

Minutes of the
RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

Thursday, September 20, 2012
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Fairfield Inn & Suites
Kearney, Nebraska

Members Present: Scot Adams, Ph.D.; Brian Buhlke, D.O.; Marty Fattig; Shawn Kralik, D.D.S.; Rebecca Schroeder, Ph.D.; Avery Sides, M.D.; Sharon Vandegrift, R.N.; Roger Well, PA-C

Members Absent: Kathy Boswell; Mark Goodman, M.D., Jenifer Roberts-Johnson, J.D., Mike Sitorius, M.D. (Nursing Home Administrator Representative position is currently vacant)

Guests Present: Susan Wallis, Nebraska Chapter-National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Omaha, NE; Carrie Edwards, C.E.O., Mid-Plains Behavioral Health Center, Grand Island, NE

Office of Rural Health Staff Present: Marlene Janssen, Dave Palm, and Deb Stoltenberg

1. Call Meeting to Order; Open Meetings Act & Agenda Posted; Adopt Agenda; Approve Minutes of June 22, 2012, Meeting; Introduce Members and Guests

Marty Fattig called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with the following members present: Scot Adams, Ph.D.; Brian Buhlke, D.O.; Marty Fattig; Shawn Kralik, D.D.S.; Rebecca Schroeder, Ph.D.; Avery Sides, M.D.; Sharon Vandegrift, R.N.; and Roger Well, PA-C

Marty Fattig announced that the Open Meetings Act and Agenda are posted on the door.

Roger Wells moved to adopt the agenda with the following addition “the discussion of the biennium budget” under Closed Session. Dr. Rebecca Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried. YES: Adams, Buhlke, Kralik, Schroeder, Sides, Vandegrift, Wells; NO: None; Excused: Boswell, Goodman, Roberts-Johnson, Sitorius.

Dr. Shawn Kralik moved to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2012, meeting. Sharon Vandegrift seconded the motion. Motion carried. YES: Adams, Buhlke, Kralik, Schroeder, Sides, Vandegrift, Wells; NO: None; Excused: Boswell, Goodman, Roberts-Johnson, Sitorius.

Marty Fattig asked the Commission members and staff to introduce themselves for any guests present and stated that guests *may* introduce themselves.

2. Administrative Announcements:

- **Next Meeting – Friday, November 30, 2012; 1:30 p.m. in Lincoln, NE**

Marty Fattig announced that the next Rural Health Advisory Commission (RHAC) meeting is scheduled on Friday, November 30, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. in Lincoln, Nebraska. Further details will be mailed out as the date approaches and to mark your calendars.

- **Discuss Nominations for Chair/Vice-Chair**

Marty Fattig announced that the Commission currently does not have a vice-chair due to Dr. Dilly's resignation and asked if anyone is interested in serving as interim vice-chair until after the election of the new chair and vice-chair. Dr. Rebecca Schroeder volunteered to serve as interim vice-chair.

Marty Fattig asked if anyone is interested in being nominated for chair and vice-chair. After some discussion, Marty Fattig stated he would be willing to serve another year as chair and Sharon Vandegrift and Dr. Shawn Kralik both stated they would be willing to serve as vice-chair. Official nominations and voting on chair and vice-chair will be done at the November meeting.

- **Other**

Marty Fattig announced that at today's Nebraska Rural Health Conference award luncheon, a proclamation was read, "the Governor has made today, September 20, 2012, 'Denny Berens Day' in recognition of his years of service to Nebraska and to the Office of Rural Health and to the nation." And it was clarified that the proclamation is for today only and not an annual event.

Marty Fattig stated that we should welcome our two new members to the Commission and their willingness to serve: Dr. Brian Buhlke and Dr. Avery Sides. Mr. Fattig also announced there is a new membership listing in their packet and if there are changes or corrections, to contact Marlene Janssen. Marlene Janssen stated the nursing home administrator position is still vacant and the search continues.

With no other announcements, Marty Fattig said the Commission will break for dinner and the presentation from the MS Society can begin.

3. MS Society Presentation

Susan Wallis, from the Nebraska Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, gave an interesting presentation on what the organization is achieving for rural Nebraskans.

