



ND CAH Quality Network Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2019 ♦ 10:00am – 11:30pm (CT)

Mission: To support ongoing performance improvement of North Dakota's Critical Access Hospitals.

Present

Officers: Marcie Schulz (Chair), Coleen Bomber (Vice Chair)

Executive Members: Jenna Bredahl (Jamestown), Alfred Sams (Bottineau)

Stakeholder Members: Lynette Dickson (CRH)

Senior Project Coordinator: Jody Ward (CRH), **Network Evaluator:** Brad Gibbens (CRH), **Project Coordinator:** Angie Lockwood (CRH), **Project Specialist:** Julie Frankl (CRH)

I. **Welcome:** Roll call and Welcome (Jody)

- Review of minutes from previous meeting – Approved by Coleen Bomber, seconded by Jenna Bredahl, None opposed – Motion Passed

II. **Workplan Update**

Objective. 1: Facilitate Best Practice Sharing

- Review Evaluations from April Annual Meeting
 - Indicates morale/burnout of staff as an issue. Also shows participants would like more time to network with each other.
 - Some suggestions for upcoming topics are already being addressed, for example Risk Management is already established for individuals to join. Upcoming resources and educational offerings will be in the Spring Newsletter set to go out mid-June.
 - Participants seem to like the format of CAHs reporting experiences vs speakers.
 - Will be exploring the possibility of a different venue for next year.
- Next CAH Annual Meeting- possibly change to CAH and RHC Rural Conference
 - RHC track with national facilitator – Looking at possibility of Tammy Norville from NOSORH.
 - CAH track similar or with more Networking and ideas of what that would look like.
 - Could possibly increase to a 2-day or 1.5-day conference.
- Care Coordination Workshop
 - Report showed there was an interest in offering a workshop. Will continue to work with Debra Laine to develop.
- MBQIP Data Deadlines
 - We were able to get 100% participation on both OP-27 (flu vaccination for healthcare workers) and Antibiotic Stewardship (annual facility survey) measures.
- ND Flex presenting on ED CAHPS with ICAHN in July at National Flex Conference
 - FORHP had asked CAHs to participate in a national pilot. We sent to 9 top performers and 5 have agreed to participate. Unfortunately one of those responded past the deadline, so ND will have 4 participating.

Objective 2: Engage in Rural Advocacy

- SB2113 was signed by the Governor
 - Per the definitions at NDCC 50-10.2, “facility means a skilled nursing care facility, basic care facility, assisted living facility, or swing-bed hospital approved to furnish long-term care services.” Bridget Weidner, Program Manager, Division of Health Facilities, ND DoH.

- More information on SB2113



SB2113

Objective 3: Enhance Professional Development

- CAH & RHC Medicare Education – August 12-15, 2019 in Bismarck. This is CAH-& RHC ‘rules-based’ learning to apply CMS rules and guidelines to ensure that services provided to Medicare beneficiaries are billed accurately.
- The Basics 101 – Flex will support a limited number of ND CAH/RHC registrations for online billing and coding education during summer 2019.

Objective 4: Highlight Workforce Development Initiatives & Resources

- Webinar- Bruce Lee “People Intelligence- Creating a Stress Free, Fully Engaged Productive Workplace”
- 42 attendees, waiting for evaluations for feedback.

Objective 5: Optimize Technology Utilization

Objective 6: Develop and Manage the ND CAH Quality Network

III. Other

- NRHA Annual Conference Update (Jody)
 - CMS Rural Health Strategy
 1. Apply a rural lens to CMS programs and policies
 2. Improve access to care through provider engagement and support
 3. Advance telehealth and telemedicine
 4. Empower patients in rural communities to make decisions about their health care
 5. Leverage partnerships to achieve the goals of the CMS Rural Health Strategy
 - FORHP Priority areas 2019
 - Address the Rural Opioid Epidemic
 - Emerging Rural Health Disparities
 - Rural Hospital Viability
 - Lifting up Rural Community Health
 - Discussion of FY 2020 Proposed Wage Index Changes
 - The intent to reduce disparity between urban and rural wage index and improve payments to rural facilities
 - Propose to reduce payments to high wage index areas and raise payments to low wage index areas
 - Propose to remove urban to rural wage data from rural floor calculation
 - Propose 5% cap on wage index decrease
 - NOSORH Policy Committee is monitoring.
 - Lynette shared the below document.



2019 Wage Index

- Medicare Hospital IPPS
 - Rethinking Rural Health
 - CAH Payment for Ambulance Services
 - Medicare pays CAH 101% of reasonable costs for its ambulance services if there are no other ambulance provider/supplier within a 35 miles drive of the CAH
 - Proposal - To exclude consideration of ambulance providers to furnish ambulance services or transport individuals either to or from the CAH
- Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) - Angie
 - 2018-2019 SHIP grant cycle ends 5/31/19. Currently wrapping up 2018-2019 SHIP activities and reimbursements.
 - Received Notice of Award for SHIP 2019-2020. CRH will be preparing and sending out ND CAH subcontract materials in the coming weeks.
- Flex Financial & Operational Improvement - Angie
 - Flex Cybersecurity Awards – Hospitals submitted proposals for Flex funding focused on cybersecurity, with primary emphasis on security risk assessments. A total of \$75,476 was awarded to seven ND CAHs.

Adjourn

IV. 2018-2019 Network Meetings (All by conference call)

- **June 26** 10am-12pm CST – **JOINT Executive & Stakeholder Committee**
- **August 14** 10am-11:30am CST – Executive Committee
- **September 25** 10am-12pm CST – **JOINT Executive & Stakeholder Committee**
- **October 23** 10am-11:30am CST – Executive Committee
- **December 18** 10am-12pm CST – **JOINT Executive & Stakeholder Committee**