#### PALMETTO STATE NEWS

In loving memory of Ray High



# Your Challenge. Our Mission. 20-21



### Palmetto State News

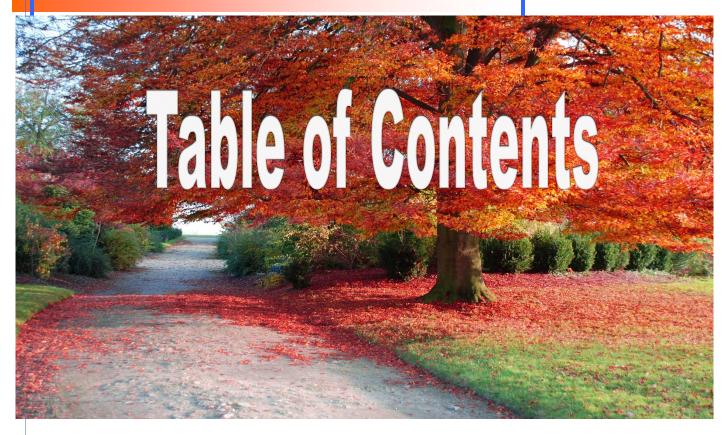
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#### **Our Vision**

The South Carolina Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association will continue to be the leading professional resource for individuals seeking excellence in the area of financial management of integrated health systems and other healthcare organizations.





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#### 2020-2021 **SCHFMA Officers and Directors**



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Lawrence Laddaga 2022 Laddaga-Garret, P.A.



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## A Message from the Chapter President

Hello to all my fellow SC HFMA Chapter Members!

What a crazy year 2020 has turned out to be so far. As we approach the last couple of months left in the year, I find myself reflecting upon all the challenges and changes we have all had to learn to adapt to this year. Each of you deserve a giant pat on the back because your resiliency skills have really been put to the test both professionally and personally. I know to many, February feels like a decade ago, but I feel so incredibly blessed that our



chapter and our region had the fortunate opportunity to come together and celebrate our inaugural Southeastern Summit in Charleston before the COVID pandemic consumed our every day life.

What a time to be in healthcare let alone healthcare finance. We have all, in some way or another, had to learn what it means to be scalable and pivot in an industry that is rapidly changing right before our very eyes. As we experience a shift in our workplace culture from furloughs, to layoffs to transitioning to a work from home lifestyle, let us be reminded that through it all, our purpose is to provide patient-centered healthcare with excellence in quality, service and access.

2020 has definitely brought on some changes for our chapter – some good and some not so good but through it all, our state, community and this chapter have been resilient. It is my honor and privilege to lead you all as your Chapter President through 2022. The Board of Directors as well as myself are very excited for the opportunity to breathe new ideas into our organization, get more of you involved with our chapter and get the chance to get to know a lot more of you, our members, personally.

Things to be on the lookout for as we move into 2021...

- a new testing platform for CRCA to be rolled out in January
- a transition back to in-person conferences starting at the end of March
- more collaboration opportunities with other state chapters
- new committees being formed focusing on diversity, inclusion, culture and mental health

I welcome your ideas, thoughts, comments and feedback. We all have to get uncomfortable to get comfortable so if it doesn't Challenge you, it doesn't Change you. This is going to be an exciting time for our chapter and I look forward to you all being a part of the journey!

Stay healthy and stay safe.

Danielle Gori

President, 2020-2022



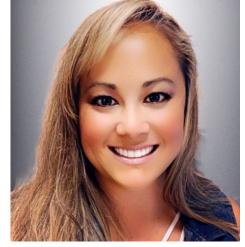


# Introducing Our New Officers and Directors 2020-2021

#### Officers for 2020-2021

#### Danielle Gori—President

Danielle Gori is the Manager over Post Payment Audits and Appeals for Ensemble Health Partners in Greenville, SC. Danielle oversees all payer mix post payment audits which also includes RAC, QIO, SMRC, CERT and ZPIC for numerous clients within Ensemble . Her team also manages the ADR requests for the TPE/PROBE audits. Danielle was previously the Government Audit Contractor Program Manager for Bon Secours Mercy Health in Greenville where she not only oversaw all RAC audit activity (including appeals, rebilling, trending reports and accrual and extrapolation reporting) for the local market but she also served as the Bon Secours Health System liaison for all RAC related activity. She has nearly 20 years healthcare related experience which includes more than 10+ years in Revenue Cycle as well as 3 years in Reimbursement.



