

**Minnesota Rural Health Association**

**Board of Directors' Meeting**

**February 16, 2010**

**10AM**

**State Office Building Room 400 S**

**MINUTES**

Attending: Duane Nelson, Jack Geller, David Brenne, Tim Stratton, Larissa Stigen, Liz Quam, Marnie Moore, Judy Neppel

Excused: Jenni Lohse, Dave Borgert, Darrell Carter, Ray Christensen, Maddy Forsberg, Mark Schoenbaum, Jenny Schlagenhaft, Robin Weis, Karla Weng, Tiffany Yen, Jim Dregney, Allison Lunde

Guests: Brendan Ashby, NE Minnesota AHEC; Mary Cosby; Urban AHEC; Richard Smedstad, Central MN AHEC

1. **Legislator visit:** The Board of Directors' meeting was preceded by a visit from Representative Tom Huntley.
2. **Call Meeting to Order:** President Stratton called the meeting to order at 10AM.
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2010:** Tabled
4. **Business Arising from Minutes – Tabled**
5. **Old Business**  
**Mission and Vision Discussion** – in absence of any member of the Task Force, the item was tabled  
**Past Presidents Recommendation** – in absence of any member of the Past Presidents Council, the item was tabled
6. **New Business**  
**AHEC Director's Update** – President Stratton thanked the AHEC Directors present for attending the MRHA Day at the Capitol.

Urban AHEC: Pam Cosby introduced herself as the new urban AHEC Director and explained that since she's been on board she's spent her time getting acquainted with the position, introducing the community to the work the AHEC, tapping into resources available in her region. Her office is located in a University owned building in N Minneapolis.

NE Minnesota AHEC: Brendan Ashby, NE AHEC Director, reported on the work being accomplished in the 10 counties represented in NE MN. The NE MN Interprofessional Practice and Education Network has been established with Bremer grant funds and the (IPE) projects are being developed in fourteen communities. The IPE grants is to stimulate long-term partnerships in interprofessional education through the development and support of interprofessional health care practice in partnership with community-based healthcare providers. The program focus is developing experiences that demonstrate the impact of interprofessional care on community health outcomes. Funding for the IPE projects began in 2004 with two communities; two communities in 2005; five community projects in 2006; and five new community projects in 2007.

The NE AHEC has not had federal funding for the past 2 years. The Iron Range Resource Funding has been the primary source of income. The work of the AHEC in establishing a communication platform particularly in geriatric education has involved both the University's School of Medicine and of Pharmacy. There has been increasing interest in LEAN process improvement education in the region as well. The summer internship program in nursing, pharmacy, and medicine has improved the recruitment and retention issues in the region.

Central Minnesota AHEC – Larissa Stigen discussed the work being accomplished in central MN. The workforce development partnership with MnSCU has grown and expectations for further growth are apparent. The Joyce Foundation grant awarded the Central AHEC has increased access to practical nursing training for those in underserved areas of the region. MSUM is working to shorten the curriculum of many health programs including the Health Service Administration (HSA) program. The Central AHEC is working with MSUM to help place, for internship experience, the HSA graduates in ND and MN. In the past, sixty percent of the graduates have been placed in long term care. The program meets the long term care board licensure requirements.

The federal funding for the Central MN AHEC will cease in one more year. The Southern MN AHEC no longer receives federal funding. The Southern MN AHEC is searching for a new Director. The search is currently in progress.

The current MN AHECs are focused on establishing a statewide network working model. The work of each is different but compatible. Collaboration with strengthen their position. There will be a SE AHEC coming on board in 2010. The location has yet to be announced. President Stratton asked Larissa Stigen if she would collect AHEC updates for MRHA. He reinforced MRHA's interest in working collaboratively with the AHECs given the complimentary mission of the 2 organizations.

#### **7. Audit of MRHA Finances 2009:**

President Stratton discussed the outcome of the MRHA audit of the financial records conducted by Dr. Jack Geller, Dr. Tim Stratton, and David Brenne. The records will be transferred to David

Brenne who will serve as the MRHA Treasurer. President Stratton made a motion to accept the audit report of the committee. Dr. Geller seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The Board thanked Duane Nelson for the excellent work he's done as Treasurer for MRHA for the past several years.

8. **Other**

9. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Jack Geller at 12:05PM

Respectfully submitted by Judith Neppel, Secretary