

**Wyoming Health Information Organization
Board of Directors**

Teleconference Minutes

April 30, 2008

I. Call to order

Dr. Jerry Calkins, Board Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:03 am on April 30, 2008.

II. Roll call

The following were present:

Board Members: Jerry Calkins, Dana Barnett, Fran Cadez, Carol Jenkins, Kem Krueger, Anne Larsen, Larry Madsen, Steve Sloan,

Staff: Larry Biggio

Absent: Steve Chasson, Lee Clabots, Karen Dobson, Howard Willson, Beth Worthen

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Dana Barnett moved and Larry Madsen seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2008 Board teleconference. The motion was carried unanimously.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Larry Madsen presented the Treasurer's Report.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report carried unanimously.

V. Corporate Operating Items

Update on IRS 501(c)(3) Status

Larry Biggio indicated the WyHIO has responded to the latest IRS information request on our outstanding 501 c 3 application. The response included an amendment to our Articles of Incorporation for a required charitable purposes clause, a revised Conflict of Interest policy, membership of an Executive Committee if created, a description of current and future activities, a representation regarding our intentions on network ownership and a centralized healthcare database, and an estimate of funding for 2008 and 2009.

Nick Healey, of Dray, Thompson, and Dyekman, PC, helped us with the Amended Articles, the revised Conflict of interest policy, and the narrative for the response letter.

VI. Business Items

a) Update on Telehealth Activities

Dana Barnett briefed the Board on progress to extend the statewide telehealth network, indicating a total of 22 hospitals should be connected by May 2, 2008. He stated the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) has been very supportive of statewide telehealth activities, and the network is working on the expansion of Continuing Medical Education (CME) as a first priority.

The Board then discussed the statewide telehealth steering committee and insurance reimbursement issues in telehealth.

b) Update on the FCC Grant

Larry Biggio covered a report from Rex Gantenbein on the current status of the FCC grant effort. Progress has stalled, primarily due to lack of funding for project management and oversight, and continuing network operations.

The WyHIO has requested small amounts of funding from the WHCC and the WDH to help support implementation of the FCC grant. These are still pending.

c) Update on HRSA Grant

Larry Biggio covered the close out of the HRSA grant. The grant ended in February 2008. A final report was submitted, and we are expecting a follow-up by the HRSA financial team sometime in the future.

d) Update on CMS Demonstration Application

Larry Biggio briefed the Board on progress to date on the CMS Demonstration Program application. The WyHIO will participate as the Community Partner along with 13 other healthcare organizations to support CMS in outreach, education, and recruitment of primary care providers.

No CMS funding is available to the Community Partner for this project. However, the WDH has agreed to provide \$15,000 for those activities, and the WyHIO is proceeding with the application. The WyHIO has contracted with Jamie Purcell, a grant writer in Casper, to assist with the application. The application is due on May 13th, and CMS will announce the final participants in June.

The Board reviewed several key points regarding the CMS Demonstration:

- The focus is Medicate primary care providers;
- There is a close tie between the Demonstration and Senator Enzi's 10-point healthcare plan;
- The Demonstration requires a CCHIT-certified EHR to be in place by the end of the second year of the project;

- The Demonstration has high visibility;
- The Demonstration will be coupled with the Total Health Record program at WDH;
- The WDH is currently finalizing its Request for Proposal (RFP) for the EMR portion of its THR program to require a CCHIT-certified EMR.

e) Update on funding request to WHCC

Larry Biggio recapped the WyHIO's funding request of \$80,000 to the WHCC for a follow on project related to the previous HIT Capability Survey.

Step 1 of the project is a needs assessment survey focusing on the types of information providers consider to be the most valuable in an exchange, barriers and difficulties experienced in implementing an exchange and the specific reasons for not participating. The second step of the project will build upon the results of the needs assessment and previous WHCC and WyHIO studies, in assisting in the design of the network for the recently approved FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program, as well as the Roadmap for our statewide HIE network.

This project requires an amendment of our existing contract with the WHCC, and we are awaiting the results of the review of the amendment.

Jerry Calkins explained that the request was an extension of the existing contract of \$150,000 with the WHCC. Only \$70,000 of the original amount had been spent, leaving \$80,000 for this project.

f) Board discussion on DRAFT HIE Roadmap

Jerry covered activities to date on the DRAFT HIE Roadmap, and the submission of the DRAFT to a wider audience for review and comment. Next possible steps were then covered, to include seeking funding, bridging with telehealth networks, bridging with the WDH THR efforts, identification of additional supporters, and building interest in HIE.

The Board moved into a discussion of building support and fundraising. Topics covered included:

- A need to rebuild enthusiasm for HIT statewide;
- Upcoming meetings with Senator Enzi's staff and the Governor's staff;
- Current support levels from HIT professionals and telehealth professionals across Wyoming;
- The need to contact the decision makers who have the potential to provide financial support for the HIE network;
- Potential development and sustaining funding models, to include membership structure.

Jerry Calkins, Dana Barnett, and Larry will put together groups of Board members to address the membership issue, and a meeting with decision makers statewide.

Jerry requested all Board members review and comment on the Roadmap.

VII. New Business

a) Tate Foundation grant application

Larry Biggio briefed the Board on a grant request of \$10,000 to the Tate Foundation to support development of a business plan to provide services to healthcare providers in the identification, selection, and implementation of appropriate HIT/HIE technical solutions.

b) Meeting with Senator Enzi's Staff

Larry Biggio reviewed an upcoming meeting with Senator Enzi's staff to brief on the DRAFT HIE Roadmap as well as the other HIT/HIE and telehealth activities of the WyHIO and other parties.

Jerry Calkins extended an invitation to any interested Board member to attend the briefing.

VII. Next Meeting

No date was set.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 am.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Biggio

Minutes approved by: **[Name]**