

Minnesota Rural Health Association

Board of Director's Meeting

Meeting Minutes
Conference Call
January 20th, 2006
11:45 am – 1:00 pm

PRESENT

Ray Christensen	University of Minnesota
Maddy Forsberg	SW MN Area Agency on Aging
Rick Failing	Kittson Co. Hospital
Duane Nelson	Eide Bailly, LLP
Mary Page	Volunteer Extraordinaire
Liz Quam	CDI
Mark Schoenbaum	Office of Rural Health and Primary Care
Tim Stratton	University of Minnesota
Vickie Trauba	Rural Health Resource Center
Robin Weis	SW MN Senior Linkage
Julie Larsen	Director

ABSENT

Dave Borgert	CentraCare Systems
Jack Geller	Center for Rural Policy / Development
Barbara Muesing	University of Minnesota
Nancy Frank-Wilson	Community Health Liaison

Guests: Jennifer Beech, CDI

Meeting brought to order at 11:45 by Ray Christensen.

Minutes from October 21st, 2005 moved and approved.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer's report was moved and approved. Discussion on finances especially long term issues and concerns.

Director's Report

Ray spoke about the transition process that MRHA will begin. Julie has agreed to stay with the organization until 3/31/06. At that time it is hoped that MRHA will have found a new home at UM-Crookston. Discussions have begun with them. He also talked about the importance of presence of MRHA at the legislature this year.

Coordinator's Report

Julie reported on progress of Bremer proposal, board notebooks, and the committee meetings that had taken place earlier in the day. Those minutes are attached to these board minutes.

Discussion Items:

Relationships with Other Organizations: There was discussion on the importance of some key relationships with the Office of Rural Health and the Rural Health Resource Center specifically and if those organizations should be accorded ex officio board positions. It was informally decided that while those are important relationships to MRHA, for the time being, the organization will continue to work with them and not change any positions on the board. Other relationships discussed were the UM-Duluth Medical School, MN Rural Partners and EMS. As the board starts to look for new members, these would be some key groups to bring on the board. The Nominating Committee (Ray, Liz and Maddy) will look for these people.

Rural Health Advisory Committee: Ray updated the board on the work that the Advisory Committee is doing.

Annual Meeting: The rural health conference will be in Duluth again in 2006 in July 17-18. During this time the MRHA annual meeting where officers are elected will be held. Liz will represent MRHA on the annual rural health planning committee.

Other: Vicki updated the board on the Rural Health Leadership Institute that will be taking place in Duluth the same time as the annual conference. Ray and Mark brought up the National Rural Health Policy meeting that was 2/25-27 in Washington. No one is specifically going to represent MRHA.

Action Items:

Transition: Liz and Ray talked about the idea of moving the MRHA office and staffing to UM-Crookston. There was discussion on whether or not that was a good idea, MRHA needs, and questions that the board had. Motion made and approved for Liz and Ray to begin discussions with UM-Crookston regarding the transitioning of MRHA to the Crookston campus. Liz, Ray and Barbara will have a conference call with the Chancellor (Chuck Casey) on February 10th, 2006.

2006 Legislative Agenda: As discussed in the minutes of the advocacy committee it is vitally important that MRHA develop and promote a legislative agenda this year. A green sheet will be developed around the issues of methamphetamine use, aging needs, pay for performance and the interpreter bill (that will be reintroduced this year). It was decided not to take on any federal issues this year. Motion to support the agenda issues made and approved. Jennifer Beech, a senior associate with CDI and a person concerned with rural health issues was welcomed to the advocacy committee.

Next Meeting: March 17th, conference call.

Meeting Adjourned – 1:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Julie Larsen
Director
Minnesota Rural Health Association

Membership Committee Meeting Minutes
1/20/06 and 2/27/06

Committee: Vicki, Robin and Mary

Committee convened both times to discuss membership requests, materials needed and a procedure to use for all events to build membership.

The procedure that was discussed to use at all events was:

Minnesota Rural Health Association
(Steps to assist Board Members in making all MRHA sponsored events a success)

- Inform MRHA Executive Director about event.
- Help to be sure that a MRHA co-sponsored event is marketed as such
- Include MRHA information in event packet or distribute them at event
- Read the mission statement to event participants
- Briefly highlight the membership benefits and expand on points of interest to the event participants
- Inform event participants about Board Member(s) that they may be aware of or those that may have a connection to them
- Refer event participants to MRHA membership brochure
- Provide event participants with MRHA contact information
- Thank the co-sponsoring organization for partnering with the MRHA
- Provide a written summary to MRHA Executive Director

A background sheet that can be used for membership requests was also designed and is attached. This single page sheet can take the place of the brochure until a new house and staff is in place.

It was also decided not to send out any membership requests until the location and staff are in place.

Requests for memberships for 2006 were prioritized as follows:

MN Public Health Association – Nancy Franke Wilson can send out a request similar to the one that Tim and Rick did.

EMS – Gary Wingrove will be asked to send out that request.

County Commissioners

Optometrists

Rural Health Cooperatives.

Next Steps are the development of a effective newsletter and website. A conference display also needs to be developed to give a consistent message of who MRHA is.

Education Committee Meeting Minutes
1/20/06 and 2/3/06

Committee members: Nancy, Tim and Maddy

There is approximately \$850 in the NRHA and Bremer grants to conduct the educational sessions. There is also money in the NRHA grant to use a computer program called “Regonline” that will allow people to register on line and MRHA to build their database.

The committee’s goal is to conduct two educational session in the early spring on 2006. The other two sessions would be conducted in the summer / fall of 2006. We are obligated to do 4 to fulfill the requirements of the NRHA grant.

The theme for 2006 is Healthier Decisions for Your Life: It was decided to focus the educational sessions this year around the following topics:

- Traffic Safety in rural Minnesota: as it relates to seniors – Nancy will do this – Worthington – May 11th – 2-45 minute sessions for 200 seniors
- Arthritis and its impact on our lives – Tim will work on this one.
- Age Odyssey – special considerations when treating older patients with medications – Tim will work with Maddy on this one
- Healthy Aging Communities – Office of Rural Health, Linda Norlander is working on this and Maddy serves on their committee and will take the lead on this one.

Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes
1/20/06 and 2/17 06

Committee Members: Liz, Mark, Dave and Barbara

Regarding legislative alerts from the NRHA, it is the director's role to forward their legislative alerts to the newsletter list and the current membership list.

The Advocacy Committee reviewed potential policy issues from a list of concerns that were collected at the Rural Health Conference in Duluth in July and from the membership forms that had been received. After a review of those concerns and a board discussion the 2006 legislative agenda was created.

The MRHA 2006 legislative agenda is developed around the issues:

- Health Spending Cuts Must Have Urban/Rural Balance
- Consumers should have access to Quality and Cost Information about Rural Providers
- Reduce the demand for long term care by supporting initiatives which help rural residents age in place
- Act in 2006 to Assure Access to health care interpreter services
- Declare Methamphetamine use and related crimes to be a public health crisis

Green sheets will be developed and distributed at the beginning of the legislative session. These will also be e-mailed to newsletter list and current members. Liz will track any legislation that results during the 2006 session as it relates to the agenda.

The process for policy and legislative issues is outlined in the 10/21/05 minutes.

The Advocacy Committee also would like to welcome Jenni Beech to the committee. Jenny works with Liz and has a strong interest in rural health issues. Jenni contact information is:

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