



MINNESOTA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES  
March 14, 2011  
12 Noon via Conference Call

Attending: Ray Christensen, Jenny Schlagenhaft, Allison O'Connor, Dave Borgert, Karla Weng, Jim Dregney, Tiffany Yen, Laurissa Stigen, Mark Schoenbaum, Jill Myer, Marnie Moore, Judy Neppel

Excused: Liz Quam, Tim Stratton, Jack Geller, Jenni Lohse, Robin Weis, David Brenne, Darrell Carter

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** President Christensen called the meeting to order at 12:03PM
2. **Approve Minutes of February 14, 2011 Meeting:** Motion made by Mark Schoenbaum to approve the minutes of the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting as written. Seconded by Karla Weng. Motion is approved unanimously.
3. **Business Arising from the Minutes:** None
4. **Old Business:**  
Committee Reports:
  - **Membership:** Jenny Schlagenhaft explained that the survey monkey draft has been sent to all Board members today and she is asking that they take the time to review it and offer any suggestions for modification in the next week to 10 days. She explained that we are limited to 10 questions because we are using the basic (free) platform. She will make the final edits and the membership will be assessed. The goal of the process is to determine how we are doing in the areas of communication and we hope to engage the membership in our activities while trying to understand more about the issues facing rural health. Dave Borgert related that he thought it was a great start and the questions were good open ended questions that should prompt the answers we are seeking.
  - **Education:** Karla Weng reported that the Medical Homes cyber conference presented by Dr. John Haflen of the Lakewood Health System had the largest number of participants in MRHA's history. She thanked Jim Dregney for helping MRHA to attain Dr. Halfen's presentation. She reported on the upcoming planned cyber conferences. Karla reported that she and the committee will be on the lookout for new topics for the fall of 2011 and asked the Board to do the same.
5. **New Business:**  
Legislative Updates: Marnie Moore and Mark Schoenbaum  
Marnie reported that the community paramedic bill is moving along through the legislative process and appears that it will pass. She believes it is likely that the Governor will sign the bill into law.  
Nurse Licensure Bill: There is a bill that's been introduced to establish MN as state belonging to a compact group, with other states, supporting a single license while allowing multi state practice. The bill is controversial. The MHA and the MBON both are supportive. The MNA does not support the bill. Dave

Borgert offered that as the medical homes model is implemented more broadly, the need for more nursing licensure flexibility will be important.

At the hearing last week, Rep Kim Norton, Rochester, and Rep Tom Huntley voted approval. President Christensen asked if there was anything needed from us. Marnie suggested that after talking with the bill's authors, she thought a letter of support from MRHA would be helpful. Dave Borgert moved to support the bill. Karla Weng seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Marnie discussed the nursing home rate equalization bill currently being discussed. There's discussion about a three year phase in approach which it is believed would minimize the impact on patients and their families. Jenny Schlagenhaft asked if Marnie Moore could send the Board an email this issue that could be shared so support for it could be assessed locally. Dave Borgert discussed the spousal contribution bill which is seen to be detrimental to farmers and small business owners.

A discussion about the next two weeks will be most telling as there is more to be seen on the specifics on the budget cuts which will then be modified. That is the time when MRHA can and should focus its efforts to advocate for those things most important to rural health. Mark Schoenbaum suggested that a priority list of everything important to rural will need to be reviewed as everything will be on the table and the cuts will be significant.

#### **MRHA DAY at the Capitol Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. 2011**

Marnie Moore explained that the agenda will be very much like it was planned to be in February. The agenda will start at 9:30AM and finish at 2:30PM. The MRHA Business Meeting will be take minimal time. She will have key legislators present and wants each of the Board to establish appointment times with their legislator to discuss issues of importance to rural health.

#### **Rural Health Policy Forum**

Agenda item tabled until the next meeting.

#### **Finance Report**

A motion to approve the finance report was made by Dave Borgert. Seconded by Allison O'Connor. Motion approved unanimously.

#### **Director's Report**

Judy Neppel reviewed the Directors Report sent to the Board. She added that the Bremer Grant final report was sent to the Otto Bremer grant Program Director, Mr. Tony LookingElk at the end of February.

Respectfully Submitted:

Judith Neppel