MINI-INTERNSHIP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION 2017

I. Objectives

- Promotes better understanding between physicians and community opinion leaders
- Renews Physicians’ enthusiasm for medicine
- Involves physicians in community affairs
- Provides community resources not previously available to members and the AMCNO
- Gives community leaders a behind-the-scenes look at the medical profession
- Lets interns personally experience physicians’ perspectives
- Shows interns the human side of medicine
- Provides ongoing medical resources interns can use for health policy considerations and personal health care decisions
- Allows physicians and interns to learn from each other
- Serves as a focus group to provide the AMCNO insights into public opinion on health issues

II. Rationale

In today’s health care environment of spiraling costs, confusion, criticism, litigation and misunderstanding, The Academy of Medicine Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO) feels health care professionals must respond to medical consumers’ concerns by establishing continuous and open communication. This communication must flow two ways if we are to make progress in the effort to resolve conflicts and devise constructive methods of containing costs without sacrificing the access to and quality of patient care.

Our Mini-Internship Program is an effort to achieve these ends by exposing the humane concerns of medical practitioners through first-hand experience of lay interns. It also provides physicians with input from a broad spectrum of the community.

Participating physicians represent a broad basic spectrum of medical care -- those specialties to which the majority of patients are routinely exposed. These include family practice, internal medicine, surgery, emergency medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, neurology and other specialty fields.

Interns will spend a half-day in each placement, rotating from one assignment to another during the project. They are encouraged to question and comment freely during the course of the internship.

Requirements

1. Participants taking part in this program will be required to attend a training program on patient confidentiality and the relevant HIPAA rules prior to visiting any hospital or physician’s office. Upon completion of that training and prior to visiting any health care facility or physician’s office, each
participant will sign a written confidentiality agreement, reflecting the training and the participant’s understanding of the HIPAA confidentiality rules.

2. Maintain respect for patient confidentiality. This prohibits interns’ discussion of cases and protects the patient’s right to refuse an intern’s presence.
3. Adhere to the arranged schedule.
4. Wear identification at all times.
5. Ask whatever questions arise and comment freely as you accompany physicians through the course of their routines.
6. Withhold discussion of the internship amongst yourselves until the debriefing dinner.
7. Provide input and help evaluate the program during the debriefing dinner.

III. Potential Participants

A. Interns are invited from the ranks of:

1. Industry and business
2. Politics and government
3. News media
4. Labor
5. Clergy
6. Education
7. Health care coalitions
8. Consumer advocacy groups
9. Judges and attorneys
10. Civic leaders

B. Participating physicians will represent a broad, basic spectrum of medical care, including those specialties to which the majority of patients are routinely exposed. While our primary focus is basic “in-the-trenches” medical care, an attempt is made for each intern to be exposed to different specialty experiences during this two-day period.

IV. Provisions from the AMCNO

A. AMCNO staff will answer questions, give directions, coordinate schedules, and be available to help if called on during the two-day internship.

B. AMCNO staff will provide ongoing communication with participants and issue reminders at reasonable intervals. Staff will also transmit information regarding interns’ schedule placements and accommodate any needs of participating interns or physicians.

V. Physician Faculty Responsibilities

A. Physicians will submit their schedules (locations included) for the one/two-day internship period.

B. After initial contact by AMCNO leaders and the Mini-Internship staff, participating physicians clear internship arrangements with appropriate hospital department heads, medical directors or administrators and make arrangements with hospital staff to expect interns and be prepared to direct them to specified meeting places.

C. Arrange at hospitals and/or in your offices to provide interns with scrub suits or other necessary apparel.