



**NORTH DAKOTA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

July 12, 2011

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Conference call number:

(661) 673-8600, passcode 120799

***In Attendance:***

Pete Antonson	June Herman
Jaclyn Bugbee	Steve Forde
Darrold Bertsch	Keith Johnson
Tim Cox	Dan Kelly
Lynette Dickson	Jim Restemayer
Don Warren	Mike Schwab

Guest: Brad Gibbens

Minutes: Kylie Nissen

**Absent:** Fred Larson

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**Welcome and Call to Order**

*Darrold Bertsch*

**Old Business**

**Approval of minutes from the March 2011 meeting**

*June Herman*

Few people were in attendance at the last meeting, held during the Dakota Conference, due to the state-wide blizzard. There was interest in continuing this organization from the few that were at the meeting. June Herman moves to pass the minutes as is. Dan Kelly seconds the motion. Motion passed.

**New Business**

**Treasurer's Report**

*Steve Forde*

We've received three \$9,500 grants from the National Rural Health Association and \$8,099.18 from membership fees for a total of \$40,399. Expenditures have been \$20,504.27. We have \$19,894.91 in the bank. One June expenditure of \$600 to the national organization for dues is not yet listed on the statement that was sent out to the Board.

It is suggested that Steve Forde serve as treasurer for the NDRHA and be a board member. Tim Cox made a motion to elect Steve Forde as treasurer and as a board member. Motion seconded by Jim Restemayer. Motion passed. June Herman will now be the NDRHA Secretary only, not Secretary/Treasurer. Steve Forde will also serve as chair the Finance Committee. Dan will remain on the Finance Committee but step down as chair.

**Strategic Plan Discussion/Goals for Upcoming Year**

*Darrold Bertsch*

## Suggested Goals:

- Membership building and promoting the work of the organization.
  - June will be attending a NDRHA Skills Workshop in the Black Hills next week. She bring back to the NDRHA strategies and ideas on how to build the organization.
  - Possibly have NDRHA present at the upcoming Board Boot Camps (July 21<sup>st</sup> and August 19<sup>th</sup>) to talk about the NDRHA and about its past successes. Highlight what has been achieved and encourage board members in attendance at the meeting to join NDRHA and encourage them to carry the message back to their communities on what the NDRHA can do for their community.
- Look at how the NDRHA can build capacity.
- Survey Monkey those interested in the NDRHA for their input. Dan Kelly has heard that facilities don't really know what NDRHA stands for.
  - Request input on:
    - Pharmacy issue
    - EMS
    - Stage 2 meaningful use to be pushed back or not quite as onerous as it is.
    - Universal immunization bill
    - Kylie will put together a draft and send out to board members for feedback by a certain date. This will then be sent out to the NDRHA interest group.
- Complete Strategic Planning by December 31, 2011.
- Membership dues – It was previously discussed that NDRHA doesn't want to send out membership dues until we have a strategic plan in place. NDRHA has make significant accomplishments, especially after the last legislative session and the strategic plan will be completed by December 31, 2011. Look to start charging members beginning June 1, 2012. They need to have buy in to be an active member.
  - It hasn't been worked out regarding if you are a state member could you receive a discount on national dues or vice versa. Lynette will check into this with Brock Slabach on the status of this.
- NDRHA sponsor or co-sponsor workshops or conferences as a way to create value to members and increase the NDRHA's visibility. It was asked if NDRHA sends people out to states upon request to conduct these type of events. We have to be sure that we aren't redundant of the Hospital Association, Dakota Conference, etc.
- Legislation
  - Rural Health Care Interim Study Legislative Committee – NDRHA should have it as a priority to attend the meetings.
    - Jaclyn will stay up-to-date on the interim committee and keep the NDRHA in the loop so that they are all aware that the NDRHA exists and we are available to answer any questions. Jaclyn will send any information/handouts to Kylie to send out to the NDRHA Board.
  - Pharmacy issue keeps coming up. Is this something that the NDRHA wants to take a stand on? What do our interested members feel? Watford City, Beulah, Hazen, Northwood, and Larimore communities aren't supportive of having commercial pharmacists come in – they are supportive of keeping the law as it stands.
  - Rural EMS services will be a concern for rural communities to keep up the success of the last legislative session.

- Jaclyn Bugbee met with Al Anderson regarding having the Department of Commerce look at the economic impact of health facilities in communities as a way to open up grant opportunities for the community facilities.
- How can NDRHA make sure that we expanding primary care services in North Dakota. The community health centers have an organization that represent them, but there isn't really an organization that advocates for rural health clinics or private clinics. Maybe NDRHA can help them advocate.
- Look into reaching out to groups such as the Wilson Collaborative. Organizations that are looking at rural health issues.

*Decision: A survey will be conducted to see what members/potential members are interested in getting from NDRHA.*

*Decision: Strategic Planning will be completed by December 31, 2011. The next meeting for this will most likely take place in person in conjunction with the NDHA meeting which will be held October 11-13. This will be discussed more at the August teleconference Board Meeting.*

*Task: Kylie will put together a draft survey for the board to review before sending it out to the NDRHA Interest list.*

*Task: Lynette will check on the status of dues reduction for state and national membership with Brock Slabach.*

*Task: Jaclyn will email Kylie will updates from the legislative interim committee for Kylie to send out to the Board.*

#### **Recruit additional board members**

*Darrold Bertsch*

Steve Forde has been recruited as a board member. We don't currently have any representation from economic development on the board since Carol Goodman stepped down. Contact Economic Developers Association of ND to see if they want to suggest someone to be on the board. Don knows Gaylon Baker, President of EDAND to see if he can suggest someone.

