

**Minnesota Rural Health Association
Board of Director's Meeting
June 18, 2007
Bennett's Duluth**

Attending: Liz Quam, Barbara Muesing, Jack Geller, Ray Christensen, Duane Nelson, Mark Schoenbaum, Jenni Beech, Tim Stratton, Greg Thorson, Tiffany Yen, Maddy Forsberg,
Guests: Representative Mary Ellen Otremba, Dale Neppel, Carolyn Weber

Minutes

- I. Convene Board and Introductions:** President Liz Quam called the Board of Directors' meeting to order and introduced the guests in attendance.
- II. Minutes:** Motion for approval of Minutes from 2/22/07 - Tim Stratton.
Second: Ray Christensen. Motion approved unanimously.
- III. President's Report and Nominating Committee Report:** President Quam thanked Jack Geller for attaining the MRHA Bremer grant for 2006-2007, Duane Nelson for his financial oversight, the University of Minnesota, Crookston for housing and supporting the MRHA office, and CDI for sponsoring the cyber conferences this past year.

President Quam suggested a by-laws committee be appointed to review current by-laws. President elect Muesing will do so. President Quam suggested a membership committee be established and volunteered to chair the committee.

The Nominating Committee report presented by President Quam includes the following slate of officers:

President: Barbara Muesing

President Elect: Jack Geller

Vice President: Tim Stratton

Treasurer: Duane Nelson

Secretary: Jenni Beech

Motion for approval – Ray Christensen. Second: Barbara Muesing. Motion passed unanimously.

- IV. Legislative Report:** President Quam gave an overview to the legislative outcomes. The two MRHA initiatives were discussed at length in the Legislative Session. The interpreter bill and the primary seat belt bills were not approved in this session.

- V. Executive Director's Report:** Judy Neppel reported: Cyber conferences success – 5 conferences to date with a 6th planned for June 10, 2007 at 12 Noon. Dr. Barbara Brandt, Assistant Vice President of the University of Minnesota, Academic Health Center and Director of the MN AHEC's will deliver a cyber conference on *Greater Minnesota Strategy – New Models in Education and Care*. Neppel reported that on this date there are 23 participants invited.

Summit preparations are progressing well with the electronic registration via the website energized, the marketing in progress (500 postcards mailed or distributed) and an agenda near the final stage.

NOSORH grant for \$4000 submitted to fund the Summit - awaiting word on grant success.

Common grant application complete and distributed to Board members.

MRHA new website complete – training to maintain yet to come. See mnruralhealth.org for impressive up to date site. Thank you Amber Bailey and UMC.

Thanks to RSVP at UMC for clerical support. Working with UMC Service Learning to partner on student experience for fall 2007.

- VI. Finance Report:** Duane Nelson, Treasurer, provided financial report effective end of May 2007. He also reported that he's filed an extension on a 990 though it is not required. He will complete the 990 shortly. Motion to approve – Duane Nelson. Second – Jack Geller. Motion approved unanimously.
- VII. MRHA Membership's Top Rural Health Concerns:** Barbara Muesing distributed a unedited list of the top rural healthcare concerns the MRHA membership submitted along with a composite list of six. The Board agreed that the composite list could be helpful and encouraged it as an addition to the website.
- VIII. Pharmacy Policy Issue:** Dr. Tim Stratton discussed the JCAHO initiative requiring that a pharmacist review all medication orders. CAH that are JACHO accredited (19 of 79 in MN) oppose the standard. He asked if MRHA should weigh in with a letter of opposition. The outcome of the discussion is the Dr. Stratton should visit with one or more of the 19 JACHO CAS hospitals, consider the thoughts of our Summit partners, check with the state's Pharmacy Associations position. MRHA will continue to monitor situation and may adopt a formal position in future.

- IX. Summit:** Barbara Muesing reported on the Summit agenda progress and encouraged the MRHA Board membership to attend August 17th, 2007.
- X. Other Business:** President Quam requested that the Board members consider cyber conference topic ideas. Outcomes included: fetal alcohol, nutrition, chemical dependency and other rural health issues. She encouraged everyone to think about and invite cyber presenters.
- XI. Adjournment:** President Quam again thanked the Board for their dedication to rural health issues. She passed the gavel to Barbara Muesing, incoming President of MRHA.

Respectfully submitted:
Judith Neppel
Executive Director