 **Policy Committee**

**DRAFT**

**Minutes of June 15, 2021**

Present: Barry Brogan, Marie Mongeon, Mandy Qualls, Paul Pettit,

 Susan Williams, Scott Emery, Ann Abdella, Ali Coates, Emily Hazen

Excused: Claire Parde, Bryan O’Donovan, Liz Urbanski Farrell, Anne Marie Snell, Nancy McGraw, Helen Evans

Staff: Sara Wall Bollinger

Resigned: Courtney Shaler

The meeting convened at 10:05AM.

1. Welcome, quorum, introductions & agenda modifications.
2. Minutes of April 20th [Ann/Mandy] were approved.
3. Upstate Institute Fellow project: Rural EMS

Medicaid/Medicare underpayment

Volunteer recruitment challenges

Mix data with human stories

Connect with NRHA - also working on policy

Include Medicare Advantage plans

Appeal to lawmakers’ home districts

Include personal stories from patients

Provide a clear ‘ask’ one page for legislator plus a ‘background’ paper for staff

1. NYSPHA

Mandy volunteered to be the liaison between the NYSARH Policy Committee and the NYSPHA PAC.

1. Voter Voice

*Action:* Sara will connect with the NRHA Government Affairs Team.

1. Policy Panel at Rural Health Symposium

A. Panelists:

 Sen Gallivan [R] WNY

Sen May [D] CNY

AM Marjorie Byrnes [R] FL

AM Carrie Woerner (D) MV

B. Questions

* Permanent Telehealth regulations

Rural Broadband

* Legalization of cannabis; opioid settlement funds…

Invest new money in prevention, treatment & recovery

* Workforce!!

Behavioral Health 3 for 5

Caregiver bill

* Rural Health Infrastructure

CDC COVID funding

Federal stimulus money

1. Closing the Loop
* Ann not able to connect with Karen yet.

8. Senate Bill 1509A: Rural Public Transportation

* Susan reported that Senator May has been working on this for three sessions

**NEXT MEETING:** off-cycle: Tuesday July 27, 10AM

Adjourn

 Respectfully submitted,

 Sara Wall Bollinger