

NHARCH Board of Directors Minutes 4/12/22

Present: Alex Amann, Kris Andreozzi, Deb Burns, Gary Cahoon, Meghan Cook, Jeanne Donohoe, Matt Gatzke, Pat Gray, Alex Koutroubas, Chris Kelliher, Eldon Munson, Sara Nadeau, Michelle Pelham, Amy Rauert and Jen Skelton.

Absent: Linette Handschumaker and Shannon Lynch.

ZOOM Board Meeting Called to Order: 1:33 PM

Approval of Minutes from March 1, 2022 Board Meeting: A motion was made, seconded. Approved.

Approval of Financial Statement for March 31, 2022: Alex reported the financials will be on track by mid-summer if all dues are collected. The goal was \$43K from annual member dues. Alex noted one change to the annual budget; there was a missed expense for the website that has been added. The refund from the Holiday Inn for the cancelled conference has been received. To date, the organization is on budget with management and lobbying fees. Matt reported most of the late dues are a result of changes in points of contact at facilities. He has had to spend time calling those that have not paid. In most cases, there has been a change in personnel. Resulting in non-receipt of his correspondence. Lastly, Alex reported he filed the organization's 2021 tax return. A motion was made, seconded. Approved.

Convention/ Education Update: Deb reported the committee met and there will be a 2-4 hour in-service/training scheduled for late May – early June (most likely June). A speaker who is also speaking for the Health Care Association (HCA) was being considered but is very expensive. Matt reported speakers are averaging \$3K to present in person. If the decision is to book an outside speaker, it would be for the Fall conference. The idea was to time the speaker with the HCA Conference, but this presents timing, coordination, and attendance challenges. Matt suggested any in-person speakers be reserved for the Fall and the committee would need more information on the topics this speaker would cover. Matt further noted there are very few speakers with expertise in assisted living; most are general motivational speakers. Given our dues are lower than organizations such as HCA, we have more limited funds to book such speakers. At the Spring/Summer conference, 1.5 – 2 hours will be dedicated to an Administrator Roundtable. Leaders need to be identified to lead the Breakout Sessions. Matt asked for volunteers or recommendations for this role be submitted. Representatives from DHHS will be scheduled for the Fall conference.

Next week is the 2nd CARES training with ~20 attendees scheduled. There are still concerns about the CARES document not being finalized. A date needs to be scheduled for another Medication Management training. This will continue to be via Zoom for the time being.

Deb suggested partnering with DHHS to present the ART Camp to reach a larger audience. However, there are some concerns from attendees that “preferences” are being taught versus requirements per rule. Chris Kelliher asked there be information provided about how to dispute an inspection citation. It was also suggested that a local Fire Chief be invited. Matt informed the group he had a call from out-of-state asking for suggestions on “how to break in staff” new to the field and dealing with the media. He

suggested these may be topics of interest for the conference. He advocated using internal speakers if possible to discuss such topics.

Legislative Update: Prior to the meeting, Alex K. sent the members an email detailing HB 1210 that would require those mandating COVID vaccination to include a “right of conscience exemption”. Alex feels we need to get a stronger sense of the position of members. Six Board Members reported having a mandate currently at their residence. The Board Members agreed a survey should be sent to determine how many member residences have mandates and their position on this more generic exemption. The survey will also include information on the number of beds (this may be important compared to number of residences) and whether the facility accepts CFI residents. There is no hearing scheduled yet for this bill; it has been referred to the Senate.

Alex reported he testified at SB 281 regarding the “Notice of Vacancy”. Brendon Williams representing Benchmark also testified and advocated the 10-day notice be amended to a 15-day notice. Alex did not object at the hearing, assuming members would not object to this change if approved. He reported the Committee Members did not appear to have significant concerns with this request. There was a request to strike a sentence regarding “the month” in which a resident passes away as it was confusing. Neither the sponsor nor Alex objected to this. If amended, this bill will go back to the Senate where there will be another opportunity to address the 10 vs. 15- day requirement.

Matt reported on the Zoom meeting with the State Director and two State Health Policy Staffers from Senator Hassan’s office. This was attended by Eldon, Matt, Sara and Liz. The goal was to advocate for additional CARES Act funding for the industry and to request the language specifically identify “assisted living” and not the more generic term of “long term care”. Sara and Liz presented COVID challenges but also the labor shortage issue. As of last week, there was continued opposition at the federal level due to tying the legislation to immigration, leading to a stalemate.

Old Business:

Medication Management/Staffing: Jeanne reported this group has not met again but a meeting will be scheduled for next week. The results of the poll were sent to the sub-committee members but not to Kelly Keefe. Jeanne noted she was surprised by the poll indicating some wanted more regulation around medication management, not less. There was only a 32% response rate to the poll; while low, this is higher than the rate for most NHARCH surveys.

Pursuing Non-Paid Members and Personnel Updates: Matt reported again that most of the dues not yet received has been due to personnel changes and therefore the emails were not reaching the current contacts. Eldon reported he is now serving temporarily in the position of Executive Director.

New Business:

Legislative Staff Visit: Matt reported that during the call with Senator Hassan’s staff, they offered to visit member residences. Matt asked for input from the members on how to facilitate the visits. Sara stated a concern that the visits not only be to the residences of Board Members. She suggested more of a lottery

system to select residences. Eldon noted the importance of being visited if not previously visited in the prior year due to perpetual staffing changes in the Senate offices. Matt was asked to provide the contact information of the staffers on the Zoom call. Matt is going to reach out to determine dates and timeframe they would be available to visit residences.

Matt announced that Sara has been selected as the NH Small Business Association Person of the Year for 2022.

Gary announced that after 37 years, Friendship Manor will be closing due to lack of staffing. It will close as of May 8th. The organization has been a member of NHARCH since ~1987-88.

The next meeting will be on May 10, 2022 at 1:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 PM.

Minutes submitted by Sara Nadeau