



Connecticut Society for Cardiac Rehabilitation (CSCR)
Quarterly Minutes
January 25, 2024

- S.Casso called the meeting to start at 12:00 Pm in person and on Zoom
- First Speaker :Impulse Dynamics CCM Therapy for Heart Failure
- Mike Arnold , DNP Medical Science Liaison
- Second Speaker Dr. Abhishek Jaiswal Advanced Heart Failure Specialist Hartford Healthcare Heart and Vascular Institute
- Q & A
- Bussiness Meeting
- Finance/Treasurers Report (P. Armstrong) CSCR balance as of 7/2023:
- Business checking = \$2,420.26
- Business CD = \$5,2289.22
- **Total: 7,649.48**
- 2024 Statement of Operations: Annual revenue has exceeded expenses by 152.56

- Marketing updates-
CSCR revised/updated site has been launched, please take a look and see what's new!
- Register by emailing Sue to submit to the webmaster for a password. Since CSCR got hacked last year the Webmaster has designed the site this way to provide extra security, prevent anonymous altering of it, etc.
- If you need a reset I also need to reach out to him for you as well. Please take a few minutes and check your access then let me know what you need.
- Member benefits:
- Access to meeting minutes
- Zoom recordings
- Meeting registration area,
- Sharing of best practice, articles, i.e.
- Patrick submitted a timely article to post most recently, etc.
- The website is only as good as those with access make it.
- Submit an article, conference, community activity i.e. Fairfield County Heart Walk at Sherwood Island May 18th .
- AACVPR Breakout sessions for Jan Meeting are posted for your ongoing access.

- Members Section - the State CR site map and program contact info needs annual review by one staff member for accuracy and contact me for changes you would like and /or to confirm the areas are current please.
- Link your calendar for auto meeting updates.
- ***Position needs to be filled effective immediately – if any interest please reach out to President, Sue Casso***
- Please continue to send postings of job opportunities, and the above to me at susan19791979@gmail.com. If you have a job posting please include detailed job description and or link to application at your facility.

- Membership (R.La Pera) absent –

- Update of Membership Census Jan 2024:
- 40 total members, 16 paid (40% compliance rate)
- 2024 Membership fees:
- Professional: \$60
- Students: \$30
- 1 time nonmember meeting rate \$20 for professional, \$30 for student
- Membership form and dues can be mailed to:
- Richard Le Pera - Cardiac Rehab
- 350 Seymour Avenue
- Derby, CT 06418
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- Sharon Hospital
- Kristen Dempsey offered to speak with the Waterbury Hospital staff
- St. Mary's Hospital Waterbury

- AACVPR

Certification and Recertification Updates (L.Elpi) Start March 6th – End May 15th

- First Year - Quiz
- Weekly Calls
- August 1st – Programs Notified/Remediation
- 586 Applications (Down from 750 in 2023)
- 418 Cardiac
- 168 Pulmonary
- CCRP – Enter expiration Date
- Pulm Cert – Enter completed date - can be used one time
- Drop down Screen for Core Component

- Reminders:
- Objective – what will you learn
- Tool – How are you deeming staff competent (Post test with Discussion)
- Can submit only one reassess – but list all MD dates
- BMI/Wt/BG is not an assessment
- Education is part of the Plan
- If not clearly labeled - Deny
- On-going/Met = Deny
- Performance Measure Plan – directly implemented by staff. How to help pt. improve Outcomes
- Change in Questionnaire/Tool is not a Plan
- Program Planning
- Remaining 2024 Meeting Dates:
- 6-27-24 (day 12-3p)
- 9-26-24 (evening 5-7p) – Dinner from October Kitchen and Registered Dietician will attend to provide a very short presentation on their meals
- Please share contacts for other potential speakers or interest of specific topics with Kelsey, email: Kelsey.Gilmore@hhchealth.org
- We are specifically looking to fill June 2024 meeting and add supplemental speaker for Sept 2024 meeting
- Updates from the President
- AACVPR Email updates: DOTH -email campaign have you sent your letters to Senators and your local Congressional Representative? Remember they will only speak, email, etc their own constituents. I have sent everyone the links to the AACVPR form letters which you can customize. A previous years example of customization is on CSCR website from Kelsey's submission in past campaign. Send to your respective leaderships (Managers, Directors, Medical Staff). Most systems have a public policy staff that is most likely to support our efforts if we have individual champions from administrative or physician leadership teams. Individual staff may not get the level of support/buy-in as those members can gather. If permissible - patient engagement.
- ***Is there interest in doing a Zoom meeting with our senators ? If so we need as many members as possible and also email follow up is essential to remaining on their radar. This is not a once and done effort.***
- CSCR Ex Board Positions available: Secretary, Marketing, President, President Elect. I can send the Bylaws for your review if you are interested in joining us. New member input is essential to moving forward. Volunteer participation is a positive note for evaluations and Levels of Practice at most institutions.
- Educational opportunities with new AACVPR Updates to educational programs

