

**DRAFT**

**Minutes of December 9, 2020**

Present: Barry Brogan, Mandy Qualls, Claire Parde, Courtney Shaler, Ann Abdella, Ali Coates, Liz Urbanski Farrell, Bryan O’Donovan, Anne Marie Snell,

 Marie Mongeon

Excused: Paul Pettit, Helen Evans

Staff: Sara Wall Bollinger

The meeting convened at 10:02AM.

1. Welcome, quorum, introductions & agenda modifications: Barry welcomed new member Marie Mongeon, Director of Policy at CHCANYS.

1. Minutes of November 25th [Liz/Ann] were approved.
2. Strategic Priorities: Barry opened discussion by stating that these are high level goals and strategies. He encouraged the Committee to develop a companion ‘dashboard’ to monitor progress on specific policy initiatives such as smoking/vaping cessation and health workforce development. This will be discussed further next month. Members expressed support for the emphasis on collaboration and added additional partners to the written plan. Details were added for the Rural Health Council section of the plan.

*Action:* Claire and Liz will follow up with their contacts to learn more about the Iroquois Healthcare Association.

*Action:*  Sara will communicate with ALL members of the Commission on Rural Resources, not only the Co-Chairs [NYSARH Annual Report].

*Action:* Sara will complete the ‘boxes’ in the Strategic Priorities document.

 Motion [Ali/Claire] to approve the Strategic Priorities and submit them to the Executive

 Committee passed.

1. NRHA Policy Institute

*Action:* Sara will send registration link and instructions.

1. Albany Advocacy Day: **Save the Date - January 26, 2021**

The Policy Committee will invite a few speakers to provide a Briefing via zoom. Individual or small group meetings with legislators/staff members will be scheduled throughout that week.

1. Appropriation Advocacy: Discussion.

*Action:*  Sara will strengthen the letter and send it to upstate majority and leadership legislators. NYSARH has asked the impacted RHNs and RAH to send letters to their own legislators.

1. Audio-Only Telehealth: Lack of broadband is only one issue. Also concern for lack of devices and comfort using technology. Marie shared CHCANYS comment.

*Action:* Sara will amend letter and send it to Bryan for review prior to submitting it to CMS.

1. Sign-On letters: Approved sign-on to Tobacco letter. Encourage expansion to vaping.

*Action:* Sara will request more information about the proposed tax on sugary drinks.

1. Member question re: 20% hold-back: Discussion.

*Action:*  Sara will reply to Member.

1. Meeting time. 4th Wednesdays at 9 does not work for everyone.

*Action:* Sara will send a doodle poll.

Adjourned at 11:08.

Next Meeting: 1/13 at 10:30AM

*Please note that this meeting is off cycle and at a different time.*

Preliminary Agenda

1. NY State of the State and Budget Process
2. Plan for Albany Advocacy Week
3. Confirm attendees to NRHA Policy Institute
4. Dashboard for Action Items

 Respectfully submitted,

 Sara Wall Bollinger