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Idaho Public Health Districts

# IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT BOARDS OF HEALTH

## Executive Council Conference Call Minutes

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

3:30 p.m. MST/2:30 p.m. PST

### Executive Council

Glen Bailey, District 1 (via phone)  
Doug Zenner, District 2  
Tom Dale, District 3  
Elt Hasbrouck, District 4  
Bob Kunau, District 5  
Vaughn Rasmussen, District 6, Acting Chair  
Bill Leake, District 7 (via phone)

### District Directors

Lora Whalen  
Carol Moehrle  
Nikki Zogg  
Russ Duke  
Melody Boyer  
Geri Rackow

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call..... Vaughn Rasmussen**  
The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. MST by Vaughn Rasmussen.

**2. Additional Agenda Items..... Vaughn Rasmussen**  
Melody asked to add "Location for 2021 IAB" to the agenda due to the need to begin planning for the conference.

**MOTION: Doug Zenner made a motion to approve adding this item to the agenda.**

**SECOND: Bob Kunau**

**ACTION: Motion passed**

**3. Approval of January 29, 2020 Conference Call Minutes..... Vaughn Rasmussen**

**MOTION: Elt Hasbrouck made a motion to approve the January 29, 2020, conference call minutes as presented.**

**SECOND: Tom Dale**

**ACTION: Motion passed**

**4. Director Pay..... Bill Leake**

Bill stated that he understands there's been some discussion on this topic and that feedback has not been positive. He shared his intent for addressing director pay with the group. Doug shared that at an event he attended on Monday evening, he had a conversation with the Governor in which the Governor shared frustration over the matter. Doug felt that our continuing to push this matter could potentially put our State funding at risk. Doug also spoke with Sara Stover who provided him with some history on the matter. Sara reported to Doug that all Governors have reviewed compensation given to directors. It became an issue in the middle of Governor Otter's term when considerable salary

Glen Bailey  
PHD 1  
208.415.5102

Doug Zenner  
PHD 2  
208.799.3100

Tom Dale  
PHD 3  
208.455.5315

Elt Hasbrouck  
PHD 4  
208.375.5211

Robert Kunau  
PHD 5  
208.737.5902

Ken Estep  
PHD 6  
208.233.9080

Bill Leake  
PHD 7  
208.533.3163

increases were given to some directors who report to boards compared to the CEC given to the Governor's directors. The matter has been scrutinized since then and Governor Little has now taken the stance of allocating the CEC for ALL directors. Doug commended Bill on his work on the paper, but feels that it's a moot point right now because he does not want us to risk losing State General Funds over it, which would put all of us in a dire situation.

Tom asked if the Governor thinks the directors' salaries are out of line. Doug shared that that was not his perception. Tom wondered that if we go along with what the governor is saying, would it put the health districts in jeopardy? Vaughn shared that it could affect when we hire a new director. Nikki stated Susan Buxton, Administrator of the Division of Human Resources, told us at a past meeting that when a new director is hired, the Governor would set the salary. This has not been the practice in the past. Doug shared concern over the potential of hiring a new director at a salary lower than his/her subordinates.

Tom suggested it may be a good idea for the Health Districts to develop a compensation plan for directors that would be presented to the Governor, with the Boards providing a recommendation, but the Governor approving it. Vaughn agreed that this would be a good idea.

Elt shared that that the District 4 Board is approaching this differently because they have a Representative on their board. Rep. Blanksma is going to introduce a bill clarifying that the Boards of Health have the ability to set the pay of the health district directors. If the bill were to be passed by the House and Senate, the Governor could veto it. Elt stated that if Rep. Blanksma were to move forward with this bill, she would need our support.

Glen feels like it would behoove us to take a low profile and not pursue the issue further through the Division of Human Resources or the Governor's office. He suggested that perhaps we could commission a professional study on compensation of the directors. Tom agreed that if we were to come out in support of Rep. Blanksma's bill, it could appear to the Governor that we are doing an end-run around him. Elt stated that the approach would be that we want clarification on the issue, not necessarily that we support giving the directors raises.

Tom asked if this issue is a priority to us worth fighting for or if leaving it under the control the Governor affects our ability to run our districts?

Bill stated that he would like to discuss the matter with his own Board to see how they want to proceed and then discuss how we want to proceed at IAB. Glen agreed and feels that that we should not actively support Rep. Blanksma's bill at this time.

Elt reiterated that we need clarification. Bill shared we were seeking clarification when we invited the Governor's Chief of Staff to attend our meeting today. However, it could appear like legislation being introduced at the last minute is going around the Governor.

