



MINNESOTA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
May 9, 2011
12 Noon via Conference Call

Attending: Ray Christensen, Karla Weng, Laurissa Stigen, Marnie Moore, David Brenne, Jenni Lohse

Excused: Liz Quam, Tim Stratton, Jack Geller, Robin Weis, Darrell Carter, Mark Schoenbaum, Jill Myer, Jim Dregney, Tiffany Yen, Judy Neppel, Dave Borgert, Jenny Schlagenhaft, Allison O'Connor

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 Karla Weng to approve the minutes of the February 14th meeting as written. Seconded by Larissa Stigen. Motion is approved unanimously.
3. **Business Arising from the Minutes:** None
4. **Old Business:**

Committee Reports:

- Education: Karla Weng reported the cyber case conferences and noted that the committee are planning the conferences for next year and to send all ideas to her and Judy.

5. **New Business:**

Legislative Updates: Marnie Moore

Marnie reported on various legislative state matters, including the passing of the community paramedic bill, an update on the nurse licensure bill, and the progress of the HHS omnibus bill. On Friday the legislature began to adopt provisions, but only those that are identical or very similar in both houses. Governor has indicated that he is not going to get involved in negotiations, but the legislature indicates that they are waiting for the government to give them feedback.

[Marnie left the meeting at this point.]

North Central Regional Virtual Webinar – Agenda item tabled until the next meeting.

Rural Health Conference Policy Forum Plans – Speaking engagements have been identified. Final draft of the Save the Date this summer has been distributed to the Board.

Finance Report - A motion to approve the finance report was made by Dave Brenne. Seconded by Karla Weng. Motion approved unanimously.

Director's Report - Members of the board received a Director's report from Judy Neppel via email prior to the meeting. Ray reported that new officer nominations are due, and anyone interested should submit willingness to serve.

6. **Other.** Dave Brenne provided an overview of a request from a member looking for sponsors to support an increase the wages for the long-term care staff. He noted that the long-term staff has not received a wage increase for at least the last 3 years, and the member would like to add this provision to the HHS omnibus bill this year. Mr. Brenne requested feedback from the members of the Board on whether or not MRHA would be supported. Dr. Christensen requested time to review the information, as well as the bill that would be introduced prior to a commitment to support the incentive.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jennifer Lohse