

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 7, 2014**

**HILTON GARDEN INN, FARGO**

Meeting called to order by Darrold Bertsch, Board Chair.

**Members Present**: Pete Antonson, Jodi Atkinson, Roger Baier, Darrold Bertsch, Bruce Bowersox, K.C. DeBoer, Mariann Doeling, Louise Dryburgh, Tod Graeber, Matt Grimshaw, Mike Hall, Becky Hansen, Nikki Johnson, Mark Kerr, Greg LaFrancois, Dr. Craig Lambrecht, Peggy Larson, Jerry Lepp, Lavonne Liversage, Ivan Mitchell, Jac McTaggart, Alan O’Neil, Reed Reyman, Paul Richard, Theo Stoller, Becki Thompson, Shawn Smothers, Les Urvand, and Rocky Zastoupil.

Quorum is present.

Introduction of Senator Heidi Heitkamp. Senator Heitkamp spoke on the importance of supporting quality health care providers in rural communities throughout North Dakota so families throughout the state have access to health care.

Senator Heitkamp stressed the need to make sure families all across the state, regardless of where they live, have access to critical health care services. She spoke about her efforts to protect providers from burdensome new regulations and proposed cuts to reimbursements, as well as her support for investments in key programs that help expand and improve rural health care.

She mentioned with four out of ten North Dakotans living in rural areas, we must make a concerted effort to continue providing high-quality health care services to the farthest corners of our state. We need to keep pushing to expand access to affordable, top-notch health care in rural areas all across the state because it is an important resource that all North Dakotans need and deserve.

Many of the issues facing hospitals are the 96 hour rule, outpatient supervision, Medicare Audit Act, ACA, 2 mid-night rule, 340B, mental health and IHS.

**Award Presentations**: Kathy Selden from Life Source presented awards for outstanding achievement on organ and tissue donations. CHI Oakes Hospital received this year’s tissue donation partner of the year award. Sanford Medical Center Fargo received the organ and tissue donation partner of the year award.

Jerry Jurena presented the AHA Membership Awards. The 50 year membership award presented to Ashley Medical Center and 75 year membership award was presented to St. Alexius Medical Center, Bismarck. The AHA Grassroots Champion award went to Mariann Doeling from CHI Carrington Health.

Jerry gave special recognition to Linda Simmons, Director of Education, for her years of service to NDHA and presented her with a retirement gift. Jerry Introduced Pam Cook who is Linda’s replacement.

**Minutes**: The October 8, 2013 minutes were included in the member packets. Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes. Motion approved.

**Bylaws Recommendations** – A copy of bylaws were included in the member packets. Jerry mentioned that the Bylaws were reviewed by the bylaws committee and legal counsel. The three recommended changes were clarification of the board terms for the chair and chair-elect which now states that they serve no more than 2 consecutive 1 year terms. The other change was when the officers will be selected from at the annual meeting to the first board meeting of the new fiscal year. Les Urvand made the motion to accept the recommended changes. Rocky Zastpoul seconded. Motion Approved.

**Reports**:

* Board Chair – Darrold Bertsch thanked the staff for their work. Darrold mentioned that the electronic board ballots have been collected and we have a majority approval for the slate of nominees. Dr. Craig Lambrecht, Dan Kelly and Jac McTaggart have been reappointed to serve another 3 year term on the NDHA Board of Directors. As we head into this year’s legislative session members need to familiarize themselves with their legislators in order for us to accomplish what we need. Darrold also mentioned that him and a group (Pete Antonson, Jodi Atkinson, Dan Kelly) met with Blue Cross Blue Shield. On reimbursement they are doing a 2.9% increase across the board. Darrold encourages all members to see what their impact is when this fee schedule comes out. He ended by stating the Association is only as good as its members.
* President’s Report – The 2015 Legislative Session starts Tuesday, Jan. 6th. State Issues NDHA will be working on are:

1. Reimbursement – 4% inflator each year; RHC rebasing every year
2. Telemedicine reimbursement payments
3. Address the bad debt issue
4. Verify benefit of Medicaid expansion, sunset is 7/1/2017
5. Work on physician licensure issues
6. Review and support behavior/mental health expansion and reimbursement
7. Low interest loans for capital projects
8. Support oil impact issues (housing, daycare, staffing, and infrastructure)
9. Support funding for data collection
10. Monitor PDMP (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program)

On the upside there are more dollars however there will more asks!

Jerry mentioned he has been working with the Department of Health on the review of capital projects. At this point the Department has added staff and has authorized overtime to work on reviews. As of Oct. 3rd three hospitals have plans in at the State for review. Two are in the process and one received in August is waiting for review. Jerry will continue to work with the Department on options and solutions to have timely reviews completed.

