



MINNESOTA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
Board of Director's Meeting
Conference Call
September 13, 2010

Attending: Ray Christensen, Tim Stratton, Jack Geller, Allison Lunde, Jenny Schlagenhaft, Jim Dregney, Laurissa Stigen, Mark Schoenbaum, Jill Myers, Darrell Carter, Tiffany Yen, Judy Neppel

Excused: Jenny Lohse, Karla Weng, Robin Weis, Maddy Forsberg, Barbara Muesing, David Brenne, David Borgert, Marnie Moore, Liz Quam

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** President Ray Christensen called the meeting to order at 12:05PM
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 29, 2010 Board Meeting** – Motion to approve minutes was made by Allison Lunde, seconded by Jenny Schlagenhaft and approved unanimously.
3. **Business Arising From Minutes:** None
4. **Old Business:**
 - Membership Committee:** Schlagenhaft reported that the committee has not met since late June but that a letter of invitation was sent in late July to 382 rural health conference participants that were not MRHA members. The response of new members to date is as follows: 7 corporate, 4 individual, and 3 student members. The Education Committee will meet this fall to discuss a potential membership survey along with other ideas to increase membership numbers.
 - Education Committee:** Neppel reported in K Weng's absence. The Education Committee met over the summer and drafted a list of cyber conference ideas generated from the areas of concern expressed by the membership. The draft list was shared with the Board seeking their input. Currently, a cyber conference on EMS current issues including staff recruitment, retention, and reimbursement will be offered by Gary Wingrove in September. There are two other invitations that have been extended. Jim Dregney agreed to invite on behalf of MRHA, Tim Rice and Dr. Haflen from Lakewood Health System to present on Medical Homes, and we've extended another invitation to the Health Informatics Institute to present on their project. We

are looking for someone to present on the impact on rural of the health reform at the federal and state level.

Finance Committee: No report. D Brenne was unable to attend.

Advocacy Committee: Neppel reported in M Moore's absence. The Advocacy Committee has met twice in the last weeks. To date, they have established 2 legislative issues to address. The initiatives are: to extend broadband access to all areas of the state to improve health care delivery to rural consumers; and to extend healthcare professional education to rural communities with the goal of improving the numbers of rural practitioners. It is recognized that that it is essential to get students too rural if the shortages issues are to be addressed.

Structure: Dr. Christensen reported that the committee hasn't met but he will set up a committee meeting sometime soon with Dr. Stratton.

5. **New Business:**

MRHR Retreat: The potential dates discussed were: October 6, November 19, and December 2. Neppel reported that November 19th appeared to be the date of choice but she'll seek answers from those who have not responded and confirm the date with the Board soon. The location for a face-to-face meeting or using an alternative such as video conferencing was discussed. M Schoenbaum offered the state department of health's video conferencing system as the means of conducting the retreat. The agenda was discussed briefly. It will include finalizing the legislative initiatives and the regional conference. Christensen and Neppel will draft the retreat agenda for discussion at the October 11th meeting of the Board.

Finance Report: Neppel reported the D Brenne is unable to attend today but promises a finance report next week. She will forward the report on to the Board.

Director's Report: Neppel reviewed her written report attached to the agenda.

6. **Other:** Dr. Stratton reported that he had written an editorial, an open letter to administrators of rural hospitals regarding his position on pharmacist's review of new medication orders before the first dose is administered. He declared in the article that the opinions expressed were those of the author and do not represent the position taken by MRHA. Dr. Christensen asked that when the editorial is published that the Board be sent a copy.

Dr. Christensen reported that he and M Schoenbaum as members of the Rural General Surgery Task Force will report their findings to the Board soon.

7. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Judith Neppel, Secretary