Bill would prefer to wait until IAB in June to have discussion with everyone on how to proceed. Doug wondered if we could seek an opinion from the Attorney General to get the clarification on the matter.

Elt shared that Rep. Blanksma has already spoken to Susan Buxton and the Division of Financial Management and she is having the Legislative Services Office help her draft the legislation.

**MOTION: Glen Bailey made a motion to suspend further pursuit with the Governor’s Office and the Division of Human Resources related to District Director compensation until we determine it needs to be readdressed.**

**SECOND: Tom Dale**

**ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.**

Elt shared that he hopes we are not giving up the fight to prevent the erosion of the Boards’ of Health control. Discussion followed concerning whether or not Elt should ask Rep. Blanksma to drop the legislation. The group agreed that if she did run the legislation, we could not voice support of it at this time. However, Tom stated with the motion that was passed, if Rep. Blanksma were to bring the draft bill to us, we could review it and act on it at that time. Elt stated he was going to call Rep. Blanksma and ask her to drop the legislation based on today’s discussion.

Doug shared his thanks with Elt for bringing this to the table as well as his opinion that having a House Representative as a Board of Health member of a local health district is powerful. Doug commented that Rep. Blanksma is a very good legislator and we hope to save her support for another time. Several members of the Executive Council asked Elt to share these comments with Rep. Blanksma.

**5. Quantifying Outcomes for Home Visiting Programs ..... Bill Leake**

Bill asked for clarification and an update on where funding stands for Home Visiting services. Nikki stated that the Governor recommended funding of \$1 million in the budget of Idaho Department of Health & Welfare (IDHW), which is a reduction from the \$2 million initially requested by the Department. The same funding request for \$2 million was also included the Public Health Districts’ budget, but it was not recommended by the Governor. Nikki shared that she’s had some dialogue with Senator Lee who shared she’s hopeful to secure the full \$2 million funding for the program. This funding would be passed through to the Public Health Districts to allow us to continue providing home visiting services.

Russ shared that last June, the Idaho Association of District Boards of Health approved a resolution supporting the health districts’ work on a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) for Home Visiting. We had been working with IDHW on this, and thought we were making some progress, but the effort stalled in October. This issue has come up again because Rep. Blanksma offered to introduce a bill directing IDHW to pursue a SPA for Parents at Teachers (PAT) only (due to PAT already being offered in all districts; PAT can be

administered by GED level staff; and it would be easier to deploy in all counties). We would still need the State General Fund dollars for Home Visiting to allow the Public Health Districts to continue providing services until the SPA is in place (likely well into 2021) at which time we could begin billing Medicaid for the delivery of PAT services. Rep. Blanksma’s bill will be introduced in the House Health & Welfare Committee in the coming weeks. The bill may or may not be run, depending on the Governor’s stance on directing the IDHW to submit a SPA. Russ shared that we don’t want to lose the State General Funding that we have been receiving, but do understand the long term need of stable, reliable funding for the program.

Glen asked if the SPA would benefit the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program as well as PAT. Russ clarified that the SPA would only be for PAT at this time. Currently NFP is only provided in Districts 1 and 3 through our federal funding (MIECHV), not the funding from the State General Fund. For the SPA, funding only PAT is the best chance there is to maintain a budget of around \$2 million. PAT is already being provided in all Health Districts, and nationally, PAT is a lower cost program. After we are able to gain some experience in Idaho with Medicaid-covered home visiting services, we could look at considering NFP as an option in the future.

**6. IAB Annual Meeting ..... Melody Bowyer**

Melody stated that her district is next in the rotation to host the 2021 annual conference and would like to start planning for it. There was previous discussion about regionalizing the annual meeting to be held in conjunction with Idaho Association of Counties’ (IAC) Commissioners and Clerks conference. Tom shared that IAC is talking about changing its meeting schedule for 2021, which has not been resolved yet. For 2020, the IAB annual conference will be held in Pocatello.

**ACTION: The consensus of the group was to table this agenda item until IAC has decided what they are doing with their meeting schedules.**

**7. Schedule Next Meeting ..... Vaughn Rasmussen**

Elt reported that he spoke with Kelli Brassfield. Kelli reported that she has nothing to report to us right now, but would let us know if she heard of anything.

The group agreed to have the next meeting at the Call of the Chair.

**8. Adjournment ..... Vaughn Rasmussen**

**MOTION: Doug made a motion to adjourn at 4:55 p.m.**

**SECOND: Tom Dale**

**ACTION: No discussion. Motion passed.**