Danielle joined HFMA in 2011 and as an active member of the South Carolina Chapter, she has served as chair for many of the chapter's Fall and Annual Institutes. She has also chaired Sponsorship for the last 4 years, chaired the inaugural 2020 Region

V Southeastern Summit and is the chapter's CVENT guru. She is a 2014 graduate of the SC HFMA's Certified Revenue Cycle Associate (CRCA) program and earned her Certified Healthcare Financial Professional (CHFP) designation in 2017. In 2018, she was awarded the prestigious Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (FHFMA). She will serve as President of the South Carolina Chapter in the 2021-2022 chapter year.

Danielle is a graduate of Lander University, enjoys photography, the outdoors and is a total NHL enthusiast – Let's Go Pens!! She currently resides in Easley, SC with her husband VJ.

Phone: 864-430-3632 / email: danielle.gori@ensemblehp.com



#### Robert Griffin - President-Elect

Robert has more than 20 years of experience while working in the Medicaid eligibility services as both operations and client services. While working for DECO over the last 9 years, Robert was a certified Federal Navigator for the ACA since 2013 helping consumers navigate their way through selecting insurance coverage.

Robert has been a member of the South Carolina Chapter of HFMA for over 15 years and has served on several committees, as well as Program Chair for 2 years, and joining the Board in 2017. Robert was Treasurer during 2019, served as Secretary the early part of 2020, and now serving as President-Elect for the remainder of 2020 and 2021.

A graduate of the inaugural class of Francis Marion "University" earning his degree in Sociology and minor in both Phycology and Biology. Robert and his wife DeAnn have two children Ashton and William whom both attend college in Clemson.

Phone: 864-534-0809 / Email: rgriffin@decorm.com

#### Officers for 2020-2021

#### Donna Kelly Ramicone, CHFP - Treasurer

Donna Kelly Ramicone has 20 years' experience as a healthcare finance professional and is currently working as the Director of Financial Operations for the Palmetto Health-University of South Carolina Medical group in Columbia, South Carolina since its inception in 2016. Prior to this, she worked as Vice President of Physician Network Finance for Lexington Medical Center also in South Carolina and Director of Finance/Controller for HCA Physician Services Group in Nashville, Tennessee.

Her work experience covers accounting, revenue cycle, financial reporting, provider compensation/contracting and business analytics for large medical groups. Donna is also an adjunct professor at Webster University, teaching advanced finance courses to MHA and MBA students.

Donna achieved HFMA's Certified Healthcare Finance Professional designation in 2015. She received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Drexel University and Master's degree from Regis University.

Phone: 843-822-8829 / Email: donnakw@att.net



#### Michael Jebaily - Immediate Past President

Michael is a Director in PwC's health services Revenue Performance Management practice leading engagements and operations at PwC's Virtual Business Office (VBO). Michael has extensive knowledge of revenue cycle operations with areas of expertise including: business process outsourcing, accounts receivable analytics, cash/risk mitigation, business office consolidations, process/operational improvement/automation, and strategic planning primarily with PFS.

Michael is a Fellow in HFMA (FHFMA), a Six Sigma Greenbelt, and a graduate of the SCHFMA Certified Revenue Cycle Associate (CRCA) program. Michael received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Francis Marion University in 2003, and his Master's in Healthcare Administration from the University of South Carolina in 2008.

Michael, his wife Suzanne and his children Jack, Henry, and Eliza live in Lexington, SC.

