



#### 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.*

## North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 27, 2020

A special meeting by conference call of the Board of Directors of the North Dakota Hospital Association was called to order at 3:30 p.m., Central time, on March 27, 2020, by Dan Kelly, Chair of the Board.

Roll call was taken and a quorum of directors were present.

**Directors Present:** Dan Kelly, Jeff Herman, Al Hurley, Bryan Nermoe, Andy Lankowicz, Nikki Johnson, Kurt Schley, Alan O'Neil, Michael LeBeau, MD, and Tim Blasl.

**Others Present:** Melissa Hauer and Lori Schmautz

Melissa Hauer, General Counsel, reviewed the NDHA bylaws requirements regarding meeting notices. Dan Kelly, Chair, asked if there were any objections to the meeting or notice. There being none, the meeting proceeded.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what stance, if any, NDHA should take on elective surgeries and procedures given the current Coronavirus pandemic and the impact such surgeries may have on efforts to prevent the spread of the disease and the need for preservation of hospital beds and personal protective equipment for health care workers.

Mr. Kelly stated that there have been inquiries, including from Governor Burgum, regarding the position of NDHA about elective surgeries. Potential options were discussed including taking no position, taking an association position, or requesting the Governor issue an Executive Order.

Mr. Kelly opened the floor for discussion.

Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and adopted the recommendation to submit to the Governor a position statement on behalf of NDHA regarding elective surgeries was approved.

The board discussed the language that should make up the NDHA position statement. The revised draft should state that there is a need to identify the surgical procedures which should be postponed based on clinical judgment consistent with evidence-based guidelines. Providers should continue to provide needed procedures as it is safe to do so, prioritizing care that, if delayed, could negatively affect the patient's health outcome, harm the patient, or lead to disability or death.

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and adopted, the recommendation that NDHA issue a statement that recognizes postponing elective surgical cases will have a financial impact on hospitals and create inconvenience for patients but is the best course of action to help reduce the spread of COVID-19,

preserve scarce personal protective equipment, and protect the availability of intensive care beds and ventilators within our state was approved.

A revised position statement will be provided to the Board in advance of a special meeting on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further discussion the call was adjourned at 4:30 P.M. Central Time.

*Lori Schmutz*

Recording Secretary