MS usually affects the brain, spinal cord and/or optic nerves. It has recently been found that the environment can have a significant impact on MS. The reaction to the environment is the reason why everyone does not get MS. Right now, there is an emphasis on people who have come out of the Vietnam and Gulf Wars because there is a higher level of MS in these groups. Environmental triggers are being studied.

Most people with MS have one of 4 different kinds of MS: (1) relapsing remitting (most common), (2) primary progressive, (3) secondary progressive, or (4) relapsing progressive (most rare). Between the ages of 20-40 is the typical age range when an individual is diagnosed with MS. Usually, women have three times higher rates of MS than men and a disability may be temporary or permanent. Typically, individuals are married and 56% of people diagnosed are not in the workforce. There is a need to give these MS people the opportunity to work.

Individuals in rural areas are diagnosed approximately 5 years later than in the urban areas. One common barrier is often the distance to see a specialist. The Nebraska Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has a great deal of information available and is trying to connect it so it will be widely used. Also, to get available knowledge to individuals, for example, MS has a method to pay for wheel chairs, modifications to homes, ramps, utilities and other things for eligible individuals. The goal is to provide information and to understand the impact of MS on individuals and the community.

4. Nebraska Rural Incentive Programs

- **Loan Repayment Recipients and NE Residents**

Marlene Janssen asked the commission members to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of “requiring” loan repayment recipients to live in Nebraska. Advantages included paying taxes in the Nebraska community and the economic impact of health professional living in the community. Disadvantages would be recruiting and retaining health professionals to border communities.

This sparked a lengthy discussion with guest, Carrie Edwards, C.E.O., Mid-Plains Behavioral Health Center, Grand Island, NE. Ms. Edwards’ comments included the lack of psychiatrists in Nebraska outside of Lincoln and Omaha and the capability of recruiting and retaining psychiatrists.

- **2012-13 Student Loan Awards Update**
- **Loan Repayment Awards Update**
- **Accounts Receivable Report**

These agenda items were suspended due to Marlene Janssen having to leave the meeting early due to illness.

- **Review Current Budget**

Since Marlene Janssen had to leave the meeting early, Roger Wells moved to have Ms. Janssen submit an electronic written report of the current budget to the commission members. Dr. Brian Buhlke seconded the motion. Motion carried. Motion carried. YES: Adams, Buhlke, Kralik, Schroeder, Sides, Vandegrift, Wells; NO: None; Excused: Boswell, Goodman, Roberts-Johnson, Sitorius.

5. CLOSED SESSION

- **Review Loan Repayment Applications**

Shawn Kralik moved to go to Closed Session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the loan repayment applications and the biennium budget. Dr. Scot Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried. YES: Adams, Buhlke, Kralik, Schroeder, Sides, Vandegrift, Wells; NO: None; Excused: Boswell, Goodman, Roberts-Johnson, Sitorius.

Marty Fattig announced that the RHAC would go into Closed Session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the loan repayment applications and biennium budget and asked that non-essential staff and guests please leave the room for a few minutes.

6. OPEN SESSION

- **Motions on Closed Session Discussions**

Dr. Brian Buhlke moved to go to Open Session at 7:58 p.m. Dr. Rebecca Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried. YES: Adams, Buhlke, Kralik, Schroeder, Sides, Vandegrift, Wells; NO: None; Excused: Boswell, Goodman, Roberts-Johnson, Sitorius.

The commission members agreed to use the established guidelines for prioritizing loan repayment applications and suggested a wording change from “physician ratio” to “health care provider” to be consistent with the allied health professions.