Phone: 803-978-6421 / Michael.Jebaily@us.pwc.com

#### Douglas Burrell - 2021

Doug Burrell is Director Finance at South Atlantic Health Care (SAHC) in Greenville, SC. His main focus at SAHC is on operational finance; including budgeting, financial statement analysis and cost accounting. Prior to his current role at SAHC, Doug was the Director Revenue Cycle Operations at Bon Secours St. Francis Health System in Greenville, SC. He was with St. Francis for six years and oversaw the Registration, Revenue Integrity, Customer Service and RAC staff. Previously Doug spent 1½ years at Georgetown Hospital System serving as the Business Manager for their physician network. Before going to Georgetown he spent 10 years at Roper St. Francis Healthcare in Charleston, SC in various roles including Managed Care and Reimbursement Services.

Doug received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Accounting from the College of Charleston. He resides in Greenville, SC along with his daughter Emily.

Phone: 843-442-7582 Email: Doug.Burrell@sa-hc.com





#### Nick Mazzola - 2021

Originally from New York, Nick moved to South Carolina in 2005 to pursue his education at Coastal Carolina University. He graduated in 2009 with a degree in business Mgmt. Nick has been working in the healthcare field with BCC Financial Mgmt services since 2011.

Phone: 914-582-7559 / Email: nmazzola@bccfinancial.com

#### Heather Crowell - 2021

Heather Thomas-Crowell is the Vice President of National Accounts at RevSpring Inc. She is responsible for the various partner relationships that RevSpring has across the country. Heather's 21-year career in the healthcare industry began on the provider side. She utilizes her industry knowledge, experience and expertise coupled with continuous educational opportunities to hone her contributions to the ever-evolving healthcare industry. She is an active member of South Carolina's HFMA Chapter and has served on several committees before joining the Board in 2020. Heather has a degree in Communications from the University of Arkansas.



Phone: 479-957-3942 Email: hcrowell@revspringinc.com



#### Jennifer Hayes, MHA, FHFMA, CHFP - 2022

Jen is the Director of Revenue Cycle Integrity at Lexington Medical Center in West Columbia, South Carolina and has more than twenty years of experience in the healthcare industry. She has a Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration from Regis University and holds the Certified Healthcare Financial Professional Certification with HFMA. Jen was awarded the prestigious Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (FHFMA) this past June. She has held leadership Revenue Cycle/Revenue Integrity roles with healthcare organizations in IL, OK, and SC.

Jen has been a member of HFMA since 2000 where she started with the Illinois chapter, joined Oklahoma chapter in 2013 and now the South Carolina chapter in 2015. She has been a member on the Communication, Membership, and the Annual/Fall

Institute Committees. She recently chaired the 2019 Annual Institute in Myrtle Beach and will be the co-chair for Sponsorship and CRCA Trustee Council. Jen is also actively involved with National Association of Healthcare Revenue Integrity (NAHRI) where she participates on the Networking Committee, Monthly Workgroup for RI Collaboration, Revenue Integrity Leadership Exchange and Symposium. Jen and her husband Jon are fans of NASCAR, camping, and motorcycle riding. They reside in West Columbia, SC.

Phone: 803-935-8781 / Email: jshayes@lexhealth.org

#### Ronnie Hyatt - 2022

Ronnie Hyatt is the current consulting CFO of Bon Secours St. Francis Health System in Greenville, SC, a part of Bon Secours Mercy Health. He came to Bon Secours Health System in 2001, after many years (21) at Mary Black Health System, LLC in various roles including CFO. At Mary Black, he was a key part of a team that was instrumental in structuring a sale of the private, community-based hospital to the for-profit Quorum Health Group ("QHG"), and this included forming an LLC in 1996 that included a number of Primary Care and Specialty practices as Owner/Members, along with QHG. The end result of this transaction was to form a Private foundation, in which the net sale proceeds went to this foundation for health purposes for the community of Spartanburg, SC.

He graduated in 1974 with a degree in Finance (Business Administration) from the University of South Carolina. He is very active in the Healthcare Financial Management Association ("HFMA"), both at the National and state levels. After serving in many Of-

ficer capacities in SC HFMA, he served as its President in 2011-2012, leading the Chapter to a perfect "100 Score" on the National HFMA Balanced Scorecard, which measures many metrics throughout the year. Since that time, he has earned and been recognized and awarded many HFMA accolades for his service. In 2013, he sat for and successfully passed and earned his CHFP designation (Certified Healthcare Finance Professional).