- Core Competencies packets to purchase have been updated.
- Research submissions are being asked to present, do a poster display, etc in California Sept 25-27 at the 39Th Annual AACVPR Meeting.
- Is anyone attending the Billing and Coding workshop that can present to membership and share any documents to update us all
- ADVOCATE! Visit the link on the AACVPR Website for more information:
<https://www.aacvpr.org/Advocate>
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TAKE ACTION

HR 955/S. 1849 & HR 1406/S. 3021 - Support Letter

HR 955/S. 1849, SOS: Sustaining Outpatient Services Act

This bill will exempt certain hospital outpatient services, including cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation (CR, ICR, PR) from a drastic reimbursement reduction that is based solely on the location of the hospital outpatient service. The Sustaining Outpatient Services Act mandates that Medicare payment for hospital-based CR/ICR/PR services remain under the outpatient payment rate. The 60% reduction in reimbursement for off-campus CR/ICR/PR is unsustainable, and yet, these services are underutilized and are encouraged to expand to treat more beneficiaries than is physically possible. This legislative correction will remove the financial barrier to expanded patient access to these beneficial services.

U.S. House bill # HR 1406/S. 3021, Sustainable Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Services in the Home Act

This bill will allow Medicare beneficiaries to receive CR/ICR/PR services via real-time, audio/visual communication from their home. This hybrid delivery of hospital-based CR/ICR/PR services was effective during the pandemic and allowed more patients to receive these beneficial treatments. Beneficiaries who are rural or located in an area without a brick-and-mortar program, without transportation or the financial means to travel to a center, and other barriers to participation in a CR/ICR/PR program demonstrated comparable benefits to those in center-based programs.

Obviously, HR 955/S. 1849 and HR 1406/S. 3021 are synergistic. Programs are currently at capacity with excessively long waiting lists to even begin CR, ICR, or PR. With these bills, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation services will be able to improve access and meet the increasing demand for these beneficial treatments.

Please support cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services and patients by signing these bills today. Thank you for caring.

Take Steps to Advocate

Contact Your U.S. Representatives and Senators with a Customizable Letter

Want to help? It's not too late to join fellow practitioners in your state to advocate for CR, ICR, and PR services. Please ask for support (i.e., signature on both bills) of HR 955/S. 1849 and HR 1406/S. 3021. AACVPR has made it easy. Anyone, including rehab staff members, physicians, hospital administrators, and grateful patients can be an advocate for CR and PR services. Use the below pre-drafted, customizable letters to contact your U.S. House representative and advocate for bills above. Just five minutes and one letter could make a huge difference! Show your support for the life-changing effects of CR/ICR/PR and click on one of the buttons below to start your letter.

[SEND A LETTER TO THE HOUSE](#)

[SEND A LETTER TO SENATE](#)

- Be part of the solution. Now more than ever, the cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation field needs you to advocate for the valuable care and services you provide to your patients!
- YOUR Congressional and Senate members
- YOUR voice
- YOUR patients' voices
- YOUR administration's voices
- YOUR AACVPR advocacy team supporting you each step of the way!

- There are some sponsors see the latest AACVPR Email forwarded to you as an update since the meeting. Please share minutes with your staff as we have had a decrease in membership.
 - Q and A program Sharing
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- Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Casso CSCR President, fulfilling vacant roles of Marketing and Secretary