

February 2015

Legislative Committee Update:

The ASRT board of directors has decided to discontinue any work on the CARE Bill. All efforts are being directed toward the state affiliates to enhance membership and secure licensure in states. Assistance from the ASRT in the forms of different programs is available to state affiliates who are interested. SDSRT has been accepted into a program in which to receive guidance and support to keep our society moving forward and retain membership. I am very proud of the SDSRT board of directors as they lead our society into the future.

Sharon Wartenbee  
Life Member

Meaningful Use Legislative Update:

Currently in the state of South Dakota, Radiologic Technologists (Rad Techs) are not licensed health care providers. Therefore, we currently are unable to count the orders these staff members enter into the electronic health record (EHR) towards the Meaningful Use objective for Computerized Provider Order Entry (CPOE).

In an effort to remedy this problem and assure that we do not incur meaningful use penalties after 2015, we are proposing a statutory change. There have been several contacts made to the South Dakota Department of Health to establish language for a bill to be reviewed by the 2015 legislature. This would be a very narrow change to clarify certification as it would apply only to Meaningful Use. There is no intent to ask for a change in licensure or education. A rule has been drafted regarding meeting the Meaningful Use requirements in SD, and will go to the rules committee after session in a packet of rules from Department of Health.

This issue was brought forward by staff at the Avera Heart Hospital. The Avera Center for Public Policy has been working with the Department of Health and Avera Heart Hospital CEO Jon Soderholm to come to a workable solution. Mr. Soderholm has met with other interested parties, including Sanford, Regional, SDAHO and the South Dakota associations for Rad Techs to garner support for such an effort.