He is active in promoting Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety measures and improvements in Greenville, is a Board member of the local Greenville Humane Society, and has interests in similar civic committees and boards. Outside of professional interests, he enjoys travel, cycling, golf and most outdoor activities and spending quality time with his wife Elizabeth. He just announced his plans to retire in 2019, but intends to remain active in SC HFMA.

Phone: 864.449.4670 / Email: charles\_hyatt@bshsi.org



#### Lawrence Laddaga - 2022

Founder of Laddaga- Garrett, P.A., Attorneys and Counselors at Law in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1983, the firm limits its practice to Health Law and denial management and appeals. The firm represents a variety of health care providers in litigation, mediation and arbitration against insurance and health plans; Medicare/Medicaid issues; Compliance matters; revenue cycle consulting; managed care contracting; HIPAA; discharge planning issues; licensing and regulatory issues. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member at the College of Charleston's School of Professional Studies where he teaches Health Law and Regulation. Past chair of the Health Law Section of the S.C. Bar, he is also a member of the American Health Lawyers Association, an advanced member of the Healthcare Financial Managers Association (HFMA) and holds their Fellow Designation with Certifications in Patient Accounts and Managed Care. He is a past President of the South Carolina Chapter of HFMA, a past Regional Executive and served two terms on the HFMA National Principles and Practices Board, and Chapter Advancement Team. Mr. Laddaga enjoys Argentine Tango, Yoga, Zumba, Running, and Barre.

Phone: 843-207-5040 / email: lladdaga@sehealthlaw.com

#### Barney Osborne, FHFMA - Ex-Officio Member

Barney Osborne has more than 30 years of experience in healthcare Finance. Barney is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and is a Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (FHFMA), certified as a Certified Healthcare Financial Professional (CHFP) in Advanced Technical Study in Accounting and Finance.

Today, Barney is putting his many years of hospital financial and administrative experience as a hospital chief financial officer to work for all South Carolina hospitals as vice president of finance and reimbursement for the South Carolina Hospital Association. He is responsible for education, evaluating state and federal regulatory and procedural changes and evaluating the related risks at the hospital state and federal level, and advocating for the good of all South Carolina hospitals. Barney is a long-time member of the South Carolina Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association and is currently a member of the chapter's Board of Directors. He also serves on a number of other boards and taskforces at the state and federal levels.



Phone: 803-796-3080 / Email: BOsborne@scha.org



#### Jaime Bailey - 2023

Jaime Brabb Bailey is an Area Practice Manager for HCA Healthcare. Jaime has experience in outpatient physician practice management operations as well as serving a breadth of healthcare clients throughout South Carolina when she was a full time consultant. Jaime currently manages the Charleston, SC and Jacksonville, FL markets for the CareNow urgent care clinics of HCA. Her primary focus is assisting both markets with operational support and developing strategic initiatives to continue to drive the growth goals forward.

Jaime is a HFMA Certified Revenue Cycle Representative (CRCR) graduate. Jaime received her undergrad degree in Health Care Management, with honors, from University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2011, where she also played division-1 golf, and her Masters in Business Administration from Charleston Southern University in 2018.

Jaime joined SC HFMA in 2017 and has been actively supportive of the chapter and has also helped coordinate the physician roadshow educational series in spring of 2018. Jaime and her husband Will live in Mount Pleasant, SC where they enjoy being active and outdoors.

Phone: 843-577-5843 / Email: jaimebrabb@gmail.com

#### Brian Earnest - 2023

Brian Earnest is the Vice President of Revenue Cycle for Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. Brian grew up in Greer, SC and attended Auburn University for both his undergraduate and Masters degrees. Auburn is also where he met his wife of 13 years, who also works for SRHS as an Oncology Nurse. Brian joined SRHS in 2003. When not working, Brian enjoys traveling to the beach and woodworking.

Phone: 864-560-6569 / Email: bearnest@srhs.com





#### Melissa Stutz - 2023

Melissa Stutz is the Director of Cash Applications and Customer Service at Lexington Medical Center. She oversees the call center, financial counseling, bad debt, resource center, cash posting, and refunds. She has over 20 years of experience in healthcare.

