious meal.

The 2018 Adult Interns and physicians
"Wear the White Coat" Internship Program
PHYSICIAN

March 4 – March 14, 2019

Applications must be returned to communications@clarkcountymedical.org by February 20, 2019

PHYSICIAN INFORMATION – Please print or type

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Recognition Dinner Thursday, March 14 | Spiedini Ristorante at the JW Marriott
6:00 pm Registration | 6:30 pm Dinner & Program
221 N Rampart Blvd | Las Vegas, NV 89145

Will you be attending the Recognition Dinner?
☐ Yes, I will be attending the recognition dinner ☐ No, I am unable to attend the recognition dinner

Signature ____________________________ Date ____________________________

2590 E Russell Road | Las Vegas, NV 89120 | Office: 702.739.9989 | Fax: 702.739.6345 | www.clarkcountymedical.org
Centennial Hills Hospital to Begin Work on New Patient Tower

Centennial Hills Hospital is proud to announce a master plan project that will begin with the build-out of a new, five-story patient tower expansion project in 2019.

Phase one, valued at an estimated $95 million, will add 56 patient beds, increasing the total bed count from 262 to 318 beds. This addition will provide increased capacity in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Intensive Care Unit, Intermediate and Medical Surgical Units across the hospital. The project will also expand key departments, including the inpatient pharmacy, surgical services, and the post-anesthesia care unit.

“As Northwest Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and our outlying communities continue to grow, our goal is to meet the demand for expanded services,” explained Sajit Pullarkat, CEO/Managing Director of Centennial Hills Hospital. “When all five floors of the new patient tower are completely built out, the hospital’s total capacity will reach 390 beds. This continued expansion aligns with our commitment to meet our community’s requests and keep care close to home.”

News of the five-story tower expansion comes less than two years after Centennial Hills Hospital built out the final two floors of its eight-story tower, adding 60 private patient rooms and over 200 additional parking spaces. Since 2017, Centennial Hills Hospital has also added biplane angiography capabilities to treat stroke and other neurosurgical diseases, an advanced Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center, and another 12 mother-baby rooms to meet increased demand for maternity services.

Centennial Hills Hospital to Begin Work on New Patient Tower

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Clark County physicians head to state legislature

Local medical leaders travel to meet lawmakers and discuss issues facing health care

By Josh MacEachern, Communications & Marketing Coordinator
Clark County Medical Society

Leaders from the Clark County Medical Society (CCMS) and Nevada State Medical Association (NSMA) are trading scrubs for suits as they head to Carson City for Nevada Physician’s Day at the Legislature, a day of education and advocacy on February 25. The group of physicians will hear from public policy experts, meet legislators, and discuss some of the health care issues facing doctors and their patients in Southern Nevada, most notably challenges to Keep Our Doctors in Nevada (KODIN), changes to new opioid prescribing laws, and insurance issues such as balance billing and prior authorization.

“It’s incredibly important that we get physicians involved in these discussions,” said CCMS President Dr. Jeffrey Roth. “At the end of the day, it will be our doctors and their patients who face the negative effects of some of these decisions, and the Clark County Medical Society and our partners at the Nevada State Medical Association are the only ones speaking up for their interests.”

CCMS Executive Director Alexandra Silver encourages all physicians in Southern Nevada to get involved with the medical society in order to increase their ability to negotiate on potentially harmful legislation.

“We have strength in numbers,” Silver said. “It’s important that Vegas physicians get active in the medical society so that their voice is heard, and the needs of their patients are met.”

CCMS and NSMA will continue to monitor health care legislation throughout the session until it ends on June 3. For more information on legislative goals and successes, head to www.clarkcountymedical.org

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YOU'RE INVITED!

NEVADA PHYSICIAN'S DAY
AT THE LEGISLATURE

Join Nevada State Medical Association for a day of advocacy!

* Discuss Strategy with Lobby Team *
* Hear from Public Policy Experts *
* Meet your Legislator *
* Participate in Legislative Process *
* Learn how you can help Nevada Physicians be successful in 2019!

Hot Items to Watch for in 2019

- Challenges to Keep Our Doctors In Nevada (KODIN)
- Opioid Laws
- Insurance issues: Networks, Balance Billing and Prior Authorization
- Mandates on physician practices
- and many more!

February 25, 2019
9 a.m.
Nevada Legislature Room 3100
401 S. Carson Street | Carson City, NV 89701
meals provided

RSVP Today!
jeanette@nvdoctors.org or call 775-825-6788

NEVADA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Membership has its benefits!

