COMMITTEES WITH WRITTEN CHARGE CHANGES FORTHCOMING

THE HEALTH CARE POLICY COMMITTEE
formerly known as the Managed Care Patient Advocacy Committee

This committee, whose prior purpose was to follow the multi-state litigation actions, shall consist of no more than eleven (11) members. It was reformed/renamed in late 2010 to act as more of a think tank and organizer of CSMS policies as they relate to health care. It is presently in the process of providing for approval a formal charge that focuses on policy development and analysis.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM
(Presidential Appointment- standing committee of the Council)

This committee is charged with investigating various options for medical liability reform in Connecticut and developing a strategic approach to legislative and regulatory advocacy to achieve meaningful reform. The committee will be reconstituted this fall and likely have a more detailed charge.

PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE
(Appointments pending)

This committee has been charged with implementing the CSMS peer review process as outlined in the peer review strategic development proposal. A more formal charge will be established once the committee is constituted.

HEALTH EQUITY COMMITTEE
(Presently a standing committee of the Council)

This committee has been charged with implementing the CSMS health equity initiative and working on grant related projects and initiatives. A new charge will be presented at the 2012 CSMS HOD for approval to officially establish the committee as a committee of the CSMS HOD.

ORGANIZED MEDICAL STAFF SECTION (OMSS)

This committee has been working on revising its charge and an updated charge proposal will be submitted for approval at the 2012 CSMS HOD. Presently, the charge indicates that the Committee will work to promote OMSS activities and initiatives.
GROUP PRACTICE COMMITTEE (pending)
This committee will be recommended for approval at the 2012 CSMS HOD with a draft charge that the committee will have to refine and approve for submission to the 2013 CSMS HOD for final approval.

COMMITTEES WITH WRITTEN CHARGES

COMMITTEE ON CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Committee on Continuing Medical Education shall consist of not more than twenty-five representatives of CSMS accredited hospitals and organizations, and shall meet the composition guidelines of the AMA Council on Medical Education. The goal of the committee is to promote voluntary continuing education activities among CSMS members, and to support their lifelong commitment to continuing medical education.

The function of the committee is to enhance and encourage the availability of accredited CME of high quality through its status as the intrastate accrediting agency responsible to the National Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, and to make available information and consultation regarding CME methodology to those individuals responsible for organizing CME throughout the State of Connecticut.

COMMITTEE ON QUALITY OF CARE

The Committee on Quality of Care shall consist of not more than twenty (20) members, of which UConn and Yale will each provide one member. The committee’s charge is to (1) promote the quality of medical care delivered to patients in Connecticut; (2) seek opportunities to constantly improve the quality of health care provided to patients in Connecticut; and (3) collaborate with other relevant organizations to enhance the quality of health care for the citizens of Connecticut.

COMMITTEE ON WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

The Committee on Workers’ Compensation shall consist of not more than seventeen (17) members. The function of the committee shall be to meet on a routine basis for the purpose of advising the Worker’s Compensation Commission on issues of medical policy and procedures related to the Connecticut Workers’ Compensation system.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

The Committee on Ethics has no limitation on number of members. The purpose of the Committee on Ethics is to discuss ethical issues that arise, such as physician-assisted suicide or physician involvement in judicially-mandated executions, to name but two ethical issues that confront physicians. This committee’s charge will not include creating policy for CSMS, but will provide a forum for physicians to discuss these weighty matters.
SENIOR SECTION COMMITTEE

The Senior Section Committee has no limitation on number of members. This section will meet at least twice a year to discuss issues of interest and importance to the very dedicated, semi-retired, retired and otherwise no longer active practicing physician members of CSMS. The committee identified “Three Pillars” of possible activity which the senior members may be actively involved:

1) Care of the Indigent;
2) Legislative involvement; and
3) Mentoring medical students and residents.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICAL AND JUDICIAL AFFAIRS

(a) Composition. The Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs shall consist of twelve members of the Society, each of whom must have been a member of the Society for ten years and have served as an officer of the Society or of a component County Association: No member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms. The Council shall annually nominate to the House of Delegates one member of the Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs from each of two component County Associations, in quadrennial rotation, and one member-at-large, each to serve a four year term. Biennially, the Council shall also nominate a chair of the Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs for a term of two years. No chair shall serve more than two terms in succession.