Melissa has been a member of HFMA since 2012. She currently serves as the Communication Chair for the chapter.

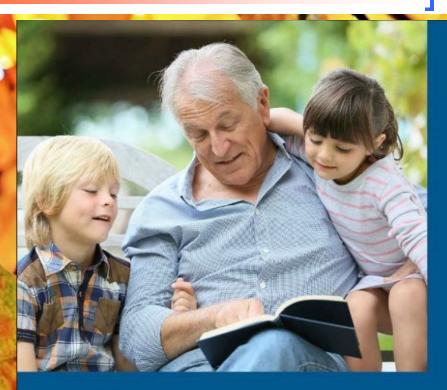
Melissa and her husband, David live in Elgin, South Carolina along with their two dogs; Chloe' and Gizmo.

Phone: 803-939-8702 / Email: mgstutz@lexhealth.org



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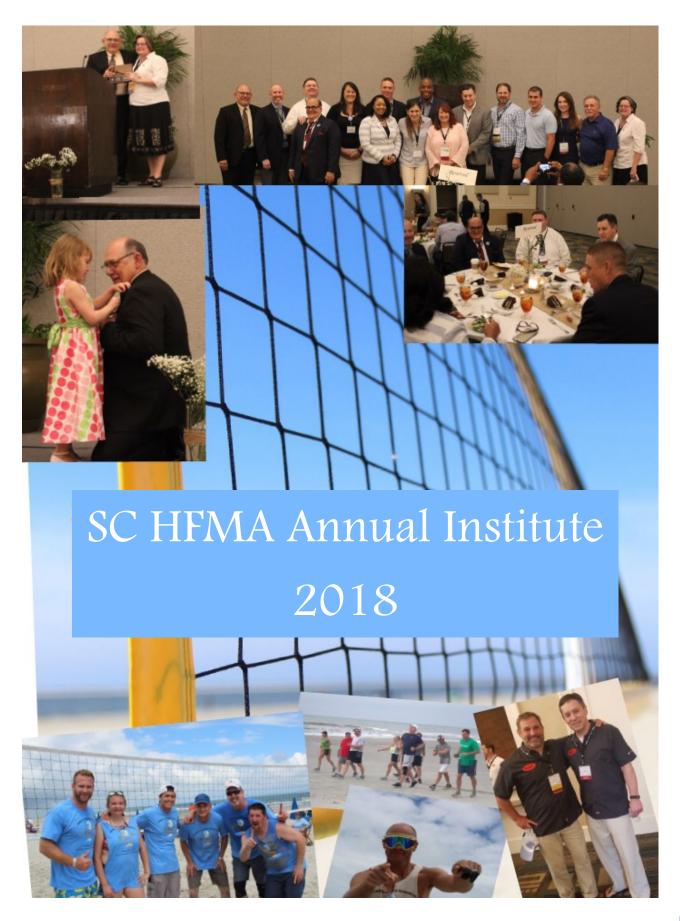


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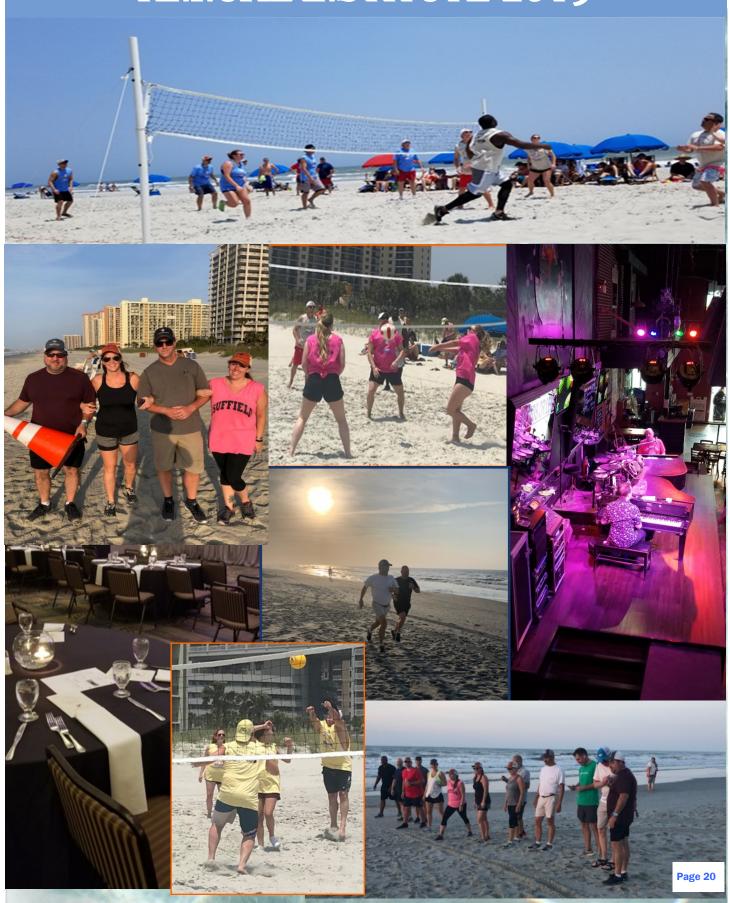
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Would you like to get involved?
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Contact information is listed on the SC Chapter website:

