



## North Dakota Hospital Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes June 24, 2021

**Directors Present:** Tim Blasl, Dan Kelly, Jeff Herman, Al Hurley\*, Nikki Johnson\*, Alan O’Neil\*, Bryan Nermo\*, and Steve Weiser, MD.

**Others Present:** Melissa Hauer\*, Kelly Cermak\*, Lori Schmautz\*, John Flink\*, Elizabeth Summy\*, Troy Nelson.

\*Participated by video conferencing.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA) was called to order at 10:10 a.m., Central time, on June 24, 2021, by Jeff Herman, Chair of the Board, at the NDHA office located at 1622 E. Interstate Avenue, Bismarck, ND. A quorum of directors was present.

Mr. Herman asked if there were any perceived or known conflicts of interest as per items listed on the agenda for this meeting. There were none.

**Agenda Approval:** Mr. Herman asked if there were any proposed changes to the meeting agenda. There were none.

**Investment Review:** an investment update was given by Troy Nelson, Edward Jones, including review of the newly revised investment policy.

### **Action Items:**

- a. NDHA Board At-Large fulfillment term – A call for nominations was made to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Andy Lankowicz. Tim Blasl, President, nominated Robert Black, CEO/Administrator, Linton Hospital; Mariann Doeling, President, CHI St. Alexius Carrington Medical Center; and Ben Bucher, CEO, Towner County Medical Center. There were no further nominations made. Written ballots were provided to the directors, collected, and tabulated. Ms. Doeling was elected to fulfill the remainder of the vacant board term.

- b. NDHA Board Officer Position of Secretary/Treasurer – A call for nominations was made to fill the vacancy in the Secretary/Treasurer position left by the resignation of Andy Lankowicz. Mr. Blasl nominated Alan O’Neil, CEO, Unity Medical Center, for position of Secretary/Treasurer. There were no further nominations made. Written ballots were provided to the directors, collected, and tabulated. Mr. O’Neil was elected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer.
- c. Hospital Services Inc. (HSI) Board Elections – Mr. Blasl reported that Matt Shahan, CEO, West River Health Services and Ben Bucher, CEO, Towner County Medical Center were elected to serve on the HSI Board of Directors. The NDHA Board has the right to refuse any director elected by the HSI Board. No action taken.
- d. Approval of Minutes - Mr. Herman presented to the Board for approval the minutes from the March 26, 2021, and June 1, 2021 meetings. Upon motions duly made, seconded, and adopted, the minutes from March 26, 2021 and June 1, 2021 were approved.
- e. Financials – Kelly Cermak, Finance Manager, presented the March 2021 financial statements. Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and adopted, the March 2021 financial statements were approved.

**Information Reports:**

- a. AHA – Elizabeth Summy, American Hospital Association (AHA) Region Six Executive, gave an update on federal advocacy and regulatory issues, including COVID-19 Provider Relief Funds and deadlines, OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard, COVID vaccine distribution, advocacy on infrastructure package to include healthcare cybersecurity, 340B drug program funding, and lawsuits challenging COVID-19 vaccination mandates in healthcare.
- b. Washington Update – John Flink, NDHA Federal Affairs Consultant, gave an update on what is happening in Washington, D.C., including the status of infrastructure funding proposals, Provider Relief Funds, the OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard, and the United States Supreme Court Affordable Care Act decision.
- c. Legislative Interim Update – Mr. Blasl reported that during the legislative interim, NDHA will be tracking 15 studies dealing with telehealth, several behavioral health, State Hospital, behavioral health bed management system, medication optimization study, Legacy Fund earnings and the potential usage of those funds to enhance health care outcomes. NDHA’s Legislative Committee will start meeting again in August. The new committee chair will be Mr. Bucher.
- d. NDHA Health Benefits Trust Update – Mr. Blasl gave an update on the NDHA Health Benefits Trust. The Board of Trustees is made up of Mr. Blasl; Rachel Ray, Unity Medical Center; Derek Schaff, Linton Hospital; Nathan Stadheim, West River Health Services; and Erik Christenson, Heart of America Medical Center. The start date of the NDHA Health Benefits Trust will be September 1, 2021. Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota was selected as the administrator. There are currently 16 hospital members interested in participating and it is anticipated that 12 to 13 will join initially. NDHA will join also.

**Staff Reports:**

- a. President - Mr. Blasl brought forth for discussion holding NDHA board of directors’ meetings in the four largest cities throughout the year followed by an educational session for legislators

from the region. NDHA would plan the board meeting and the host hospital would plan the legislator education session. Mr. Blasl also gave an update on Hospital Services, Inc. (HSI) and the North Dakota Hospital Foundation.

- f. Legal Activities – Melissa Hauer, General Counsel/VP, gave an update on the United States Supreme Court decision regarding the Affordable Care Act, litigation regarding the 340B drug pricing program, the upcoming NDHA webinar regarding the No Surprises Act and balance billing on out-of-network air ambulance and the OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard.

There being no further business, the board meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m. Central Time.

*Lori Schmantz*

Recording Secretary