(b) (1) Functions. The Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs shall be the Board of Censors of The Society. All questions concerning codes of ethics, matters of bioethics, and medical ethics brought before the House of Delegates or a general meeting shall be referred to the Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs without discussion. It shall hear and decide all questions affecting the conduct of members of component associations on which an appeal is taken, and its decision in all such matters shall be final, except as hereinafter provided. The committee may study and render an opinion when indicated on any question referred to it from the House of Delegates, the Council, from any other responsible source or on its own initiative involving the rights, standing, or obligations of members in relation to other members or to a component association or to The Society or any subdivision thereof, or any question concerning bioethics, codes of ethics, medical ethics or affecting the good name of the profession, or any litigation arising out of a physician's practice. The Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs shall serve as a board of review for all cases of any nature referred to it by any component county association.

(2) The Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs shall have the power to interpret the Charter, Bylaws and Rules of The Society and the component county associations; to decide any dispute or questions between The Society and component county associations, or between county associations.

(3) Investigating Subcommittee: The Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs acting on its own motion or on request from any responsible source, may request the Council to appoint a subcommittee to investigate and report on any complaint or condition in the State of greater than
local concern affecting the profession as a whole. If the subcommittee finds that there is probable cause for action, it shall so state. The Council shall, in turn, submit the report to the Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs. If the committee agrees that there is need for action, it shall first request the county medical association having jurisdiction to take appropriate action and to submit a report of the facts found and the action taken. The Committee on Ethical and Judicial affairs may act in its appellate function as to any action taken by the county association in the matter.

(4) The Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs shall be, or shall represent The Society on, a Panel for Physician-Hospital Mediation. The chair may appoint an ad hoc subcommittee of three members, who shall be impartial as to subject matter, persons involved and other prejudicial factors, to assist in resolving disagreements involving members of The Society when those procedures recommended by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals have failed.

(5) The Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs shall render a report to each annual meeting of the House of Delegates, including its actions, opinions, and recommendations and shall make such interim reports as it desires or as are requested by the House of Delegates. Such reports shall be available to members of The Society.

(c) (1) Jurisdiction. The judicial power of The Society shall be vested in the Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, with jurisdiction over all members of The Society, acting within its function. Its decisions shall be binding on the parties concerned and specific problem considered, but shall be considered only as a presumption of The Society, binding on all members, only when endorsed by the House of Delegates and published to the membership. The committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs may use its judgment whether or not to request such endorsement from the House of Delegates for the purpose of establishing such a principle.

(2) The findings and acts of the Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs whether in exercise of its original jurisdiction or its jurisdiction in appeals from component associations, shall be subject to such rights of appeal to the AMA as may from time to time exist under AMA rules and procedures. Execution of the decision or action of the Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs shall be automatically stayed during such period as may be authorized for any such appeal to the AMA and also, unless the committee otherwise provides, during the pendency and disposition of such appeal.

(d) Procedure. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The Committee shall meet at the call of the chairman. The Council shall fill any vacancy occurring between meetings of the House of Delegates. The committee, in any ethical or bioethical problem which, in its judgment, transcends medical ethics, may invite discussants and participants, lay as well as medical.
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE OF CONNECTICUT MEDICINE

The Editorial Committee of Connecticut Medicine shall consist of not more than twenty-five (25) members in addition to the Editor and the President who shall serve ex-officio as members with all rights and privileges. The Editor shall serve as Chair of the Editorial Committee. The members of the committee, insofar as feasible, shall be capable of representing the various specialty divisions of medicine and the various geographic areas of the state.

The function of the committee shall be to assist and guide the Editor in the acceptance or rejection of manuscripts for publication and to assist the Editor to maintain a high literary quality in Connecticut Medicine. The committee shall not be concerned with the business or financial aspects of the publication of Connecticut Medicine, which aspects are the responsibility of the Editor and the Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

The Committee on Legislation shall have not more than seventeen members, consisting of:

- Three (3) “At Large” members who are one Chair and two Co-Vice Chairs;
- Two (2) CSMS Delegates to the AMA;
- One (1) representative from each of the eight counties;
- One (1) representative from Yale;
- One (1) representative from UConn; and
- Two (2) members consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of the ad hoc committee of the Specialty Societies Section.

The committee’s charge shall be to serve as a reference committee through which all legislative issues of the CSMS are channeled prior to final consideration by the Council; to recommend changes in existing CSMS policy when necessary to accomplish effective legislative goals; to maintain constant surveillance over the legislation scene and to anticipate future legislative needs; to review proposed legislation and recommend appropriate action within CSMS policy; and to recommend to the Council new legislation and legislation to modify existing laws of interest to the CSMS.

