

## **NHARCH Board of Directors Minutes 9/13/22**

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

**Absent:** Meghan Cook, Pat Gray and Shannon Lynch

**ZOOM Board Meeting Called to Order:** 1:33 PM

**Approval of Minutes from August 9, 2022 Board Meeting:** A motion was made, seconded. Approved.

**Approval of Financial Statement for August 31, 2022:** Alex reported the organization has approximately \$80K in its account. Currently, there is a profit of about \$6,700, however, there will be additional expenses coming due to the convention in October. He reported budget projections will be off; originally, two conferences were planned but the Spring event did not occur.

Matt reported Windham Terrace has re-joined as a member. Per emails amongst members, a pro-rated membership fee was granted due to Windham Terrace joining late in the year. Matt announced there are about six returning partnership members rejoining to present at/serve as corporate sponsors of the conference, as well as one – two pending a decision.

A motion was made to approve the financials for August as presented; seconded. Approved.

**Convention/Education Update:** Matt reported the next Medication Management class will be next Thursday at Bowman Place. There will be another CARES training class in October following the convention. A draft promotional flyer was sent out for the convention. There have been a few changes made since the draft was sent out. There are also some place holders for sponsors that are still pending a final decision on attending. Given the convention is coming soon, Matt's plan is to send out the flyer regardless and will send updated versions as those final sponsors commit. There will be raffles again at the convention so attendees will be asked to donate. The cost of the convention is a bit higher this year due to increases in credit card processing fees. NEPS is pending a decision to sponsor the lunch; if they do not, Matt is optimistic Vantage may be willing to do so.

The members reviewed the agenda. Commissioner Shibinette will be presenting at lunch (timing to be confirmed). The Frank Case Award will be presented at that time. There will also be an Administrator's Roundtable. Lunch will also include the Annual Meeting.

Matt noted members may begin registering as soon as the flyer is sent out this afternoon. There will be a special promotional code for Board members to attend for free. A Master of Ceremonies is still pending; if there is not a candidate, Board members will be assigned roles.

**Legislative Update:** Alex reported that there had just been a meeting of the HHS Oversight Committee (meets monthly) to address "hot topics" from all bureaus within DHHS. Alex will report on any updates that result from the meeting. For legislative updates, Alex reported the following:

The issue of visitation requirements was discussed. The new legislation appears to have more of an impact on hospitals and nursing homes. Board members discussed that the new regulation does not have a significant impact on assisted living since we have already been allowing visitation. When polled, Board members reported that visitation is occurring without restriction in the majority of residences. Some facilities are still requiring masking; others are not.

Regarding the new dental benefit that has been approved for those under the Choices for Independence (Cfi) program, it is anticipated the contract will go to Delta Dental due to their strong relationship with providers. The recommendation is that it be granted to a single entity contractor for ease of management. The contract and rates are still under negotiation.

The Legislative Sub-Committee met this morning and discussed NHARCH forming a Political Action Committee (PAC). Alex reviewed criteria for a PAC: must designate a Chairman and Treasurer, pay an annual filing fee, file seven reports at specific timeframes during the year, and disclose donors and contributions.

Alex noted that the NH Health Care Association relies on its largest members for their fundraising/donations; they otherwise do not typically solicit additional donations. However, under the law, individuals and businesses can contribute provided it is under \$5K annually. The members discussed relying on voluntary individual and business donations or having a "Check Off" box on the annual dues invoice to include an additional payment towards the PAC. Alex noted that donations must not be co-mingled; the PAC would be a separate entity with its own bank account and funds would have to be clearly demarcated as going to the PAC vs. NHARCH.

