



MINUTES Regular Board Meeting

5:30 PM - Wednesday, March 24, 2021
via Zoom Videoconferencing

PRESENT: Chair Mary Blair-Hoeft, Vice Chair Brein Maki, Board Clerk Jean Roth, Board Treasurer Lynn Gorski, Member Theresa Arrick-Kruger, Member Don Leathers, Member Jason Marquardt, Member Monica Sveen-Ziebell

ABSENT: Member Mike Christensen

EX-OFFICIO: Steve Sallee

STAFF: Amy Grover, Dale Walston

3/23/21 - MSC Board Meeting - SSC Representative – Bree Maki

3/24/21 – 4:45 PM Finance Committee Meeting – Jean Roth, Tess Arrick-Kruger, Lynn Gorski, Mary Blair-Hoeft

1. CALL TO ORDER – MARY BLAIR-HOEFT

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM by Chair Mary Blair-Hoeft. A quorum was declared.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Lynn Gorski made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Bree Maki seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. HEARING OF REPORTS – INFORMATION

Executive Director Report. Steve Sallee provided a written report and verbal updates on:

- **Wood Lake Meeting Center:** We are slowly re-opening the WLMC and SSC with rentals beginning in April. In addition to implementing a maximum number of attendees, other COVID precautions are in place, including mask requirements, social distancing, additional cleaning, signage, and sanitizer use.
- **MSC Summer Board Conference:** The MSC Conference usually takes place in July, but the MSC Board has decided to postpone the in-person conference until October 27-29 at the Arrowwood Conference Center in Alexandria with Resource Training and Solutions acting as the statewide host.
- **Regional Insurance Specialist Position:** After doing a thorough search for ideal candidates, and several interviews, we still have not found the right match. Thus, we have decided to close this position, and work with our partners at Holmes Murphy to structure a solution for regional sales support.
- **Rural Career and Technical Education Consortium:** Our lobbying work continues. Testifiers on behalf of bill SF1471 was heard by the Senate Committee on Education Finance and Policy on Friday, March 12, 2021. The accompanying bill HF1698 has been introduced to the House Education Finance Committee.

Program Manager Report. Amy Grover provided a written report and verbal updates on:

- **Student Programs:** On March 23, the top twelve spellers from across the region advanced to the Final Spelling Bee. The Grand Champion of the Final, Isaac Ahn (Schaeffer Academy) will advance to the annual Scripps National Spelling Bee. His winning word was “environs.” Eliana Lanners (Schaeffer Academy) and Ardashir Kocer (Rochester Catholic) took 2nd and 3rd place respectively. The virtual State Knowledge Bowl

Competition will take place on April 9. The five teams advancing are Northfield Flirt, Rochester Mayo Gold, Northfield Glaucon, Mabel-Canton, and Dover-Eyota.

- **STEM Forward:** The virtual Spring Educator Forum is on April 14. This is a free event and will be recorded.
- **FutureForward™:** Awareness continues to expand and the platform is now being piloted at Resource Training and Solutions (St. Cloud) and Metro ECSU (Richfield) with further conversations taking place with Southwest West Central Service Cooperative (Marshall) for potential pilot in the fall of 2021. We are also looking at potential feature customizations to make the platform even more comprehensive.
- **New Opportunities:** We are currently in discussions with several partners to assess new programs to bring to the region. This includes a Redefining Ready pilot cohort during the 2021-22 school year, which is a research-based approach to determine what it means to be college ready, career ready, and life ready. We are also talking with our friends at IBM about how we can help promote Open P-TECH, a free online initiative bringing high-quality STEM and career readiness content to schools. Finally, we are exploring a collaboration with GeaCom (a Duluth-based company) to leverage their innovative platform that allows students and teachers to complete a mental health assessment that then aligns to school-based referral services, in addition to additional comprehensive solutions offered through their company.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Member Monica Sveen-Ziebell made a motion to approve and accept the items on the consent agenda, including minutes of February meeting, February balance sheets and revenue expenses, February bills, and February SAC minutes. Member Jason Marquardt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. SPECIFIC AGENDA

Programs

- **Minnesota Healthcare Consortium (MHC) Medica Transition:** After a robust Request for Proposals (RFP) process, MHC has selected Medica as the new carrier for the statewide insurance pools. Groups will begin transitioning to Medica upon renewal in 2022, contingent on the successful negotiation of a contract. This lead-time will allow us to thoughtfully prepare for a seamless transition. This change does not impact 2021 renewals. There are significant multi-year savings and value-added benefits presented as part of the new relationship that will ultimately benefit our members, and better position MHC to offer more competitive rates and services in the future. There is very little disruption anticipated with this change as it relates to the benefits, doctors, facilities, pharmacies, and prescriptions available to pool members. We will continue to communicate key messaging throughout the process leading up to 2022 renewals.

Personnel

- Member Lynn Gorski made a motion to reassign Ashley Karlsson to the role of Education Systems Specialist, effective July 1, 2021. Member Tess Arrick-Kruger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Member Tess Arrick-Kruger made a motion to reassign Melanie Lawrence-Smith to the role of Advocate, effective July 1, 2021. Member Jean Roth seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Board meeting date is Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

Member Lynn Gorski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 PM. Member Jason Marquardt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jean Roth, Board Clerk

2021 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 – ANNUAL MTG
Wednesday, February 24, 2021
Wednesday, March 24, 2021
Wednesday, April 28, 2021
Wednesday, May 26, 2021
Wednesday, June 23, 2021
JULY, MSC Board Conference - CANCELLED
Wednesday, August 25, 2021
Wednesday, September 22, 2021
Wednesday, October 27, 2021
Wednesday, November 17, 2021 (9:00 AM)
Wednesday, December 15, 2021 (9:00 AM)

2022 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 – ANNUAL MTG (9:00 AM)
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 (9:00 AM)
Wednesday, March 23, 2022 (9:00 AM)
Wednesday, April 27, 2022
Wednesday, May 25, 2022
Wednesday, June 22, 2022
JULY, MSC Board Conference
Wednesday, August 24, 2022
Wednesday, September 28, 2022
Wednesday, October 26, 2022
Wednesday, November 16, 2022 (9:00 AM)
Wednesday, December 14, 2022 (9:00 AM)