

Brandeis Final Report – Marion Henry – ACS/APSA

Given to the APSA Annual Meeting May 21, 2019

The Brandeis Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management is a one-week program that I was fortunate to attend last year supported by APSA and the ACS.

The first portion of the program is a Health Policy Primer led by Stuart Altman who explains the history of health policy from the point of view of someone who has been actively working in this arena for decades. He is chair of the RWJ Foundation Council on Health Care Economics and Policy and Chair of the Health Industry Forum and in these capacities has worked to bring diverse leaders together from across health care fields to develop solutions to the major problems in health care. Perhaps the pre-eminent leader and expert in the field, he has been listed among the 30 people with the most influence on healthcare. Although my background in the policy matters being discussed was already strong, his historical perspective of how we came to be where we are today was very interesting and gave a new relevance and knowledge on the challenges.

The second half of the course had its main focus in management science and the process of leadership directed by Jon Chilingerian. For me personally, this was the most useful portion of the course. We discussed topics such as goal theory, fair process, collective intelligence and strategic thinking.

The course included a team of instructors from the Heller School at Brandeis University whose expertise covers Health Care Payment Systems, Health Services Research and Policy Development, Health Care Quality, Relational Coordination Research, Organizational Behavior and Change and Business Strategy and Operations.

Several of our APSA members have started with this course as an introduction to the Executive MBA Program at the Heller School and have subsequently pursued their MBA. Please seek out more information from them about that program: Mike Chen, Ton Tracy and Loretto Glynn.

On a personal level, the course has enabled me to better understand the challenges of policy and how it is impacting my particular health care system as we struggle with cost containment and quality improvement in an academic hospital within a larger health care system. Having increased familiarity and comfort with the policy program language and structure and how we got to this point of policy helps in discussing possible improvements. The leadership portion of the course has given me increased knowledge and tool sets as I lead national committees for APSA and other organizations and as I pull together diverse teams within my organization to try and tackle the challenges we have. I would highly recommend the course to anyone with an interest in policy and management.