COMMITTEE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The Committee on Disaster Preparedness has no limitation on membership. The committee’s charge is to explore ways to engage physicians in ongoing state emergency management coordination efforts.
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION
formerly the Public Affairs Committee

The Committee on Public Education and Communication shall consist of not more than eighteen (18) members, eight (8) of whom shall be designated by the County Associations on the basis of one per county, with the remainder at large. The functions of the committee shall be to inquire into and pass upon such phases of public and professional information as deal with the care of the sick and the practice of medicine, to keep the people and the physicians of Connecticut reliably informed concerning matters of public and professional interest in the field of medicine, to encourage cordial relations and understanding with communications media and to cooperate with other committees of The Society and of the AMA in a program of public relations. The committee shall assist the component county associations in developing and disseminating accurate and reliable information concerning matters of public interest in the field of medicine and shall use its efforts to encourage cooperation by the component county associations with local medical associations, voluntary agencies, the press, radio, television and other groups within the respective county areas in a program of public relations. The committee shall also take appropriate actions and initiate or cooperate with other agencies in programs designed to stimulate interest in careers in medicine and allied health fields among qualified students at various levels of education. In addition, the committee shall encourage the members of the Society to enroll in and support the Connecticut Political Action Committee and shall plan and implement through the Executive Director's office a continuing program of political education for the membership. At the discretion of the committee, subcommittees may be formed and utilized as a means of expending and making more effective implementation of the several charges assigned to the committee.

Note, the House of Delegates approved the following changes to the Committee on Public Health:

a. That the committee’s name be changed to “Committee on Public Education and Communication;”
b. That the committee be tasked to revise its charge to more correctly reflect the new title; and
c. That the number of committee members be increased from 16 to 18, to create an additional two at-large seats.

It should be noted that the committee has not met since the name change was approved, and therefore, its charge has not been revised to more correctly reflect the name change.

COMMITTEE ON MATERNAL AND PERINATAL MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY

There is no limitation in membership on the Committee on Maternal and Perinatal Morbidity and Mortality. The function of the committee shall be to coordinate and integrate the efforts of various agencies concerned with the study and prevention of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality in Connecticut, to aid and encourage the establishment and maintenance of high professional standards in prenatal and obstetrical care, to encourage every hospital in Connecticut where maternity and newborn service is a functioning part of the staff activities to have an active committee on maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality, to encourage component associations in the development of committees which can help in a consultative
manner to correlate the study of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality in the hospitals in their areas, and to organize and promote professional education in these and related matters in Connecticut.

COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL ASPECTS OF SPORTS

The Committee on the Medical Aspects of Sports shall have not more than twenty-five (25) members. The function of the committee shall be to plan continuing educational programs in the field of sports medicine, to develop programs for meeting the health care delivery needs of school and community sports activities, to maintain liaison with sports governing boards in Connecticut, to improve and standardize rules designed to prevent sports injuries in Connecticut, to foster development of the team physician concept and seek to interest more physicians in such concept, to act as medical consultants to the CIAC, and to serve as the editorial board of the Society’s publication Connecticut Sportsmed. During his tenure in office, the Chair of the committee shall also serve as the editor and Chair of the editorial board of Connecticut Sportsmed.

COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG DEPENDENCY EDUCATION

The Committee on Alcohol and Other Drug Dependency Education shall consist of not more than twelve (12) members.

The functions of the committee shall be to study topics related to the health aspects of alcohol and other mood altering drugs of addictive potential; to develop policy recommendations to present to CSMS; to promote education of the public and our peers in this area; to advise voluntary and state agencies on related topics.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

The Committee on Public Health shall consist of not more than twenty (20) members having interest and qualifications in each of the fields of public health, rural health and occupational health. The functions of the committee shall be to study matters and problems having to do with public health, rural health and/or occupational health and to make recommendations to the Council and/or House of Delegates concerning educational and informational programs, regulations or legislation designed to improve services or resolve problems in any of the named fields.

With respect to public health, the committee shall seek to coordinate and integrate the various agencies in Connecticut concerned with public health, sanitation and the prevention of communicable diseases; to seek and maintain liaison with the State Department of Health and other public health agencies; to aid and encourage the establishment of high professional standards in public health practice; to disseminate to all physicians information useful in the prevention of disease; and to organize and promote professional education on preventive medicine in Connecticut.
With respect to rural health, the committee shall seek to maintain working and coordinative liaison with the appropriate public and private agencies in Connecticut whose activities are applicable to the problems of rural health; to organize and promote health education programs and self-help programs; and to gather and disseminate information concerning the prevention of rural occupational health disorders.

