

Minutes of the EMT meeting of June 10, 2004

Via Pic-Tel present were: Paul B-K, Dan Reidy, Peter Pohl, Tim Fleury, Amy Ouellette, Lauren Bressett, Nory Parr, Sam Stoddard, Karen Blass, Nada Haddad, John Pike, Don Black, Jim Grady, David Foote, Steve Judd, Faye Cragin, Wendy Brock, Charlene Baxter.

- Meeting opened with a welcome and check of all sites. After a brief review of the agenda and a slight technical difficulty, Paul led the meeting with a report on his top goals for the coming year.

They include:

- Support and development of Public Awareness Teams in each County with the goal of much closer relationships locally with elected officials.
 - Meet regularly with County Advisory Councils to insure strong, well informed and trained Councils.
 - Work closely with NHAC.
 - Support the needs of COAs and provide training and support to improve team work and leadership skills.
 - Work closely with Program Leaders on county program issues and multi-county programming.
 - Coordinate the UNH President's visits to counties.
 - Help COAs foster close working relationships with County Commissioners.
- Faye and Steve did a brief intro on WEB updates and opened it to questions.
 - Discussed the need to have COAs approve local items on web page. All agreed to that and Steve will make additions to approval list.
 - Faye said old site was still available for people to view and use.
 - Steve said staff listing update was done differently than regular updates through Faye.
 - Reviewed President's visits to date. Rollie gave an overview of what happened in Rockingham. It was a total team effort. Showed strong connections to University. Sitting for two hours was a bit long. AC worked hard to get a good turnout by calling all delegation members.
 - Public Awareness Teams: Paul spoke about the need to have a team working in each county. Things have been slow to start. Some counties have efforts beginning. Sullivan County reported AC members were visiting other programs. Grafton was looking at profile sheets for delegation members and developing a way to establish links to each. Looking for messages we can deliver consistently across the state.
 - Reviewed state budget issue and county budget issues for the upcoming year. John brought the group up to date on the strategy for filling positions. When there is a

retirement and no funding to fill the position due to less federal funds and level state funding and the county wants the position, the county can allocate additional funds. There are three FTE vacancies in the counties. A 1988 legislative study committee put a cap on county funds for Extension staff salaries. All future salary increases then had to come from the state. This worked fine until the current state budget deficit. We need to continue to hold the state responsible for this funding and expect the additional county funds to be a temporary measure until the state can allocate adequate funds.

Paul will work with each county currently affected with a vacancy. Each future vacancy will be assessed by the Program Leader and Leadership Team to determine whether it can be filled or not, or changed.

- There was brief discussion about the need to improve team work in some places. A few counties are embarking on staff meeting discussions to improve the office communications and working climate. Paul is available to help counties as needed. Paul, Lauren and Tim did mention the county logic model due in October as a way to build team work among county staff.
- County reports were made by all 10 counties present.