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Description automatically generated **Policy Committee**

**DRAFT**

**Minutes of February 16, 2021**

Present: Barry Brogan, Mandy Qualls, Claire Parde, Courtney Shaler,

Ann Abdella, Liz Urbanski Farrell, Marie Mongeon,

Ali Coates, Susan Williams

Excused: Paul Pettit, Bryan O’Donovan, Anne Marie Snell, Helen Evans, Scott Emery

Staff: Sara Wall Bollinger

The meeting convened at 10:02AM.

1. Welcome, quorum, introductions & agenda modifications.
2. Minutes of January 13th [Ann/Ali] were approved.
3. Close the Loop on Action Items from the January meeting.

* Claire met with Iroquois Healthcare Alliance, Gary Fitzgerald & Jessica Morelle. They have included funding for RHN/RAH in their Budget Talking Points and support the implementation of the Rural Health Council.
* The design of the tracking Dashboard recommended in the Strategic Plan will be addressed at a future meeting

*Action Steps:*

* Sara will ask Iroquois for assistance getting an appointment with Senator Rivera
* Sara will arrange a round of meetings with Senators in April/May specifically about the Rural Health Council [including Karen Madden beforehand]
* Sara will add language about the Rural Health Council to the Budget Testimony.

1. NRHA Policy Institute

Ann and Ali reported that the sessions were generally good. There was a large focus on rural broadband and telehealth. There was also a section on rurality itself as a health disparity. The Biden administration has named a rural representative, Tim Putnam, to the Health Equity Task Force. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2021/02/10/president-biden-announces-members-of-the-biden-harris-administration-covid-19-health-equity-task-force/>

Ann reported that Chautauqua County Exec, Paul Wendel, has been named to the FCC Broadband Telehealth Council.

1. Albany Advocacy

Members reported on their experiences on their meetings with legislators.

There were no big changes in the 21-day amendments. Some key points:

* Assembly Member Woerner carried a sign on letter for RHN/RAH
* Start earlier in January next year
* We need to keep in touch with legislators the rest of the year
* 340B is still in limbo; Health Plans have delayed their notices twice
* AHEC is building support Downstate

*Action Items*

* Discuss issues with the proposed EMS Task Force [not being under DOH] with Santabarbara & Hinchey staff
* Complete & submit testimony [Joint Budget Hearing on Health is 2/25]

Adjourned at 11:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Wall Bollinger