

January 2011

Certification Corner

Q: Our chapter had already begun to set the certification ball in motion with our elected state officials prior to the development of the IAHCSSM Government Affairs Department in October. Are we able to continue on our current path, as planned, or should we put the brakes on a bit until we hear from you regarding our next steps? We are excited to move forward on state certification, but we also don't want to jeopardize our success.



A: The first step would be to contact me via email (jo@iahcssm.org) and provide me with an update as to where your state is in the legislative process. The next step would be for me to convene a conference call with the state members involved with the certification issue. On that call, we will develop an action plan to move forward. I do not want to jeopardize any success your state has had, but would like to provide strategic advisement on how to continue. Together, we will move your state closer to passing certification legislation.

Q: We reviewed the new IAHCSSM draft certification bill on the website. Are we required to use this language verbatim or is there flexibility in changing some of the language?

A: The answer is yes and no. We would like as much of the draft language as possible to be used as a real bill. Some language may need to be changed to reflect what is currently in existing state statute; therefore, each state will end up with a modified version. For example, a state may already have a definition for "healthcare facility" and our language may need to be modified. Additionally, we do not want the main idea of the legislation to change. For example, it is a "certification" bill and we do not want this language changed to "licensure."

Keeping our certification language consistent across the country gives us an argument for introducing the legislation in states that do not have laws. Legislators want to know what states have passed the legislation and what the language looks like. Keeping the language consistent, simple and to the point will help our certification efforts.

Have a state certification- or legislative-related question that you'd like answered in an upcoming issue? Email IAHCSSM's Government Affairs Director at jo@iahcssm.org.