#### http://www.schfma.org/committees.html

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For additional information, please contact either:

Kurt Powell at Kurt.w.powell@bofa.com or cell: 704-654-9066 Ken Vance at Kenneth.vance@bofa.com or cell: 704-880-4887



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#### AHA PREDICTS RED ALERT FOR 50% OF U.S. HOSPITALS BRAD SKELTON, MAXRTE

HOSPITAL MARGINS ALREADY UNDER PRESSURE ARE EVAPORATING UNDER THE STRAIN OF COVID-19. ACCORDING TO A NEW REPORT, HALF OF ALL U.S. HOSPITALS WILL BE OPERATING IN THE RED BY THE END OF THE YEAR WITHOUT MORE FEDERAL RELIEF.

The report prepared by Kaufman Hall on behalf of the American Hospital Association (AHA) sounds this dire alarm that threatens the quality of healthcare during a time when it's most needed. Timing of the report coincided with the Senate's return to work last month and talks focusing on a new relief package that as of today is still in limbo.

The report shockingly predicts that hospital margins could sink 7% in the second half of 2020, and that half of all hospitals are likely to operate with a negative margin.

Normally, hospitals typically operate with a 3.5% operating margin. But there was nothing normal about Q2. The lockdown and need to preserve capacity for combatting COVID-19 financially gobsmacked hospitals as patient volumes dropped and elective procedures were cancelled. Patients concerned with potential exposure to the virus—especially those in the vulnerable category—are driving the Q3 post-lockdown reduction in elective procedures.

With an uncertain future about containment/spread of the virus, the report revealed that margins are expected to drop to -3% in the second quarter of this year.

#### **Urgently Seeking More Federal Support**

In an AHA call with reporters, David Perlstein, M.D., president and CEO of SBH Health System in New York City, substantiated that the drop would have been negative 15% without \$175 billion in funding provided by Congress a few months ago. He said, "Without the federal support we would have run out of cash and been forced to shut down the hospital." The pandemic has cost Grady Health System in Atlanta \$115 million, CEO John Haupert told reporters. About \$70 million of that has led to a reduction of elective surgeries and another \$45 million from increased expenses such as PPE.

A <u>separate AHA analysis</u> finds that the COVID-19 pandemic could cost hospitals \$323 billion through the end

of 2020. The cost increase includes higher prices to get personal protective equipment.

The AHA is pressing Congress for more relief funds and to change repayment terms for Medicare advance payments. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) doled out \$100 billion in advance and accelerated payments to facilities at the onset of the pandemic in March. The program has since been suspended, and the AHA and other hospital groups are worried that CMS could start asking for repayment for those loans this month. The group is in talks with lawmakers over the need for changes to the program and is lobbying for Congress to pass legislation that forgives the loans.

Congress has yet to pass another round of COVID-19 relief. Although McConnell has said that healthcare and relief for providers has to be a major pillar in the next relief package, no specifics were given.

