



Iowa Rural Health Association Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 26, 2009
IRHA Office • 525 SW 5th Street, Suite A • Des Moines
11 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. Call to Order Approval of Agenda – David Fries, President

The meeting was called to order at 11 AM by President David Fries. Present at the meeting were Barb Blough, Cheryl Clarke, Russ Carrier, David Fries, Peg O'Connor, and Gloria Vermie. Cheryll Jones joined the meeting by phone. Staff present was Melissa Primus.

II. Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2009 Meeting

The minutes from the April 2, 2009 board meeting were reviewed. Peg moved to approve the minutes as printed. Gloria seconded and the motion carried.

III. Fiscal Report

Peg provided the financial report, reviewing the financial information since the last meeting. Melissa was asked to look into a question about the amount showing in the dues and subscription expense. She will research the expenditures and follow up with Peg and David. Discussion was held on possible membership offers. Gloria reported that \$2000 from the IDPH to help with the expense of webinars was being processed. Barb made a motion to accept the financial report. Russ seconded and the motion carried.

IV. Old Business:

▪ **Board Recruitment Update**

Four individuals have been identified and have shown interest in serving on the IRHA Board. These individuals include: Fred Eastman, Dan Ellis, Marcia Harris, and Faryle Northwehr. A motion was made to approve these individuals as nominees for the upcoming board election. The motion carried.

These individuals will be contacted and asked to submit biographical information by September 15, 2009. Melissa will send out notice of the annual meeting and the ballots to the members as soon as the biographical information is received.

▪ **Public Policy/Advocacy**

Cheryll Jones provided an update on a number of issues. The NRHA is sending out information encouraging members to participate in town hall meetings being hosted by Senators and Congressmen. NRHA has also started a Grassroots Advocacy program as a way to keep members updated on current health reform. Weekly conference call updates are a part of this program.

In Iowa, a Health Care Reform Committee is working actively and has been making reports to the State Board of Health.

A Government Resource Commission has recently been formed in Iowa. It is believed that this commission will be looking at efficiencies and inefficiencies of government and, using the LEAN approach, be charged with cutting as much as \$1 billion from the state budget. It is also believed that a number of advisory boards may be down-sized or cut.

▪ Membership

The membership reports were reviewed. David mentioned that we will need to continue to watch our membership numbers and monitor the impact possible budget cuts have on membership. Melissa will create a list of all individuals who register for a webinar and use this list to do a targeted membership mailing/invitation for 2010 memberships.

▪ Educational Committee Update

Webinars

The first two webinars held in July and August have been well attended. We have a webinar scheduled for September 10. It was decided to schedule a webinar for November and January and then evaluate the webinars in January to determine if we will continue to offer them. Gloria offered to do some research into grant opportunities that would offer financial support for continuing to provide webinars free of charge.

November's webinar will focus on H1N1. Russ offered to present the historical information related to H1N1. David will contact Dr. Patty Quinlisk about presenting information about what people should be doing now, communicating the truth about H1N1 and dispelling some of the myths.

The Board talked about adding a survey as a follow-up piece. Melissa will continue to send out a follow up email to non-member attendees and include a membership brochure.

Annual Meeting

The Board reviewed and confirmed the agenda and discussed speakers for the greetings and roundtable discussion leaders. Cheryll will contact Tom Newton and David will contact Susan Curry about bringing opening greetings.

Roundtable discussion topics and leaders will be as follows.

- AHEC – Cheryl will contact Wendy Gray
- H1N1 – Melissa will contact Pam at Hygienic Lab for a leader
- Workforce Development – Tori was working on finding someone
- Grassroots Advocacy – Cheryll Jones will lead
- Disaster Preparedness – Jules from Marshalltown has agreed. David will forward contact information
- Ag Safety – Melissa will follow up with Kristi Fisher
- Prescription Coverage – David

It was decided that we will not have exhibitors as part of the annual meeting, but will invite sponsors to participate. Melissa will send a letter to sponsors from past years. It was also decided to charge a \$25 per person fee and try to keep the food costs to around \$9 per person.

Melissa will send out a "Save the Date" announcement and then send the complete registration brochure by Sept. 28 or earlier. Will be sent to IRHA listserv and all webinar registrants.

The need for a contingency plan was also discussed. Melissa will contact Hygienic Lab to see if they have anything in place as to when they may cancel events.

- Skill Building Workshop
Melissa provided a written report summarizing the sessions at the NRHA Skill Building Workshop held in Park City, Utah in July.
- SAC Call Review
Minutes from June SAC call were included in the board packet.

V. New Business

- Upper Midwest Rural Health Summit/Planning Committee
David reported on a planning committee conference call that he participated in related to the planning of an Upper Midwest Rural Health Summit. This planning committee has been started by some Minnesota Rural Health Association members. They are planning a one-day conference for Feb. 26, 2010 in Sioux Falls, SD. Topics for the conference at this point include: cost containment, access and recruitment, and medical home. The next planning committee call is scheduled for September 1. David will plan to continue to participate in the planning sessions and update the IRHA board members.
- AHEC email
An email was received from the AHEC group in Davenport looking for job fair opportunities. After some discussion on how to handle requests like this, it was decided that Melissa should reply by offering them message distribution to our listserv for these types of announcements if the group making the request is an IRHA member.
- NuCara Pharmacy info
NuCara had contacted the IRHA office looking for exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities. Melissa will follow up with NuCara to offer them a sponsorship opportunity for the Annual Meeting and also invite them to become an organizational member of IRHA.
- IDPH- IA State Rural Health Plan (SRHP)
Gloria introduced the board members to this working document and led the board members through various pieces of the plan asking for input and feedback on goals and focus areas.

- **Next meeting**

The Board will meet by conference call on October 1 from 11:30 – 1:00 to finalize details of the Annual Meeting.

Adjournment

Russ moved to adjourn the meeting. Cheryl seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.