



American College of Emergency Physicians
Democratic Group Practice Section
Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 26th, 2021

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Eastern Time

MINUTES

I. Welcome from the Chair/Introductions

Dr. Mullen

Dr. Jay Mullen, MD, FACEP, Section Chair, welcomed more than 30 members in attendance including the 2020-22 officers: Sergio Hernandez, MD, FACEP, Chair-Elect; Rob Thomas, MD, Immediate Past Chair; Chris Ross, MD, FACEP, Secretary/Newsletter Editor; David Hall, MD, FACEP, Councillor; and James Shoemaker, MD, FACEP, Board Liaison.

II. Board of Directors Update

Dr. Shoemaker

Dr. Shoemaker provided an ACEP leadership update highlighting several changes over the past year that highly impact small democratic groups. The breaking news was resolution of ACEPs outstanding lawsuit with Anthem regarding Prudent Lay Person Standard (PLP) issues in Georgia. The settlement came in our favor and hopefully could serve as precedent for further PLP issues with payors. Updates on the No Surprises act were less positive, however. Rate-setting benefitting the payors is still on the table according to the law as written. This is undoubtedly a fluid issue with much more to come. Regarding issues within ACEP, further progress with the workforce study and ED Accreditation Task Force were the highlights. Dr. Shoemaker also highlighted the exciting upcoming EM Group Academy, which should be a fantastic opportunity coming up in November 2022 for leaders and aspiring leaders of independent groups to learn the business of running a successful group. Many of the DGP Section Members will be faculty.

III. Council Update

Dr. Hall

Dr. Hall provided a summary of the 2021 Council meeting as it impacted democratic groups this year. He was excited to announce that our own Dr. Rami Khoury was elected to ACEP Board of Directors on the first ballot. The entire section is excited to have expanded representation within ACEP leadership. He also discussed the EM Group Ownership Task Force will be looking at cost/quality issues as they pertain to group consolidation.

IV. No Surprises Act: What You Need to Know

Mr. Krushinski

Mr. Krushinski, our section staff liaison, provided a brief update on the impact of the No Surprises Act, the federal law that was passed in December 2020 and takes effect of January 1, 2022. He emphasized that groups should act by submitting a letter to their U.S. Representative and Senators on the ACEP website asking for the Qualified Payment Amount (QPA) to be fairly calculated as to not benefit only insurers.



V. Presentation: Shining a Light on Democratic Group Strengths

Ms. Valli

Ms. Kathy Valli, the prior COO for Emergency Medical Associates of New Jersey (previous longstanding democratic group) discussed strategies that democratic groups can utilize to win and retain contracts. A PDF of her presentation is available on the ACEP Democratic Group Section website.

VII. Chair Report

Dr. Mullen

Dr. Mullen highlighted growth within the group from just over 100 members not too long ago to 250 members now. Membership is crucial for keeping our voice within ACEP.

VIII. New Business

All

Moving forward, the DGP leadership is planning another lecture/discussion series over the next year focusing on group growth. We look forward to great talks and equally great discussion. Until then, please reach out and start discussions on the EngagED forum.

IX. Adjournment

Dr. Mullen

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm ET. The next meeting will be at ACEP22 in San Francisco.