Tobacco Tax Increase – NDHA received a letter asking for our support of the tobacco tax increase. The increased tax proposed is $1.56 per pack with the hopes this will reduce kids from smoking. The NDHA board consensus is we support the concept and are open to consider being a supporter but would like answers as to where the increase tax funds are going and how much will the tax increase raise before we agreeing to sign on as a supporter.

Watch the upcoming November State Elections for Measure 7 Pharmacy Ownership and Measure 1 Right to Life. NDHA will stay neutral on both these measures.

* 2014/2015 Budget – Callen Cermak, Finance Manager presented the budget. The NDHA board approved a 3% dues increase. Investments are doing very well and NDHA/HSI had a very positive year. NDHA’s for profit subsidiary Hospital Services Inc. had a successful year and that is expected to continue. NDHA will again receive a dividend from HSI which is 30% of net income. The Foundation is also very sound.
* HSI – Kim Granfor, VP reviewed the changes that are happening this year. There is a new name which will be HSIsolutions, a new image, a new website development in addition to exploring new opportunities that can be offered to the membership. Current services under this division are physician peer review, collections, group purchasing, Business Lin*x* and physician recruitment. Milestones for HSI are that all divisions are profitable; they are the largest contributor to the ND Hospital Foundation, a Diamond sponsor for the NDHA convention and dividend of 30% of bottom line paid to NDHA. Jerry Jurena gave a background on what happened with Advantage last year and where we are going. HSI has signed a new 5 year contract with Amerinet.
* Foundation – Reed Reyman, Chair presented the Foundation Report. The board met two times last year. Investments are doing well and have a balance of over 4 million. The 2015 budget is projecting a positive margin of $191,281. The Foundation is the mechanism through which all grants are administered. These grants help support the not-for-profit status of the foundation and are administered on a “break-even” basis. The grants currently in the foundation are: Bioterrorism Grant, CAH Flex Grant, CAUTI/CUSP, Hospital Engagement Network (HEN), FCHIP, Emdeon Grant and Kognito Grant (Suicide Prevention). The Foundation also financially supports three projects: salary & benefit survey, economic hospital report and the hospital indicators report. The Foundation board approved a project that awards $750 per NDHA member and needs to be utilized in the FY 2014/2015. The award can be used for items such as registration fees for education events, scholarships for staff, consulting expense assistance, and workforce assistance. The NDHA staff will develop and send a funding request form with guidelines for members to complete. The total cost of this award project for the NDHA members is $36,000. The Board also granted a total of $2500 to assist the ND ACHE participants who attend the educational event held during the convention. The dollars are to be split evenly by the ND participants with no participant to receive more than $200 dollars.

**Presentations**:

* Data Update – Sheldon Wolf, ND Health Information Technology Director, discussed the ND Health Information Hub. The scope and focus is to provide the overall framework to describe the comprehensive management and secure exchange of health information and other data sets electronically among providers, pharmacies, insurers, states, Tribes, communities, consumers and other entities. The objectives are to develop a governance structure, identify available data and determine additional data needs, develop a mechanism to share and consolidate data, enhance research and drive innovation and establish policies and procedures and focus on privacy and security.
* Navigator Grant – Neil Sharpe reviewed the Navigator Grant which is funded by CMS. They received a $600,000 grant to assist with helping people enroll in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or Medicaid Expansion and help consumers compare their health coverage options. The next open enrollment begins 11-15-14.
* ND Medical Association - Courtney Koebele, President of the ND Medical Association handed out their 2015 Legislative Priorities. Their legislative issues are:
  + Medicaid Reimbursement - request of a 4% increase for providers.
  + Medical School - continue to support UND SMHS in its pursuit of greater retention of graduates and increasing the number of providers in the state.
  + Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) – working with the ND Board of Medical Examiners to develop proposed rules guiding the appropriate use of the PDMP.
  + Behavioral Health Initiatives – support increased funding to the State Dept. of Health to increase and improve the delivery of mental health services throughout the state.
  + Commitment Proceedings – support bill to expand which types of health care providers are allowed to testify at commitment hearings.
  + Telemedicine Payment Law – will closely monitoring the bill that provides for telemedicine reimbursement parity with in-person services. This mandate applies to PERS for two years, and then requires PERS to introduce.
  + WSI Issues – WSI is currently undergoing an audit. After its completion, proposed legislation is expected with regard to independent medical exams, post-traumatic stress disorder, and opioid prescribing. Will continue to study the proposed legislation.
  + Tobacco Tax Increase – support of the tax increase and joined the coalition to raise the tax.
  + Assault against a health care provider – support the expansion of the assault law to include an elevated felony charge for assault against all health care providers in all settings.
  + Interstate Medical Licensing Compact – support the compact which provides a streamlined process that allows physicians to become licensed in multiple states, thereby enhancing the portability of a medical license and ensuring the safety of patients.

Darrold asked if there was any other new business. With none, meeting adjourned.

*Lori Schmautz*

Recording Secretary