

MINUTES
of the
STATE NETWORK COUNCIL MEETING
March 9, 2005
Wichita, KS

Members Present:

Dan Bartz (Chair), Trego Co-Lemke Mem Hosp
Robert Bean, Sumner Regional Medical Center
Bruce Birchell, Greenwood County Hospital
Michelle Bohannon, Wilson County Hospital
Jim Brinkman, Clay County Medical Center
David Brittain, Med-Op, Inc.
Nancy Carpenter, Wilson County Hospital
Mary Colclazier, Kiowa County Memorial Hospital
Rob Colerick, Sunflower Health Network
Deanna Freeman, Jewell County Hospital
Jason Friesen, Pioneer Health Network, Inc.
Mike Frost, Great Plains Health Alliance
Bob Garrison, Rawlins County Hospital
Loraine Gengler, Lindsborg Community Hospital
Steve Granzow, Northeast Kansas Healthcare Network
John Gutschenritter, Wilson County Hospital
Dennis Hachenberg, Anderson County Hospital
Vicki Hahn, Wichita County Health Center
Elsie Herman, Rush County Memorial Hospital
Chris Hill, Hutchinson Hospital
Pat Joerg, Jewell County Hospital
Denise Johnson, Rush County Memorial Hospital
Durrel Kelley, Grant Thornton, LLP
Lora Key, Sabetha Community Hospital
Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital
Phil Lowe, Hodgeman County Health Center
Greg Lundstrom, Lindsborg Comm Hospital
Everett Lutjemeier, Washington County Hospital
Ronald McArthur, Quorum Health Resources
Greg McNeil, Lincoln County Hospital
Fred Meis, Graham County Hospital
Mark Miller, Memorial Hospital
Karen Milsap, Central Kansas Medical Center
Gary Montford, Hutchinson Hospital
Tara Morrow, Rural Health Education and Services – KU Medical Center
Patti Moser, Via Christi Riverside Medical Center
Dennis Nehls, Hospital Dist. #1 of Crawford County
Kris Ochs, Grisell Memorial Hospital District No. 1

Susie Olson, Wilson County Hospital
John Osse, Mitchell County Hospital
Roger Pearson, Ellsworth County Medical Center
Billie Porter, Wilson County Hospital
Julie Quanstrom, Wilson County Hospital
Stan Regehr, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital
Mike Ryan, Hillsboro Community Medical Center
Jesse Saucedo, Central Kansas Medical Center
Bartholomew Schlueter, PIC Wisconsin
Eldon Schumacher, Great Plains Health Alliance
Linda Stalcup, Stevens County Hospital
Mary Steiner, Herington Municipal Hospital
Michael Thomas, Meade District Hospital
Joyce Tibbals, KUSM-Wichita
Virgil Watson, Sumner County Dist. #1 Hospital
Dale White, NE KS Center for Health & Wellness, Inc.
Kevin White, Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital
Martin Williams, Hospital Dist. #1 of Crawford County

Guests:

Charles Moore, KDHE
Rochelle Spinarski, Rural Health Solutions

Staff:

Chad Austin, KHA
Chris Tilden, KDHE
Tom Bell, KHA
Melissa Hungerford, KHA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

State Network Council chair Dan Bartz called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The first order of business was to elect a new State Network Council chair for 2005. Dan Bartz called on Roger Pearson, nomination committee chairperson, who made a motion to accept Kevin White, Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital, as chairperson by acclimation. Mike Ryan seconded the motion. A unanimous vote in favor of Kevin White was made.

Chad Austin thanked Dan Bartz for his service as the State Network Council chairperson and presented him with a plaque to commemorate his service.

