



NDHA BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Keith Heuser

Good Afternoon.

I am Keith Heuser, chairman of the NDHA Board of Trustees. It is my pleasure to welcome you and provide an update of the board's activities. With this being an off year for our Legislature, most of the activities of the board centered on the recruitment and succession plan for our retiring president, which I will cover in some detail in a bit. Other actions involved establishing agreement on federal initiatives as they related to health care and our state and how we would or would not support candidates through our PAC. Because we have a wide variety of interests and political alignments on our board this was not always easy and clearly did not end in full consensus. However, the interests of the full membership always won out and we worked diligently to reflect the majority of interests in our decision making.

Another significant issue that came before the board this past year was the decision to support our PPS members as they worked to create a Medicaid managed care process/product. After a strong presentation from Dave Molmen, CEO of Altru Health in Grand Forks, who was the initiator of this concept, the board discussed the options and potential results if we did not move forward. After a lengthy discussion we decided to actively support the project and did so with financial partnership as well as physical presence. Work continues both within the PPS work group and with the appointed state legislature committee. The key role of NDHA is to ensure that any final plan is equitable to all partners and that Critical Access Hospitals who do not desire to participate in the final plan are kept whole. Our consultant in this process is Leavitt Partners and they have been instrumental in moving our actions forward and helping with legislative activities.

Our final key action this year was the process to replace the retiring Jerry Jurena, our fearless leader. The board opted to take on the recruitment action without a

recruiter in an effort to save the Association some money. We did retain the services of Alexander Yaffe, at a considerable savings to a full recruiter, who helped us create a job description, wage range and benefits package, job description, etc. On our first posting effort we received several resumes but none qualified. On our second effort we received many more applications, three of which we considered fully qualified. The Search Committee, composed of Alan O'Neil, Cody Barnhart (representing HIS), Craig Lambrecht, Pete Antonson (representing the Foundation), Reed Reyman, Tim Saylor and myself interviewed these three using an objective scoring process and using questions created by Melissa Hauer. This process stretched over several months and finally concluded in our selection of Tim Blasl as the new president. The official change occurred on September 1st and Tim is now fully in charge. Jerry is staying on until December 31st to assist Melissa Hauer as she takes on the legislative and advocacy component of NDHA operations. This was a significant time consuming process and I want to take this opportunity to recognize and thank the Search Committee members.

In closing, as I head into my second year as chairman of the Association I want to assure you that the work that goes on is completely focused on what is right for the membership. I have been amazed to see the effort that the NDHA staff put out in your interest. Lori, Pam, Melissa, Kelly and Tim are committed to the success of every member facility and welcome your questions/comments. I encourage you to stay in contact with them, particularly as issues come up that affect you and your organizations. Thank you for this opportunity and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of service.