



**Vision**

*The North Dakota Hospital Association will take an active 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 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**May 12, 2022**

**Directors Participating\*:** Tim Blasl, Jeff Herman, Nikki Johnson, Alan O’Neil, Todd Schaffer, MD, William Heegaard, MD.

**Others Participating\*:** Kelly Cermak, Melissa Hauer, Erik Rasmussen, Liz Summy, and Lori Wangler.

\*All participated by video conferencing.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA) was called to order at 9:03 a.m., Central time, on May 12, 2022, by Alan O’Neil, Chair-elect of the Board. A quorum of directors was present.

Mr. O’Neil 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. O’Neil asked if there were any proposed changes to the meeting agenda. There were none.

**Action Items:**

- a. Approval of Minutes: Mr. O’Neil presented to the Board for approval the minutes from the January 28, 2022, board meeting. Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and adopted, the minutes from January 28, 2022, meeting were approved.
- b. Financials: Kelly Cermak, NDHA Finance Manager, presented financial statements as of March 31, 2022. Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and adopted, the March 31, 2022, financial statements were approved.

- c. NDHA Chair vacancy: Tim Blasl, President, presented his recommendations for filling the Chair vacancy left by the resignation of Steven Weiser, MD, from the board. Mr. Blasl presented his recommendation for the appointment of Alan O'Neil to fill the Board Chair vacancy. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Mr. O'Neil to the vacancy. There was discussion on the motion. A motion to amend the motion was made and seconded to appoint Alan O'Neil to the remaining term of the Chair until the first meeting of the board in the next fiscal year, which usually is held in December and to appoint William Heegaard, MD, as Chair-elect due to the vacancy being left in that office if Mr. O'Neil is appointed Chair. Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and adopted, Alan O'Neil was as appointed to fill the remaining term of the Chair and William Heegaard, MD, was appointed to fill the remaining term of the Chair-elect.
- d. At-large NDHA Board Openings: Mr. Blasl discussed the three vacant at-large board openings due to the resignations of Bryan Nermoe, Sanford Fargo; Steven Weiser, MD, Altru; and Kurt Schley, CHI St. Alexius. Mr. Blasl recommended the appointment of Tiffany Lawrence to fulfill the term of Bryan Nermoe ending October 1, 2022; Debra Mohesky to fulfill the term of Kurt Schley ending October 1, 2022; and Todd Forkel to fulfill the term of Steven Weiser, MD, ending October 1, 2024. Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and adopted, Tiffany Lawrence was elected to fulfill the term of Bryan Nermoe ending October 1, 2022; Debra Mohesky was elected to fulfill the term of Kurt Schley ending October 1, 2022; and Todd Forkel was elected to fulfill the term of Steven Weiser, MD, ending October 1, 2024.
- e. North Dakota Hospital Foundation (NDHF) Board Appointment Approval: Mr. Blasl discussed a vacancy that occurred on the NDHF Board of Directors due to the resignation of Tod Graeber, CHI St. Alexius Health Garrison and CHI St. Alexius Health Turtle Lake Hospital. The NDHF Board voted to recommend Scott Schneider, CEO, Vibra Hospital Central Dakotas, fulfill the unexpired portion of the term. All members of the NDHF Board must be appointed by the NDHA Board. Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and approved, Scott Schneider is appointed to the fill unexpired portion of Mr. Graeber's the vacant term on the NDHF Board of Directors.
- f. NDHA Health Benefits Trust Board Vacancy: Mr. Blasl notified the Board of a vacancy that will be occurring on the Health Benefits Trust Board of Trustees due to the resignation of Nathan Stadheim, CFO, West River Health Services,

effective June 18, 2022. Mr. Blasl stated that filling of the vacancy will be discussed at the September NDHA Board meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

a. NDHA Legislative Committee –

- Mr. Blasl reported that he and Melissa Hauer, General Counsel/VP, have been meeting with the Committee once a month. The Committee has been discussing a platform for the upcoming legislative session to recommend to the Board for approval. The issues of highest legislative priority that have been discussed by the Committee are workforce, Medicaid, and behavioral health.
- Mr. Blasl reported that a Telehealth Committee is being created and a list of those interested in serving has been compiled. The main topic of discussion will be reimbursement parity. The Telehealth Committee recommendations will also be brought to the Board for approval.
- Ms. Hauer reported that the interim legislative committees that NDHA is tracking most closely are the Acute Psychiatric Treatment Committee, the Health Care Committee, and the Human Services Committee. The Human Services Committee heard testimony at its April meeting regarding Medicaid eligibility redeterminations that will have to be completed when the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ends and efforts hospitals can undertake to ensure Medicaid enrollees update their mailing address to ensure they receive notice of the redetermination process. The Health Care Committee is studying prescription drug pricing, telehealth barriers, medication optimization and community health workers.
- Ms. Hauer detailed the appropriation of coronavirus American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. There are remaining unappropriated funds which will be revisited in the 2023 legislative session.
- Mr. Blasl reported on testimony given to the Acute Psychiatric Treatment Committee and the report submitted by Schulte Consulting, LLC to that Committee. The next Committee meeting will be in June.

b. Nominating Committee – The Nominating Committee will be appointed and meet soon to determine a slate of candidates for election by voting members of the NDHA Board of Directors at-large positions for 2022-2023 and the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board delegate for 2023.

c. AHA – Elizabeth Summy, American Hospital Association (AHA) Region Six Executive, outlined current AHA activities, including tracking of workforce issues. The AHA has issued a letter calling for the extension of the public

health emergency. The AHA continues to lobby for release of coronavirus Provider Relief Funds to hospitals.

- d. Federal Update – Erik Rasmussen, NDHA's federal affairs consultant, commented on the current legislative environment, expected changes in relevant regulations, election predictions for the House and Senate, and the political climate in Washington, D.C. relating to healthcare issues.

**Staff Reports:**

- a. Mr. Blasl presented the President's Report including a summary of his visit to Washington, D.C. last month, a letter sent to Trinity Health inviting them to become an NDHA member, traditional Medicaid value based purchasing initiative, a PAC update and the status of the NDHA Health Benefits Trust experiencing high claims the need for an assessment of participants to replenish reserves. Mr. Blasl announced that the NDHA Leadership Conference will be held May 18-19, 2022, in Bismarck, ND.
  
- b. Ms. Hauer presented an overview of a draft opinion that was leaked recently from the U.S. Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which is a challenge to a Mississippi abortion restriction law. The draft opinion indicates the Court is considering overturning *Roe v. Wade*. There was discussion of expected issues if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned and how state laws such as the North Dakota trigger law and Abortion Control Act can be enforced.

There being no further business, the board meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Lori Wangler

Recording Secretary