

# MINNESOTA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting

April 12, 2010

## Minutes

Attending: Tim Stratton, Dave Borgert, Laurissa Stigen, Jenny Schlagenhaft, Karla Weng, Jill Myers, Duane Nelson, Darrell Carter, Jack Geller, Mark Schoenbaum, Judy Neppel

Excused: Allison Lunde, Dave Brenne, Ray Christensen, Liz Quam, Barbara Muesing, Tiffany Yen, Maddy Forsberg, Jim Dregney, Robin Weis, Jennifer Lohse

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – President Stratton called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM
2. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2010, meeting was made by M Schoenbaum, seconded by D Borgert, approved unanimously.
3. **Business Arising from Minutes** – none

4. **Old Business** –

**Mission and Vision Discussion:** President Stratton called on K Weng, Chair of the Vision Task Force, to discuss the work of the group. She stated that the task force had completed its work; the outcomes have been shared with the Board for input and modification. President Stratton asked for the Board's opinion on the 2 vision options presented. Updated Mission statement: Bring together diverse interests to address rural health issues and advocate for and with rural Minnesotans

Two options for vision statements:

Option #1: MRHA strengthens the rural voice on health care issues by building capacity and identifying opportunity. MRHA does this through listening, learning, educating, and advocating with a focus on enhancing accessibility, affordability, and quality of health care in rural Minnesota.

Option #2: MRHA strengthens the rural voice on health care issues through dialogue, education and advocacy with a focus on enhancing the accessibility, affordability, and quality of health care in rural Minnesota.

After some discussion, option #2 was considered the best. President Stratton stated that he will send that option out to the Board for their word smithing ideas.

**Past Presidents Recommendations** - this agenda item was tabled as there were no past presidents attending

**Membership** – J Schlagenhaft reported that the membership subcommittee is comprised of the following members: Allison Lunde; Brenda Russ; Judy Neppel; Maddy Forsberg; Mary Blackford; Rick Long. She discussed the last subcommittee meeting which was conducted conference call on March 30. She stated that the subcommittee has the membership data which has provided a foundation for a work plan that is being discussed. The group is considering means by which members can become more engaged, recruitment and retention of membership, surveying the membership to determine their satisfaction among other ideas. She has sent a draft of the minutes from the last meeting to the members. Once approved, she'll send the minutes on the Board for their review.

**Education** – K Weng reported that the education subcommittee is comprised of two members: she and Judy Neppel. They are recruiting additional members. Their focus to date has been establishing cyber conferences for the remainder of this year. Two additional sessions are planned. In May, the Portico Health group will present their outreach program for reimbursing in greater MN, care delivered to children who qualify. Another cyber conference is planned for June to discuss the REACH grant work plan for MN and ND. There will be a face-to-face meeting of the education subcommittee at the Rural Health Conference in June.

**Finance** - D Nelson reported that the subcommittee met on February 16, 2010, and conducted an audit of the books when the transition from the past treasurer to the current treasurer occurred. The resources are currently in good shape. However, he recommended discussion and planning for the finances for the future needs to take place.

**Advocacy** – no report

**Structure** – President Stratton reported that there is a meeting planned and a report will be forthcoming.

## 5. **New Business** -

**Finance Report** – no report

**Director's Report** – J Neppel reported as follows:

- Submitted yearend report to the Otto Bremer Foundation and received the second year check in the amount of \$35,000.

- Cyber Conference on the SHIPS program was well attended (24 individuals) and I received compliments on the content.  
Cyber Conference on the Potential Impact of the Governors Budget Reduction to the MERC Program was well received. The follow up with the participants demonstrated that the advocacy work accomplished was at nearly 100%.  
Cyber Conference is planned for May 7, 2010, presented by Portico Health System on Reimbursement for Rural Children – watch for the announcement  
Cyber Conference on Health Information Technology is in the works. Confirmation is anticipated.
- I will be attending the NRHA Annual Rural Health Conference in Savannah, Georgia, May 17-21.
- Membership committee meetings and work continues
- Rural Health Conference planning is on track. As soon as the gubernatorial candidates have been endorsed, we will invite them to participate in our Policy Forum. Lori Sturdevant is our confirmed moderator.

**6. Other** – none

**7. Adjournment** – motion to adjourn was made by D Carter at 12:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Judith Neppel, Secretary