REGULATORY UPDATE

Charles Moore of KDHE Bureau of Childcare and Health Facilities (BCHF) reported that there are 80 critical access hospitals that have received or in the process of receiving their designation. Kansas leads all states with the number of CAHs. Mr. Moore addressed several concerns regarding the new CMS Interpretive Guidelines that identifies how KDHE surveyors will be counting the number of beds within a facility. CMS has started to require that KDHE begins counting the number of beds during all hospital surveys to ensure the number of beds a CAH has is no more than 25. Mr. Moore instructed participants to review section 485.620(a) of the Interpretive Guidelines for a complete explanation of which type of beds will be counted. If hospitals should have any questions regarding this rule, they are encouraged to contact Charles Moore at 785/296-0131 or Chad Austin at the KHA office, 785/233-7436.

Another issue that has been discussed by CMS deals with hospital core privileging. Mr. Moore cited an article that appeared in the March 18, 2005 KHA *Current Report* that explains the position of CMS. To obtain a copy of the letter, please contact Chad Austin at the KHA office, 785/233-7436.

KANSAS FLEX EVALUATION

The Kansas Rural Health Options Project contracted with Rochelle Spinarski from Rural Health Solutions to conduct an evaluation of the Kansas Flex Program. Ms. Spinarski presented the highlights of the evaluation and discussed several recommendations that should be considered (see handouts). Overall, Ms. Spinarski suggested that participants in the Kansas Rural Health Options Project are satisfied with the direction of the program. The evaluation was a four-month comprehensive program that included an electronic survey of all critical access hospital administrators and community health providers, state stakeholder key informant interviews, network interviews, a director of nursing focus group, an EMS focus group, and a CAH financial and utilization analysis. Recommendations from the evaluation included:

- 1) Re-engage in a formal Flex Program planning process
- 2) Establish a communication plan related to communicating program activities, changes, updates, and best practices to Flex Program stakeholders
- 3) Consider changing its network grant program from a site-based application process to a project-based focus Respond to key CAH TA needs
- 4) Incorporate grant outcomes information into its grant making process
- 5) Respond to identified CAH technical assistance needs
- 6) State Network Council (SNC) meetings should continue but changes should be considered
- 7) Continue to support program planning activities that are followed by a commitment to supporting the related program implementation activities (next steps)

- 8) Continue to monitor and evaluate program outcomes

The presentation and complete evaluation may be found on the KRHOP Web site, www.krhop.net.

KRHOP ACTIVITIES

Chad Austin and Chris Tilden provided an overview of the multiple programs currently being implemented under the Kansas Rural Health Options Project (see handouts). Current activities being implemented include:

- 1) Strategic planning program, including the development of a logic model
 - KRHOP will be working with John Gale from Maine to assist in the strategic planning process and the creation of a logic model.
- 2) Quality Assessment Program
 - KRHOP has contracted with Darlene Bainbridge to conduct on-site and on-line assessments of the quality programs currently being used in rural hospitals. There will be 8 pilot hospitals receiving the on-site interview; while over 20 hospitals will participate in the on-line evaluation.
- 3) Rural Health Works
 - Kansas State University continues to implement the community planning portion of the Rural Health Works program in two communities. KRHOP will be soliciting hospitals to participate in a second pilot program in early summer.
- 4) Kansas Recruitment Center
 - The Kansas Recruitment Center has placed 13 doctors in rural communities since its partnership with KRHOP.
- 5) KRHOP and Network Web sites
 - KRHOP has developed a new Web site (www.krhop.net) that will make communication of activities and programs much easier to rural health care providers. In addition, KRHOP funded the development of 3 network Web sites. Networks interested in creating a Web site should contact Chad Austin or Chris Tilden.
- 6) Quality Health Indicators (QHi)
 - There are nearly 30 hospitals participating in the Quality Health Indicators program. KRHOP will be soliciting additional networks and hospitals to participate in the program. A demonstration of the site may be found at www.kha-net.org.
- 7) Diabetes Management Program
 - KRHOP has partnered with the KDHE – Bureau of Health Promotion to replicate a diabetes management program in two critical access hospitals. The program will provide training to health care providers related to the evaluation and treatment of diabetes.
- 8) Trauma Education
 - KRHOP will be requesting applications from networks and health care providers to participate in a trauma education course. Additional information regarding the program will be available in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting of the State Network Council has not been announced.