



MINNESOTA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
Board of Director's Meeting
February 14, 2011
12 Noon Conference Call

MINUTES

Attending: Ray Christensen, Liz Quam, Allison O'Connor, David Borgert, Jim Dregney, David Brenne, Jill Myers, Laurissa Stigen, Jenny Schlagenhaft, Mark Schoenbaum, Marnie Moore, Judy Neppel

Excused: Robin Weis, Tim Stratton, Tiffany Yen, Karla Weng, Jenny Lohse

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Christensen at 12:04 PM
2. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2011, meeting was made by Jenny Schlagenhaft. Seconded by Dave Borgert. Motion was approved unanimously.
3. **Business Arising from Minutes:** none
4. **Old Business:**

Membership Committee: Jenny Schlagenhaft reviewed that the committee met on January 13. They established short and long term goals, planned and considered a draft of survey questions to use on survey monkey to be sent to all members. She stated that a letter of membership invitation has been sent to the fifty nine critical access hospitals currently not MRHA members. In addition, she said that a long term care data base is being developed and a letter of invitation will be sent to them as well. She said that the membership survey outcomes will be used to update the website. President Christensen asked if letters of invitation had been sent to clinics. Liz Quam said she was going to MMGMA and would share the attendance list to establish a data base. Additional membership ideas included Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Dentists, Pharmacists, and other health care practitioners.

Education Committee: Judy Neppel reported in Karla Weng's absence. We have cyber conferences planned for February, April, and May. The topics are as follows:
February: Medical Home Implementation in Rural MN: Dr. John Halfen, Lakewood Health System, Staples will present on Friday February 25 at 12 Noon. We currently have twenty three people registered for this presentation. April: Palliative Care: Opportunities and Successes in Rural Minnesota: Brendan Ashby NE AHEC and Janelle Shearer, Stratis, will present on Friday April 30 at 12 Noon. May: US Immigration Trends or Policy on Recruitment of J1, H1 Physicians and/or Other Health Professions,

Robert Aronson, Aronson & Associates, St. Paul. The presentation will be on Wednesday, May 4 at 12 Noon.

Mark Schoenbaum asked the Board to consider submitting the names of individuals for the Rural Health Advisory Board. The names are needed quickly and can be submitted to either Mark or Jill Myers. There are open slots for rural health consumers.

5. **New Business:**

Legislative Update: Marnie Moore stated that to date there are very few bills being introduced and that departments have provided overviews of their work to assist new legislators to become acquainted. There have been deadlines approved. They are March 25th for the finance bills coming out of committees and submitted to the Ways and Means Committee. In term of policy deadlines they are April 29 and May 6th. The session is scheduled to end May 23. The Governor will release his budget tomorrow. Mark Schoenbaum offered that the state debt is so significant that the Governor will need to propose cuts. Minnesota percent of deficit to revenues is at 20-24 percent. There will be a need for multiple strategies to address the issue. There is one policy bill that will be heard on Wednesday, February 16, on rural community paramedic education. That bill would cost money but it has bi-partisan authors and support.

MRHA Day at the Capitol: Dates proposed are April 7, 12, and 19th. After some discussion including postponing it until next year, a date of April 7th was established. Judy Neppel will send that date to the Board today. The plans for the agenda will be much like it was when the date was postponed. Marnie Moore will make the contacts needed to reestablish the agenda as planned previously. Again, we are reminded that it is important that each Board member schedule meetings with their legislative representatives.

Rural Health Conference Policy Forum Ideas: President Christensen asked what the MRHA Policy Forum on June 27th should entail. There was some discussion about congressional and/or legislative representation and/or maybe the Lieutenant Governor, but it was decided that it should be tabled as an agenda item until the next meeting when more may be known.

Finance Report: David Brenne discussed the finance report sent to the Board earlier today. The association is in good financial position.

Executive Director's Report: Judy Neppel discussed the report sent to the Board and asked if there were questions regarding its contents.

6. Other

7. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Judith Neppel, Secretary