With respect to occupational health, the committee shall seek to develop and bring to the attention of employers methods of improving occupational health services and to the attention of employers and employees the value of such services; to attract and guide physicians in private practice in rendering part-time or consultative occupational health services; and to promote high professional standards among practitioners involved with any phase of occupational health.

COMMITTEE ON ORGAN AND TISSUE TRANSFERS

The Committee on Organ and Tissue Transfers shall consist of not more than fifteen (15) members. This committee functions as half of the Red Cross Medical Advisory Committee for its blood banking operations and is staffed by the Red Cross in Farmington, with meetings alternating between Farmington and the New Haven office of CSMS.

The function of the committee shall be to promote the development and maintenance of a statewide blood bank system operating in the interests of the public and the medical profession; to cooperate with the State Department of Health and with other agencies in encouraging the establishment and maintenance of high professional standards in the operation of blood banks and to organize and promote professional education in Connecticut regarding the blood program and related matters. The committee shall also keep abreast of developments in the field of organ and tissue transfers and the procurement, processing and preservation of organs and tissues used in such transfers and shall cooperate with other interested agencies in the establishment and maintaining of high professional standards in the subject areas.

COMMITTEE ON MEDICARE AND SENIOR HEALTH ISSUES

The Committee on Medicare and Senior Health Issues (a merged entity of the Committee on Geriatrics and the Medicare Committee) has no limitation on membership. It has the mission of addressing the quality of care and safety issues of Medicare beneficiaries and older adults in Connecticut, maintain liaison between the Medicare Administration Contractor (MAC) and CSMS, advocate improvements to the Medicare benefit structure (e.g. preventive care services) enabling physicians to provide high quality care, make recommendations to the Committee on Legislation and CSMS council and collaborate with other professional organizations involved in the care of older adults in Connecticut such as American Medical Directors Association (AMDA), American Geriatrics Society (AGS) and others.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

The Bylaws Committee shall consist of three (3) members of the Council and six (6) members chosen at large by the House of Delegates. Efforts should be made to include representation from each county. Terms shall be for three (3) years, with one (1) member of the Council and
two (2) at-large members chosen at each annual meeting. The purpose of the committee is to review proposed bylaws changes and craft appropriate language, consistent with the sense and intent of the proposal and with the pertinent current bylaws, and legal review, for consideration by the full House of Delegates at its next meeting. The committee shall state its recommendations regarding the proposed bylaws in its report to the House of Delegates.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and four at-large members of the Society, elected for one-year terms annually by the House of Delegates, one of whom may be a member of the Council, all as voting members. Every effort should be made to include representation from various counties on the committee. The Finance Committee shall be responsible for: establishing and maintaining an appropriate accounting system, a system of financial control for the funds of the Society, preparing the report from the Finance Committee to the House of Delegates and recommending an independent financial reviewer to the House of Delegates for its approval. All expenditures in excess of $5,000 shall be approved first by the Treasurer of the Society and then ratified by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall report at each Council meeting of the Society.

REPRESENTATIVES

DELEGATES TO CONNECTICUT PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

The House of Delegates shall annually elect one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate to the Connecticut Public Health Association. The duties of these delegates shall be to attend meetings of the Connecticut Public Health Association; to act as official representatives of the Society at such meetings; and to file informative reports with the Council and/or the House of Delegates on the proceedings of such meetings.

DELEGATES TO CONNECTICUT NUTRITION COUNCIL

The House of Delegates shall annually elect one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate delegate to the Connecticut Nutrition Council. The duties of these delegates shall be to attend meetings of the Connecticut Nutrition Council; to act as official representatives of The Society at such meetings, and to file informative reports with the Council and/or the House of Delegates on the proceedings of such meetings.

DELEGATES TO CONNECTICUT ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCHOOL HEALTH

The House of Delegates shall elect, every three (3) years, one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate delegate to the Connecticut Advisory Council on School Health for a term of three years. The duties of these delegates shall be to attend meetings of the Connecticut Advisory Council on School Health; to act as an official representative of The Society at such meetings; and to file informative reports with the Council and/or the House of Delegates on the proceedings of such meetings.