

**Vision**

The North Dakota Hospital Association will take an active leadership role in major Healthcare issues.

Mission

The North Dakota Hospital Association exists to advance the health status of persons served by the membership.

Board Conference Call Minutes January 11, 2017

Members Present: Jerry Jurena, Dr. Craig Lambrecht, Alan O'Neil, Keith Heuser, Matt Grimshaw, Andy Lankowicz, Paul Richards and Dave Molmen

Members Absent: Reed Reyman, Dan Kelly, Tim Saylor, Darrold Bertsch and Jac McTaggart

Others Present: Courtney Koebele – ND Medical Association, Marnie Walth – Sanford Bismarck and Lori Schmautz

Meeting called to order.

Agenda for discussion was Legislative Session. Top focus was Medicaid Expansion and Workforce.

Assault of Healthcare Workers – Courtney Koebele reviewed the changes that are in the bill. There are three areas that will have increased penalties. Current law states assault of ER workers. The bill would add all healthcare workers including contracted employees. NDMA is asking for our support and testimony on this bill. Board is in agreement to support.

Inflator – Current budget has a 1% inflator. Jerry mentioned that in the past NDMA, NDLTCA and NDHA have agreed to all have the same ask however NDLTC is asking for a higher inflator this session. Jerry mentioned that we have bigger things to fight for than a higher inflator it is doubtful that we will receive more than 1%. Courtney agrees. Board in agreement that 1% is better than nothing however we need to demonstrate a true need and that 1% is inadequate. Hospitals need to justify their cost in excess 1%. Board in agreement to support 1% however we need to state the reality and this is why 2-3% inflator is appropriate but nothing less than 1%.

Guardianship – Association of Counties is asking for additional money for guardianship. During the 2013-2015 Biennium the counties matched \$500,000 towards guardianship. In 2015-2017 there was an excess carry over of \$75,940 and the counties provided a match of \$70,333 and for 2017-2019 there is no match from the counties. The Association of Counties is asking NDHA not to go against their bill. They would like NDHA to either support or be silent. Jerry recommends that even

though we know the importance of guardianship that we are Neutral and stay silent. Board is in agreement to be Neutral.

Medical Licensure Compact – Courtney reviewed the physician licensure compact. There are currently 18 states that are in the compact. States already in the compact surround ND so this could help with North Dakota's workforce issue. NDMA has sponsors for this bill and are moving forward. Courtney asked for our support and also to give testimony. Jerry mentioned that the NDHA Legislative Committee recommends support of the Medical Licensure Compact. Board is in agreement to Support.

Medical Imaging – Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Board was established during the 2015 legislative session. Board creates licensure for medical imaging and radiation therapy. The licensure allows radiographers to accept and receive telephone/verbal orders. Proposed administrative rules in AG's office needed further language clarification and new legislation will be introduced this session. Rules require that radiographers to be licensed and certified in all modalities they perform. The radiographer would have up to 6-8 years to become certified in each modality and can continue to work during those 6-8 years. If unable to become certified after 6-8 years, they would need to stop practicing in that particular modality. NDHA has had discussions with Senator Judy Lee who is the sponsor of the bill. Her concern is about "quality & certification" not workforce. Andy Lankowicz mentioned it is over regulation and we need to be heard. Keith Heuser mentioned the medical imaging board has gone beyond scope of practice and we should not oppose on quality but because of an over reach of a board that went beyond scope of practice. Discussion continued. Board in agreement to "Not Support" certification of all modalities.

Dental Hygienist - Bill would add a midlevel dental provider type. This provider type would be under the dentist general supervision and licensing through the dental board. Currently dentists use 500 procedure codes; the midlevel would use 50 procedure codes. Courtney mentioned that NDMA is taking a neutral stance. Craig Lambrecht mentioned there is not adequate dental access in the state. Dentists don't take on-call, work weekends or Medicaid patients therefore patients are going to the hospital ER. Board agrees to be "Neutral" and Jerry visit with Senator Lee on our concern on access.

No other business brought forth. Call ended.

Lori Schmartz

Recording Secretary