



## MINNESOTA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

### RETREAT NOTES

Attending: Allison O'Connor, Liz Quam, Mark Schoenbaum, Jack Geller, Karla Weng, Darrell Carter, Marnie Moore, Laurissa Stigen (attending via skype)

Excused: Jim Dregney, Jill Myer Kemper, Jenni Lohse, Ray Christensen, David Borgert, David Brenne

1. The Mission and Vision was reviewed. Both were thoroughly discussed to insure their accuracy. The consensus opinion was that they are both relevant and should stand as read. It was pointed out that they reflect the NRHA's new tag line.
2. The MRHA By-Laws were reviewed. There are no modifications recommended at this time.
3. Board Member Discussion: The MHRA Board term limits presented in a handout were reviewed with consideration given to the term limits as outlined in the By-Laws. There was discussion regarding an emeritus role for past term members who wish to remain active in the organization. There was also discussion about the option of sitting out a year and being re-elected. There was a recommendation that the Board membership number be increased from 15 to 20 to accommodate a more representative group of rural health constituents. There was discussion about section 5.2 the Quorum – and a suggestion to add another sentence to the section that reads “a quorum would consist of more than 3 members and one must be an officer.” After much discussion regarding potential amendments to the by-laws, it was established that the board membership recommendations should come from the nominating committee, and the quorum recommendations should be discussed at the annual Board meeting in June when a vote of the entire Board can take place.  
President O'Connor will discuss the Board membership issues with Ray Christensen, who will Chair the Nominating committee as Past President. Mark Schoenbaum agreed to serve as a member of the nominating committee.
4. Board Meeting Time Change: The group discussed the Board engagement and determined that a time change for the conference call Board meeting may facilitate more attendance. The meeting time will be changed to the second Monday of the month and the Executive Director shall send outlook appointments reflecting the change.
5. Committee Reports:  
Membership: The goals of the Membership Committee were reviewed. The group thought the goals were very ambitious and should be those for 2011-2012. There were no further suggestions offered to the committee.

- Education: Karla Weng presented the Education Committee report. She explained that the categories and topics have been generated from the outcomes of the rural health survey conducted at the time of the annual conference and included the pre-registered participants. The categories are: Health Information Technology/Adoption, Workforce, Health Reform, and Other. The group discussed ideas on each of the subtopics and expanded ideas were offered as well as thoughts about potential presenters. The cyber conferences will be scheduled monthly as in the past.
  - Advocacy: Marnie Moore reported that this will be a policy year. The session will start in late January and will last for 10 weeks. The landscape is as we all know one of a lack of money, a Republican led House and Senate with leanings toward no new revenues. The policy issues raised were that we should seek innovative ideas that we can represent that will improve rural health. It was suggested that the removal of the essential community provider language needs to come out of the health insurance exchange legislation as it will have detrimental effects in rural. There promises to be lots of discussion on the privacy issues around the health information/electronic medical record situation. Attention should be paid to the commission study authorized by the Health and Human Services Committee, Chaired by, Representative Gottwalt, to study Alzheimer's and Dementia issues. There is potential for the outcomes of that study to impact rural long term care facilities and rural medical care in general.
  - Structure Committee: President O'Connor stated that she had talked with the committee Chair, Ray Christensen, and the committee had concluded that the current structure was working well and the committee was no longer needed.
  - Finance Committee: there was no report
6. Policy Priorities: The group discussed the policy priorities for 2012 which they recognize need to be formulated when there is more known about the legislative activities.
7. Day at the Capitol: Marnie Moore asked if the group thought they wanted to continue the practice of a Day at the Capitol since there's not been great attendance at the event. She stated that while there wasn't a large group last year, the discussion with the Representatives and Senators that did take place was good as the rural health voice was heard. She will investigate the possibility of a meeting with the rural legislators, who have a weekly breakfast meeting at the Kelly Inn, to determine if that might be the best means of telling our rural health story. She suggested that the Day (perhaps it should be titled 4 hours) at the Capitol should be scheduled on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday in early to mid February.

Notes Respectfully Submitted by:  
 Judith Neppel  
 Secretary