

**North Country Health Consortium
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2013
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

Present: Rosemary Orgren, Charlie White, Scott Howe, Russ Keene, Jane Mackay, Elaine Bussey, Gail Clark, Nancy Bishop, Alisa Druzba, Tony Poekert
Absent: Roxie Severanc, Sharon Beaty, Rob Darling, Lucille Tremblay, Adele Woods
Phone: Maria Ryan, Margo Sullivan, Ed Shanshala
Guest: Michelle McEwen
Staff: Nancy Frank, Colleen Gingue

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included:

- December 14, 2012 board meeting minutes
- November 2012 financials
- Executive Director's Update

Charlie White made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Gail Clark seconded the motion. Motion passed

Charlie White explained the Asset Capitalization Policy that the Finance Committee recommended for approval. The Policy would increase the capitalized property and equipment from \$1000.00 to equal to or greater than \$2,500.

Nancy Bishop made a motion to approve the Asset Capitalization Policy to increase the value to equal to or greater than \$2,500; Gail Clark seconded the motion. Motion passed

Grants Update

Tillotson Fund – the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund has invited the Consortium to write a full proposal for operational funding. The grant is due January 21st. Nancy will send “talking points” to the board after it is submitted since it is likely that Tillotson will call references.

Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Grant Program – This is a HRSA, Office of Rural Health Policy, opportunity for \$150,000 each year for three years. The grant focuses on primary care practices. The four community health centers that are part of the North Country ACO would like to apply for the quality improvement project, but the ACO does not have their non-profit status approval yet. NCHC would apply for the grant. This grant is due January 30th. Charlie White made a motion to move forward with the grant proposal; Gail Clark seconded the motion. Motion passed

There was quite a bit of discussion about how to integrate other organizations and services into the grant; behavioral health, home health care, etc. Once the project goals and objectives are determined, Nancy will send them to the board along with the RFP.

Heart Truth – There was a Heart Truth opportunity due January 7th that we did not know about at the last board meeting. The RFP required a new project but with the same parameters and goals as the last Heart Truth grant we had last year (ended December 31, 2012). We re-applied for funds (\$75,000) to expand the great work we had done to include other venues and partners.

NH AHEC Program

Rosemary Orgren, NH AHEC Program Director, provided a brief update on the New Hampshire AHEC program. The Program just received a five year grant; previously AHEC had been on a three-year cycle. AHEC funding, like other federal funding, is always subject to the federal funding priorities. Our AHEC funding is slightly reduced each year. Rosemary also discussed the Public Health Training Center grant which is a five year grant focused on training the public health workforce. It is an infrastructure grant and it is hoped that the funding will continue after the five years. We are currently in the third year of the grant. Rosemary also announced that she will be retiring in June.

Rural Health Outreach Grant – Molar Express – Strategic Planning Process

Nancy Frank distributed the draft strategic planning document. The Strategic Plan is due to HRSA on February 15, 2013. The draft document is a compilation of Molar Express strategic planning sessions that the board has completed over the last two years, as well as a review of the goals and work plan for the outreach grant project. Please review and submit changes or suggestions to Nancy by the end of January. The final document will be reviewed at the next board meeting on February 8th.

North Country ACO Update

Michelle McEwen and Kathy W. from Speare Memorial Hospital presented information about their transitions of care model which is funded by a grant from HRSA, Office of Rural Health Policy, in collaboration with Mid-State Health Center. The grant focuses on care coordination, with the goal of reducing readmission rates; they hired an RN as a transition care manager. The model has been very successful so far; they will continue to measure quality of life indicators over the next two years of the grant.

Other Business

- Charlie White thanked Alisa Druzba from the State Office of Primary Care and Rural Health for her assistance with UCVH becoming a designated National Health Service Corps site.
- Alisa Druzba asked that she be given an opportunity to provide an update on the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health. It was decided this would happen at the June meeting which will be an open member meeting.
- Charlie White brought up the issue of the escalating community drug epidemic that hospitals are dealing with in their emergency departments; the increased number of emergencies and the high costs associated with them.

Charlie White made a motion to adjourn; Jane MacKay seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Next meeting February 8, 2013, 8:30 – 10:30, Littleton, NH