*Task: Don Warren will contact Gaylon Baker to see if he has someone he wants to appoint to our Board of Directors.*

#### **Conference committee chair selection**

*Darrold Bertsch*

Keith Johnson suggested Cheryl Underhill, with CHAD, a RN formerly with Bismarck Burleigh Public Health, was suggested as someone who should be asked to be the Conference Committee chair. We also need to know if she is willing to be a member of the NDRHA (requirement). Lynette Dickson will ask her. The person that represents the NDRHA at the monthly Dakota Conference meeting needs to be available each month to be on the calls. If Cheryl Underhill isn't willing Lynette Dickson will let the Board know. Pete Antonson said that he would do it if no one else was able to be found.

*Task: Lynette Dickson will contact Cheryl Underhill to see if she would like to be a member of NDRHA and represent the association on the Dakota Conference committee (be NDRHA Conference Committee chair).*

#### **NRHA TA Grant update**

*Kylie Nissen*

The Mid-Term Report for the NRHA State Rural Health Association Technical Assistance Grant 2010-2011 was submitted on June 30. Thus far only \$3,118.40 has been spent (NRHA dues, Annual Conference, Policy Institute attendance, and legislative session activities – Rural Health Day/HIPE Week). A big focus of the remainder of the funds will be on membership recruitment. Kylie will work with the Center for

Rural Health communications coordinator and graphics designer to put together an exhibit that will be used at conferences, meetings, events, etc. A proof will be sent to the board for edits/suggestions before it is ordered.

**Task:** *Kylie will create a display proof and order a display.*

### **Legislative Committee Update**

#### **State**

*Darrold Bertsch*

The Legislative Committee tried to hold weekly calls during the session as a way to keep track of everything going on regarding rural health in legislation. Although the whole legislation for the Critical Access Hospital bill was completely changed and resulted in cost based reimbursement for lab and CNA services, it was still viewed as a win. NDRHA was the primary sponsor of this bill. The Universal immunization bill resulted in public health being able to provide immunizations for just the cost of the providers, but others are not able to. This is something that should be addressed next legislative session.

Suggestions for the future: Start earlier in the year to find out what the NDRHA wants to focus on early. The governor's office is looking at the Health Associations to be on the same page when possible. We need to know what all the organizations are going after so that we can all be supportive of each other.

#### **National**

*Brad Gibbens*

House Majority Leader, Congressman Eric Cantor announced today his Medicare bill that calls for a cut of \$334-\$353 billion over 10 years. Rural is impacted as there is a total proposed cut of \$16 billion for Medicare rural health over 10 years which would include \$14 billion in proposed rural hospital cuts to "reform rural hospital programs" and another \$2 billion to repeal the Frontier State Adjustments to the ACA (this latter is the additional \$680 million that would come to North Dakota for 10 years for hospitals and physicians with about \$52 million a year for hospitals and \$16 million a year for physicians). – NDRHA will send a letter to the North Dakota Congressional delegation to let them know what our message is. Brad will find out more information and send it to the Board.

**Task:** *Brad will find out more information about this issue and send it to the Board.*

**Task:** *Darrold will send a letter to the ND Congressional delegates.*

### **Expanding primary care update**

*Brad Gibbens*

A 12-person adhoc committee was appointed by the NRHA president last year to address a policy paper that was put together by one person. The paper focused on rural health clinics and community health centers and created concern in the NRHA Policy Congress that parts of the proposed paper were too strident. Thus, the NRHA President appointed a special committee to work on a comprehensive paper on expanding primary care that would reflect policy positions supported by the association. This adhoc committee, which includes three North Dakotans (Darrold Bertsch, Brad Gibbens, and Gary Hart) seeks to provide a position for NRHA to take. The position talks about the importance of roles of rural health clinics and rural based community health centers. This is a politically delicate subject within NRHA.

### **Next Meeting**

*Mike Schwab*

A board meeting will be scheduled via conference call for August. Kylie will send out a Meeting Wizard to the board to set-up the next conference call meeting.

Strategic Planning meeting will be held in October in conjunction with the ND Hospital Associations Annual Conference. June Herman will have attended the Skills Building Workshop by this time.

**Task:** *Kylie will schedule a teleconference for August.*

#### **Other Items**

Who is interested in attending the following conferences: NRHA CAH Meeting in Kansas City, MO (September 28-30, 2011), NRHA Policy Institute in Washington, DC (January 30-February 1, 2012), NRHA Annual Conference in Denver, CO (April 17-20, 2012)

The first ever National Rural Health Day will be November 17, 2011. This will be added to the August Agenda.

**Task:** *Kylie will send out notice to see who is interested in attending the above meetings.*

**Task:** *Kylie will add National Rural Health Day planning to the August meeting.*

**Meeting Adjourned**