

MINNESOTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

December 4, 2006

Via Conference Call

MINUTES

**Members Present:**

Michael B. Ainslie, MD, Chair  
David C. Agerter, MD  
Karen Dickson, MD  
G. Richard Geier, MD  
John W. Larsen, MD  
David Luehr, MD  
Patrick Zook, MD

**Staff Present:**

Robert K. Meiches, MD  
Erika Nelson  
Dave Renner  
Sara Noznesky

**Guest(s) Present:**

Benjamin Whitten, MD

**Members Absent:**

James Dehen, MD  
Carolyn McKay, MD

**Call to Order**

Michael B. Ainslie, MD, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**1. Alliance Funding**

Erika Nelson, Director of Products and Services, **presented** the Alliance funding requests for 2007 including a \$2,500 increase for their operation budget and \$7,500 to support the AMA Alliance Presidential celebration in June. Comments from Executive Committee members supported the value of the Alliance and their ongoing support, disappointment over decreasing membership, and a recommendation to strongly support Alliance activities.

**2. Advocacy**

Dave Renner, Director of State and Federal Legislation, and Robert K. Meiches, MD, CEO, **provided** an update on a variety of advocacy issues including:

- Election review including current Minnesota House and Senate balance and health care chairs
- HOD Resolution #408, Regulatory Accountability – MMA Staff recommended focusing on the portion of the resolution addressing medical director oversight which is currently supported (via verbal conversation) by Board of Medical Practice, and gained direction to proceed with legislative action in the 2007 session.
- NASPER – discussion between proponents and opponents of this legislation attended the recent legislative committee. Benjamin Whitten, MD, Chair of the Legislative Committee, summarized the committee's recommendation to support the concept of NASPER, as long as it does not include physician specific data (this would negate the possibility of pursuing Federal funding for NASPER). Executive Committee unanimously agreed to support the Legislative Committee's recommendation until further discussion occurs at the January Board of Trustees meeting.

- Physical Therapy – MMA Staff asked for clarification on where this item fits for MMA priorities. Following discussion, it was recommended that MMA Staff continue to oppose this issue looking for compromises encouraging dialogue with the Physical Therapy Association.
- Medica High-Tech Imaging - The Executive Committee discussed Medica's plan to collect information and address their perception of overuse of imaging in the medical market place. Similar programs are forthcoming from HealthPartners and Blue Cross Blue Shield. Suggestions were obtained to help guide staff response.

### 3. **Staff Updates**

Robert Meiches, MD, CEO, **provided** a series of staff updates including October financials, Healthy Minnesota, credentialing, and current staffing levels.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by Chair, Michael B. Ainslie, M.D. at 7:30 p.m. and moved to Executive Session.