

NHARCH Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Minutes 1/11/22

Present: Eldon Munson, Matt Gatzke, Linette Handschumaker, Alex Amann, Meghan Cook, Linette Handschumaker, Kris Andreozzi, Jeanne Donohoe, Sara Nadeau, Gary Cahoon, Michelle Pelham, Jen Skelton, Amy Rauert, Deborah Burns, Pat Gray, Shannon Lynch and Alex Koutroubas **Absent:** Chris Kelliher

ZOOM Board Meeting Called to Order: 1:35 pm

Welcome & Board Member Introductions: Eldon Munson welcomed and introduced the new Board Members elected in December. The new members are: Eldon Munson, Debra Burns, Kristine Andreozzi, Linette Handschumaker, Pat Gray and Sara Nadeau.

Approval of Minutes from December 14, 2021 Board Meeting & Annual Meeting: A motion was made, seconded. No discussion. Approved.

Election of Board Officers: Matt Gatzke explained the process to virtually elect the Board Officers. A separate Zoom link was emailed to all members in advance of the meeting to elect all four positions. Eldon Munson indicated his hope that Alex Amann would be interested in running for Treasurer. Alex accepted the offer; no other members expressed interest. Eldon Munson expressed his interest in running again for the position of President. No other members expressed interest. Eldon explained the role of Vice President and Jeanne Donohoe and Gary Cahoon both expressed interest. Eldon explained the role of the Secretary and Sara Nadeau expressed interest. Members were given three minutes to vote.

Approval of Financial Statement for December 31, 2021: There was an expected loss in 2021 but the Zoom convention was profitable. Income of approximately \$4K was made from educational programs. Fixed costs are \$55K annually that must be covered. Alex will be putting together the budget for 2022 and expects to have it available in February. Accounts Receivable is high due to membership fees for 2022. Matt reported that dues are coming in steadily. Motion was made, seconded. No discussion. Approved.

Alex updated the Board that the IRS is still reviewing the request to reinstate the organization's not-for-profit status.

Convention/ Education Update: Matt reported this committee has not yet met but a priority will be a meeting with Kristen from the Health Care Association to strategize on how to move forward with training on the new CARES Program (replacement of the Resident Assessment Tool). Ideally, this training will be in February. The second priority is Medication Training. Sessions have been successful via Zoom but the goal is to resume in person training as soon as possible. In April, a Spring Program is expected. The committee is planning to meet as soon as the new membership is finalized.

Legislative Update: Alex K. provided a thorough overview of the legislative scene. The committee met on 1/10/22 to discuss several issues. There are four bills currently requiring a higher level of tracking.

House Bill 10-53: The bill states employers “shall pay wages at an hourly rate at time and a half to any employee who the employer has called into work for hours not previously scheduled pursuant to the employer’s normal scheduling procedures”. Alex felt this was of high concern although he does not believe it will get much traction. Gary expressed concern given the fluidity of scheduling. He expects significant push back. After discussion, it was decided to wait to see if the bill gets through the House and to re-address it if it reaches the Senate.

Senate Bill 281: Applies to private pay facilities only and prohibits charging a notice period more than 10 days after a resident passes away. Eldon recommended a period of 15 days. Members expressed concern about situations where families do not empty rooms in a timely manner. The bill currently does not have any language to address that issue. Nursing homes are in support of this bill but argue it should apply to all facilities (private pay and Medicaid). Gary C. and Alex K. agreed to attend the hearing and requested members send samples if they have language addressing this issue in their Agreements. Overall, the discussion was that it would not be good to challenge this but the bill needs to address the removal of belongings. The hearing is scheduled for 1/12/22 at 9AM. Alex K. offered to write a draft amendment that distinguishes between nursing homes that furnish the rooms/apartments versus assisted living that typically are resident-furnished.

LTC Stabilization Fund: A new Senate bill is looking to bring back the LTC Stabilization Program for those residences that accept Medicaid. It has a cost to residences in terms of Worker’s Compensation and payroll taxes. The agreement was to watch this bill only. It is not expected to move forward.

Independent Audit & Needs Assessment for COVID: This bill did not pass the last session through the budget but is touted as a way to determine “lessons learned” through assessment by a consultant hired by DHHS. Consensus was to monitor this bill. There is no hearing currently scheduled. Gary requested that if it moves forward, that NHARCH request stakeholder input.

A virtual meeting has been requested with Senator Shaheen despite Senator Manchin stalling the Biden Administration’s efforts to fund infrastructure. The members felt it was important to have this meeting regardless and sooner than later to ensure assisted living residences are included in the definition of “long term care”.

The next Legislative Committee meeting is Tuesday, 1/18/22. Login information will be shared with all members.

Old Business:

NH Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Matt reported Shannon Lynch was not able to attend but there had been no recent updates or meetings.

New Business:

Medication Delivery: Eldon attended the public hearing on 804/805 rule changes and spoke to Kelly Keefe regarding medication delivery. Jeanne had offered to follow up with Kelly to discuss ways to make medication delivery more appropriate given the current lack of staffing. Kelly was supportive and had some ideas. She offered to have a meeting and to set up a committee as soon as possible. The 804/805 rules are not currently open to make changes but Kelly indicated she was willing to write a letter or to open the rules (not open again until 2025). Jeanne requested a broad range of volunteers for the committee to reflect how residences are actually passing medication in light of staffing shortages. Several members offered to participate and Jeanne confirmed she will coordinate with the volunteers to schedule the meeting with Kelly.

Committees: Matt offered to send a list of committees to all members. Members are to respond to the email to indicate which committees are of interest.

Election Results: Eldon announced the results of the election. The results were: El Munson, President, Jeanne Donohoe, Vice President, Alex Amann, Treasurer and Sara Nadeau, Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned by 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be on February 8, 2022 at 1:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sara Nadeau