Based on the prioritization of the applications using the guidelines, Dr. Scot Adams moved to approve the following loan repayment applications with start dates and practice locations as shown below:

Applicant	LR Start Date	Specialty	Practice Location
Akhtar, Usman	09/01/2012	M.D. (IMS)	Scotts Bluff County (Scottsbluff)
Eckmann, Riley	11/01/2012	M.D. (FP)	Knox County (Family Practice)
Banks, Ryan	09/01/2012	M.D. (FP)	Holt County (Family Practice)
Bush, Trevor	10/01/2012	M.D. (FP)	Kimball County (Kimball)
Leibhart, Jessica	10/01/2012	D.O. (FP)	Cherry County (Valentine)
Dobbins, Melissa	10/01/2012	D.O. (FP)	Wayne & Dixon Counties (Wayne)
Biehl, Benjamin	10/01/2012	M.D. (FP)	Johnson County (Tecumseh)
Sagrero, Katie	10/01/2012	D.O. (FP)	Douglas County (One World CHC)
Machuca, Francisco	10/01/2012	M.D. (FP)	Douglas County (One World CHC)
Contet, Tiffany	10/01/2012	P.A. (FP)	Kimball County (Kimball)
Brader, Cassandra	10/01/2012	APRN (FP)	Franklin County (Franklin)
Gunderson, Ashley (0.6 FTE)	10/01/2012	P.A. (FP)	Hamilton & Clay Counties (FP)
Jacob (Thiele), Jenna	10/01/2012	APRN (FP)	Holt Co (O'Neill) <u>OR</u> Antelope Co (Neligh)

Devine, Elizabeth	10/01/2012	APRN (FP)	Holt County (O'Neill)
Lewis III, Wendell	10/01/2012	APRN (FP)	Madison County (Norfolk - CHC)
Jessen, Jonathan	10/01/2012	D.D.S.	Holt County (O'Neill)
Johnson, Kallie	10/01/2012	D.D.S.	Madison County (Norfolk - CHC)
Borcher, Amy	10/01/2012	Pharm.D.	Box Butte County (Alliance)
Weingart, Matthew	10/01/2012	Pharm.D.	Box Butte County (Alliance)
Borsh, Tara	10/01/2012	Psy.D.	Hall County (Grand Island)

and to move the following five loan repayment applications to the waiting list: Alysia Mowry, P.A.; Brock Simonsen, P.T.; Jolene Griess, P.T.; Bryan Felker, P.T.; and Haley Haymart, O.T.

Dr. Brian Buhlke seconded motion. Motion carried. YES: Adams, Buhlke, Kralik, Schroeder, Sides, Vandegrift, Wells; NO: None; Excused: Boswell, Goodman, Roberts-Johnson, Sitorius.

7. Program Committee Update

- **P.T. and O.T. Shortage Area Guidelines**

This agenda item was suspended due to Marlene Janssen having to leave the meeting early due to illness.

8. Policy Committee Report Recommendations

- **Legislative Updates**

Marty Fattig gave an update of the Nebraska legislation and distributed a handout of the Federal legislative issues. Commission members received a copy of the proposed legislative request for a funding increase for the rural incentive programs. This legislative proposal was submitted through DHHS.

Sharon Vandegrift out at 8:19 p.m.

Sharon Vandegrift returned at 8:25 p.m.

9. Other Committee Reports

- **Healthcare Workforce 2020 Task Force**

Roger Wells gave a brief report and an update on the activities of the Nebraska Healthcare Workforce 2020 Task Force.

- **National Advisory Committee on Rural Health & Human Services**

Roger Wells gave an update of his participation on this national committee. The committee is listening and looking for anything they can do to send dollars to rural areas to make them look good. Mr. Wells expressed concern that the committee views Hospitals at individually and not as part of networks.

10. Other Business

- **Primary Care Office Retention Study**
- **National Rural Health Day – November 15, 2012**

Dr. Brian Buhlke suggested sending letters to the State Senators explaining the history of the Nebraska Loan Repayment program with facts, such as using bullet points showing real information and ideas. Marty Fattig stated letters of appreciation would be mailed on behalf of the commission to rural incentive program recipients currently in practice. Mr. Fattig added that the Governor and Lt. Governor will receive letters similar to the State Senators' letters.

- **Other**

No other business.

11. Adjourn

Roger Wells moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Motion carried. YES: Adams, Buhlke, Kralik, Schroeder, Sides, Vandegrift, Wells; NO: None; Excused: Boswell, Goodman, Roberts-Johnson, Sitorius.