Gary raised the question of who the PAC would donate to and how often. After discussion, it was agreed the Legislative Sub-Committee would be delegated responsibility to identify recipients and contribution amounts with the stipulation that any donations over \$50 would need full Board approval. Alex K. noted that the goal was not necessarily to influence specific legislative issues, but rather to serve as an advocacy tool to increase awareness of NHARCH in order for legislators to reach out to the organization for input when proposed legislation could impact members. Contributions to fundraisers could be most effective; this would make the PAC most active during the legislative session. Alex K. also suggested that House and Senate candidates would be the most effective candidates to receive contributions. The main concern of the group was the ability to raise sufficient funds to be an effective PAC (goal would be at least \$5K).

After much discussion, the following was agreed upon: NHARCH will proceed with establishing a PAC, Alex K. will be responsible for the mandatory reporting, contributions will be solicited on the annual membership invoice but individuals/businesses may also donate, the Legislative Sub-Committee will recommend who to contribute to and the amount, the full Board will need to approve any donations over \$50 and if sufficient funds are not raised, the amount received will be donated or returned and the PAC will be dissolved. A motion was made to approve the PAC under the conditions above. This motion was seconded, Approved.

The D&B agreement was completed and signed; Alex K. will continue to serve as our lobbyist for another year.

Sara Nadeau reported that she, Alex K. and Matt participated in a call with Senator Shaheen's office regarding H2-B visas. The team was given a full 30-minutes with two representatives with extensive knowledge of visa programs. Unfortunately, the representatives stated there is not currently enough political support for immigration reform/revisions to the visa programs. If approved, it would still take two-three years for the changes to take place and allow use of the programs. In lieu of such visa programs, they suggested some innovative options to research and subsequently provided contact information. One suggestion was to contact the Hampton Chamber of Commerce. For services such as lifeguards this past summer, they partnered with a native American reservation to hire staff. These are American citizens, so they are eligible for hire but have limited job opportunities. Sara reported she will reach out to the Chamber contact to further explore this. Secondly, the referenced the recent approval for the US to accept 100,000 Ukrainian refugees; according to their information, many of these refugees are still seeking work sponsors. Lastly, they recommended contacting the relief agency working with recent refugees from Afghanistan; again, many of these refugees are still seeking placement and employment. The challenge is housing and transportation. Sara will reach out to the contacts for both agencies working with these two refugee groups for more information. Sara further reported her husband has a contact in the landscaping industry who recruits summer staff annually from Puerto Rico. Again, these are US citizens and eligible for hire who have limited employment opportunities. Sara's husband learned his contact travels annually to Puerto Rico and works with local mayors to recruit staff for seasonal summer jobs. In his industry, English is not necessary; this could be a barrier for the healthcare industry. Sara will also reach out to this contact for more information. Jeanne suggested this option could be applicable to other US territories such as the US Virgin Islands.

#### **Old Business:**

##### Medication Administration Sub-Committee Update:

The letter sent to Wendi Aultman was received. Kelly Keefe has asked if we can provide a list of the specific rules referenced in the letter. The group discussed further exploration of the rules and training that are approved for the 1201s to determine if they would be applicable to assisted living. The hope is that this issue can move forward if we can identify specific recommendations to propose to DHHS.

#### **New Business:**

##### Appointment to Serve Out Vacant Directorship:

Pat Gray has resigned. Wendy Switzer was recommended to fill the vacancy. A motion was made, seconded. Approved.

As part of this discussion, members of the Nominating Committee agreed to begin exploring candidates for upcoming potential Board vacancies. There could be up to two vacancies.

Response to He-P 805 Rule Revisions:

DHHS sent membership new proposed 805 rules. These were not sent to NHARCH or the Health Care Association. The thought is that they send the rules only to licensees. The rule changes most notably affect several Life Safely Code issues that could have a significant impact on 805s not built to the current health care building code and thus those that are grandfathered as 805s or hold dual licenses. The deadline for response is this Friday. The members agreed to have a separate discussion tomorrow at 8:30 AM via Zoom in order to send a united response on behalf of the membership to DHHS.

The next meeting will be on October 11, 2022 at 1:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 PM.

Minutes submitted by Sara Nadeau