#### **Expediting/Optimizing Income**

As the pandemic continues to wreak havoc with hospital financials, hospitals need to use every possible resource for kicking their revenue cycle into warp speed. They need to drive income as quickly as possible, and that calls for ensuring they have the most current, accurate insurance information for every patient at their fingertips. Avoiding reimbursement delays has never been more crucial. Automated solutions could be the lifeline hospitals desperately need.

#### SC HFMA Welcomes New Members

#### Joined May through September 2020

#### Prisma Health **Shield Ministries** (added 1 new member) (added 11 new members) **Laurens County Hospital** St, Joseph's / Candler Health Systems (added 2 new members) (added 1 new member) **Lexington Medical Center Centene Corporation** (added 1 new member) (added 1 new member) **HCA Healthcare Trident Health Systems** (added 1 new member) (added 1 new member) **Duke University Health Systems** Trinity Health (added 1 new member) (added I new member) HopeHealth, Inc UCI Medical Affiliates, Inc. (added 1 new member) (added 1 new member) **RSM US** Virtual Business Office (added 1 new member) idded 1 new member) **INDIVIDUALS Shatressa Bradley** Carlton Hawkes Alecia Edmund **Brendon Frenkle Brittany McMillian**



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Director, Patient Financial Services

MUSC Health—Charleston, SC

For details regarding these positions, please visit the chapter website:

http://www.schfma.org/job\_bank.html

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## Anniversary Milestones

June through September 2020

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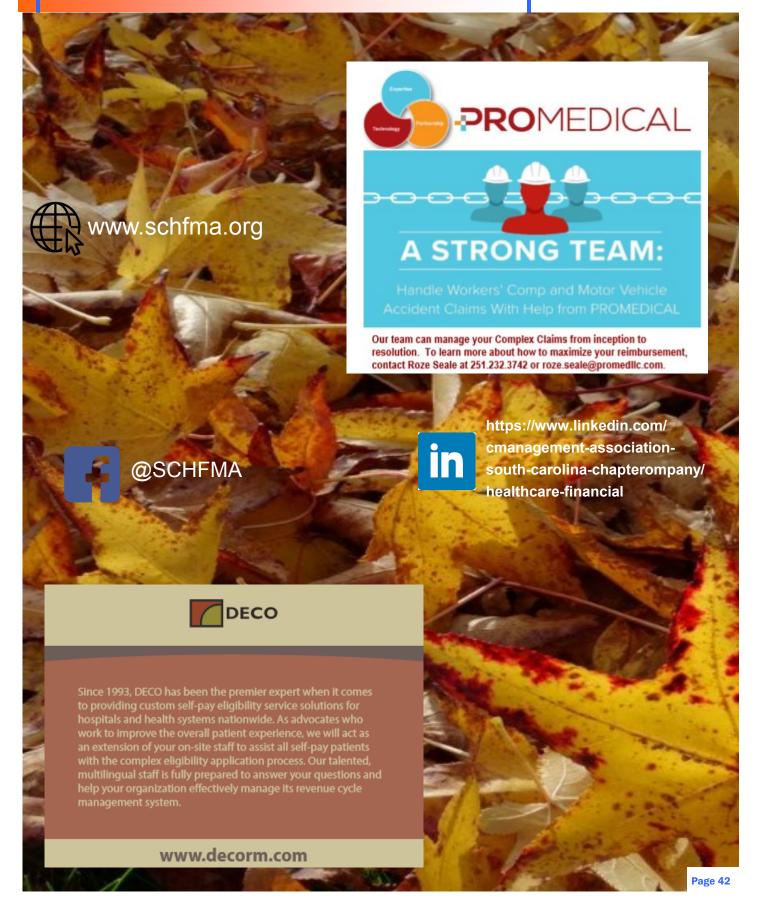
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Certified Specialist Physician Practice Management (CSPPM)

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#### November 4th through 6th

We hope you can join us for this year's Virtual Fall Institute presented by the GA & SC Chapters of HFMA. We hope that this week's Forum will give you some insight and information that you can use within your organization that will help you do your job better, get issues resolved more quickly, and give you direction on where to turn for certain issues.

Additional information can be found on the SC HFMA Chapter website under the events tab.

http://www.schfma.org/events.html