CCMS Members have access to exclusive discounts on goods and services through our Corporate Partners

Are you taking advantage of all the benefits you get as a CCMS member? Through our Corporate Partner program, CCMS members get exclusive discounts on goods and service from a variety of businesses here in Southern Nevada and abroad.

**Schooley Mitchell**

Medical practices are constantly forced to evolve and adapt to a changing landscape. Whether it's digitizing your patient records, juggling non-clinical tasks, or managing quality measure incentives, time is always in short supply. It's easy to see why managing your everyday expenses doesn't always get the attention it needs – it's a time-consuming and tedious task.

Schooley Mitchell will analyze your telecom, merchant services, small package shipping and courier needs to make sure you get the best possible deal. CCMS members get exclusive savings on these services.

**LegalShield | IDShield**

With over 1.7 million members in 50 states and 4 provinces, LegalShield offers 24/7 access to emergency legal counsel right from your smartphone. CCMS Members qualify for a discount on LegalShield’s services so that they can have piece of mind wherever they are.

**The Smith Center**

From the very beginning, The Smith Center was envisioned as a world-class performing arts center that would develop and present the best and brightest in a broad range of first-rate programming and unite the residents of our community. CCMS members can now receive discounts on show tickets to this staple of the Las Vegas performing arts scene.

**Nevada Ballet Theater**

Now celebrating its 47th Season, NBT continues to bring the Las Vegas community closer to the art form of dance. With professional Company productions at The Smith Center for the Performing Arts, where it is the Resident Ballet Company, an affiliated Ballet and Dance Academy, as well as numerous Education and Outreach programs, NBT is at the heart of Las Vegas’ cultural landscape. CCMS members can receive exclusive discounts on VIP seating for the 2018/2019 season.

**Texas Meltz Restaurant**

Home of the Texas Sized Grilled Sandwich! CCMS members receive 10 percent off their order.

**TicketsatWork**

The Clark County Medical Society partners with TicketsatWork to give our members access to exclusive savings on movie tickets, theme parks, hotels, tours, Broadway & Vegas shows and more! With new products and discounts being added constantly, CCMS members are never without something to do on their nights off.

**Nevada Drug Card**

As a residents of Nevada, you and your family have access to a statewide Prescription Assistance Program (PAP). Through our partners at Nevada Drug Card, you or your patients can access a pharmacy coupon card that will provide you with Rx medication savings of up to 75% at more than 68,000 pharmacies across the country including CVS/pharmacy, Walgreens, Albertsons, Safeway, Rite Aid, Walmart, Kmart, and many more. You can create as many coupons as you need.

**The RIDE Premium Indoor Cycling Studio**

THE RIDE is a premium indoor cycling studio conveniently located at I-215 and Flamingo in Southwest Las Vegas. THE RIDE delivers a cycling experience that could have been created only in Las Vegas: each class is as unique as any Las Vegas show, but you're part of the cast, and burning calories the whole time! CCMS members receive exclusive discounts on cycling packages.

**Williams Pest Control**

Williams Pest Control in Las Vegas is an environmentally conscious extermination service. CCMS members receive 10 percent off residential and commercial services.

Access your perks today!

For more information on redeeming your member perks, go to www.clarkcountymedical.org or contact us at (702) 739-9989 today!
How Technology is Advancing Medicine and Saving Lives in the Las Vegas Medical District

Las Vegas Karen Freed, diagnosed with early stage Alzheimer’s, is participating in a clinical trial at Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE

LAS VEGAS MEDICAL DISTRICT TOWN HALL

A free public event presented by the city of Las Vegas, Valley Hospital Medical Center and Clark County Medical Society

Feb. 27, 2019 at City Hall

5:00 to 5:30 p.m. registration
5:30 to 6:45 p.m. program
6:45 to 7:30 p.m. hosted reception by Valley Hospital Medical Center

RSVP
www.clarkcountymedical.org/rsvp

Parking in the City Parking Garage at 500 Main Street – please bring your ticket with you to validate parking.
SAVE THE DATE!

THE Clark County Medical Society

Installation & Awards Ceremony

HONORING DR. DANIEL BURKHEAD & THE 2019–2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST

FOR SPONSORSHIP, TABLES, AND TICKET INFORMATION CONTACT CCMS AT (702) 739-9989 OR INFO@CLARKCOUNTYMEDICAL.ORG