

**North Country Health Consortium
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2015
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

Present: Sharon Beaty, Nancy Bishop, Jonathan Brown, Elaine Bussey, Charlie Cotton, Kristina Fjeld-Sparks, Kristy Letendre, Ed Shanshala, Karen Woods,
Phone: Margo Sullivan & Ken Gordon
Staff: Nancy Frank, Colleen Gingue, Lynda Bloom

Consent Agenda

- November 13, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes
- October 2015 Financials
- December 2015 Executive Director Update

Nancy Bishop made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Kristina Fjeld-Sparks seconded the motion. Motion passed.

New Grant Opportunity

The new grant was discussed with Mike Coughlin and Charlie Cotton prior to the Board meeting. Mike Coughlin asked that the Board discuss and consider the opportunity.

Discussion occurred regarding questions: What system would be put into place and what is the number of awards? Could fee for service be considered the required match? Board agreed Nancy could attend the Bidders Conference. Board members are willing to collaborate and others hesitant based on award amount.

Sharon Beaty made a motion for Nancy to attend the Bidders Conference, and email responses to any questions. Board will email questions to Nancy prior to the meeting; Elaine Bussey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Nancy updated the Board regarding the HNH new application. The letter of inquiry is due by December 15, 2015. An expanded priority area is to focus on food insecurity. HEAL communities and PHN are encouraged to apply. The grant is for up to \$50k per year for three years. The decision will be made by January 4, 2016, whether to write a proposal.

Charlie Cotton made a motion to support the grant if Nancy Frank, using her discretion, decides it is appropriate; Nancy Bishop seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion passed.

Northern New England Practice Transformation Network (NNE PTN)

Board updated regarding NNE PTN, which is a tri-state initiative with Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire. Maine Quality Counts is the lead organization. The primary recipient in NH is the Citizens Health Initiative/UNH. NCHC is the sub-recipient in the state and will contract with UNH. NCHC will be hiring a Project Coordinator and 5 Practice Coaches/Facilitators. It is a four-year cooperative agreement with CMS. Discussion occurred regarding the transformation to prepare for alternative payment models in the near future, shift from fee for service by to value based. Challenges will occur to recruit practices. Sharon Beaty recommends to those with any interest to “get your name in”. The registration form is currently available on the website.

Nancy reviewed the Motivational Interviewing (MI) component/team-based care integration. Becky McEnany is an expert trainer in MI/team-steps/hypertension and team-based care. Becky will transition into the Project Coordinator position and she will supervisor the coaches when they are hired.

It was discussed and agreed that North Country Health Consortium should have legal review of the contract only if the language is concerning. The contract will have similar language to the agreement between CMS and Maine Quality Counts.

Sharon Beaty made a motion to go forward and sign the contract; Kristina Fjeld-Sparks seconded the motion. Motion passed.

North Country ACO – AIM ACO Update

The North Country ACO's contract with CMS ends December 31, 2015. ACO quality date for 2015 will be due to CMS in the spring. The ACO website will come down 12/31/15. Jonathan Brown provided an update regarding the Advanced Investment Model, which was approved by CMS with some upfront funding to help hospitals in transformation movement.

NCHC Program Updates

NCHC has been asked to work with at least four hospitals (LRH, UCVH, Weeks, AVH) to complete a regional community health needs assessment. NCHC is currently completing the AVH needs assessment which is due at the end of the year. By January, 2016 an outlined plan will be completed.

NCHC has been involved in several community-based substance use disorder initiatives around the region. NCHC/NNH AHEC is also providing leadership for the SBIRT interprofessional training project that is working with six academic institutions to integrate SBIRT into their curriculum.

Board updated regarding the Rural Health Scholars Program through Dartmouth. Could NCHC host and implement a 4 – 8 week project during the summer months? Karen Woods stated Cottage Hospital is willing to be involved, also Elaine Bussey & Nancy Bishop expressed interest.

Committees - By-Laws, Membership

By-Laws Committee

Jonathan Brown, Ed Shanshala, and Elaine Bussey agreed to be on the By-Laws Committee. The committee will meet after the first of the year.

Membership Committee

It was suggested that a Survey Monkey be developed and sent out for Board and Members regarding thoughts of the future of NCHC membership. It was decided that this would be most valuable after the new strategic planning session.

NCHC Strategic Planning Session

Review strategic plan priorities from 2012. Consider a new plan for fewer years and host an interactive session inviting both staff and the Board. Locations recommended include Copper Canyon, WMCC culinary arts students to prepare the meal, and the Highland Center. The Executive Committee will be the "Strategic Planning Committee" (others may join if they choose), and they will develop a proposed plan that will be presented to the full board.

