

The mission of the Forum is to support and advocate on behalf of the ESRD Networks in promoting methods to improve the quality of care to patients with renal disease.

Forum Matters

Advocacy Products/Services: QI Products/Services: Education

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Since the last issue:

The Forum wishes to acknowledge Mr. Jerry Fuller, Executive Director Network 8, for his dedicated service to the Forum Board of Directors and Executive Director Advisory Council. We wish him the very best in his retirement and future endeavors. Thank you!

- Nominations are now being sought to fill the Member-at-Large position vacated by Mr. Fuller's retirement. Please contact [Dee at the Forum Office](#) for more information.
- The **Forum's 3-part webinar series** "The Experience of Care: Patients and Providers as Partners" was a great success with over 600 people attending each of the three webinars! Recordings of the webinars, slides, the Q&A document and useful tools provided by the presenters are now available at the [Forum website](#).
- **Please Join Us!** A fourth webinar, an encore presentation, will convene on January 25th at 2:00 pm ET. This webinar will provide attendees with an opportunity to continue the discussions from the first three webinars and ask the presenters questions about how to break down barriers to engaging patients in their care, as well as, how to get started with Peer Mentoring and Patient Advocacy activities. Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2179475417977257731>
- Members of the Forum's Board of Directors met in Seattle on August 5-6, 2016, for the **Summer Forum Board Meeting**. A 1-page bulleted summary highlighting the discussion topics and the President's Message slide set are available for your review. Please contact the [Forum Office](#) for more information.
- The Forum Board of Directors will convene their **Winter Forum Board of Directors meeting** on February 24-25, 2017, in Atlanta, GA. The agenda is being developed and the Board welcomes topic suggestions from members. Topic suggestions can be sent to the [Forum office](#).
- On November 16, 2016 members of the Forum's **Medical Advisory Council** convened their annual meeting in Chicago, IL immediately prior to ASN Kidney Week. MAC members welcomed a number of Network MRB guests to this meeting. Minutes of the meeting are available at the Forum Office.
- **NEW TOOLKITS:** The **Home Dialysis Toolkit** is now available for download. And the Kidney Patient Advisory Council's **Dialysis Patient Grievance Toolkit**, developed by patients for patients, is also now available. Both can be found on the [Forum website](#). Please share with your colleagues.
- Updates to the **Forum Bylaws** are complete and have been approved by the Forum membership. You can view or download a copy from the [Forum website](#).

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- **Regular calls between Forum and CMS leadership** resumed in May 2016 and members of both organizations met in-person on December 15, 2016, at the conclusion of the CMS Quality Conference in Baltimore, MD. These meetings have included discussions of the following topics: harmonizing the COR approach to Network evaluations, a request for CMS assistance to disseminate the Forum Toolkits, AKI patients treated in ESRD facilities beginning January 1, the development of an educational program by the Forum to provide education to patients and their families so they can more effectively participate in local/regional/national QI opportunities, improving health information exchange for ESRD Network's QI projects, a discussion of concerns regarding the ESRD Network AIM 2 projects related to home dialysis and transplant referral, and a request to consider additional support of ESRD patient travel as it relates to opportunities to participate in patient engagement activities.
- Please consider joining us! **Elections** of the Board of Directors will take place this spring. Forum members will be formally contacted in May to solicit nominations for 2 Member-At-Large positions, the Treasurer position and the President-Elect position.

Forum Members In The Community

- **NRAA Spring Meeting May 25, 2016:** Donald Molony, Glenda Harbert and Stephanie Hutchinson were invited to be part of a panel discussion. Cynthia Kristensen presented an overview of the Transitions of Care Toolkit.
- **White House Organ Donation Summit June 30, 2016:** Maggie Carey was invited by Dennis Wagner, Director of QIIG, CCSG, CMS, to attend the summit and participate in round-table discussions. A recording of the opening session can be found at the link below. Patrick Conway, MD, acknowledged the ESRD Networks and a number of our colleagues for their work in this area (these acknowledgements begin at approximately 15:20 in the recording).
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2016/06/13/white-house-organ-summit>
- **CMS Quality Conference December 13, 2016:** Maggie Carey, KPAC Chair, was invited by Jean Moody-Williams (Deputy Director, CCSQ, CMS) to be part of a panel discussion on patient and family engagement. Over 2500 healthcare professionals attended this conference.
- **Lou Diamond** received the [AAKP Peter Lundin, MD Award](#) for his contributions to the care, welfare and well-being of patients over a lifetime of devoted service. The Northwest Renal Network and the Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition also received awards during the 2016 AAKP National Patient Meeting.

When something doesn't work, it's not a failure. It's an experiment that gave you some data. The only way it becomes a failure is if you don't learn what you can from it. - Charles Duhigg