MINNESOTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
February 19, 2007

MINUTES

Members Present:
Michael B. Ainslie, MD
David Agerter, MD (phone)
James D. Dehen, MD
G. Richard Geier, MD (phone)
David Luehr, MD
Patrick Zook, MD (phone)

Members Absent:
Karen Dickson, MD
John Larsen, MD
Carolyn McKay, MD

Staff Present:
Robert K. Meiches, MD
Lorrie Holmgren
Kathy Messerli
Erika Nelson
Dave Renner
Rebecca Schierman
Janet Silversmith
Karolyn Stirewalt

Guest(s) Present:

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

1. **Healthy Minnesota**
   Janet Silversmith, Director of Health Policy, **provided** an update on Healthy Minnesota and posed several questions regarding the future of Healthy Minnesota and the desire for MMA involvement/ direction. Following discussion, consensus was that the MMA should continue to provide leadership as much as possible with an acknowledgement that continued staffing and direction from the MMA may not be similar to the initial phase. This input will be communicated to the MMA representatives on Healthy Minnesota.

2. **Annual Meeting Recommendations**
   Erika Nelson, Director of Products and Services, **presented** several options for the 2007 Annual Meeting schedule including a staff recommendation that would add a welcome reception for members and move the opening of the House of Delegates to Wednesday night. The proposed schedule would also spread awards throughout the session, and have a focused panel discussions, a leadership seminar, and/or CME on Thursday afternoon. These ideas were supported by the Executive Committee and will be discussed further with the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

   In addition, the Executive Committee discussed potential venues for the 2008 Annual Meeting and encouraged staff to consider Bloomington, St. Paul, and Rochester.

3. **High-Tech Imaging**
   Robert K. Meiches, MD, CEO, **presented** background on MMA activity and member input regarding high-tech imaging.

   - Karolyn Stirewalt, Health Policy Counsel, **reviewed** a framework for discussion of high-tech imaging requirements consistent with anti-trust law.

- Janet Silversmith, Director of Health Policy, **presented** proposed strategies for ongoing activity - communications, information collection, MMA-sponsored educational opportunities, and legislation. The pros and cons of pursuing the legislative solution were outlined and thoroughly discussed. The Executive Committee **moved, seconded and unanimously approved** moving forward with all four of the proposed strategies.

4. **Legislative Update**
   Dave Renner, Director of State and Federal Legislation, **provided** an update on a variety of legislative issues, including Freedom to Breathe, Healthy Minnesota, medical interpreter bill and others. He noted that there are 111 currently registered for Day at the Capital. He also briefly reviewed a University of Minnesota request for support of a biomedical science research facilities authority, consistent with MMA policy from 2006. MMA will sign a letter of support for this request.

   In addition, an update on the NASPER bill was discussed. Policy adopted at the January Board of Trustees meeting instructed staff to support this legislation only if "no identifying information related to the prescriber would be included in the information collected". This piece of legislation is moving forward. The Senate Chief author has made changes to respond to MMA's concerns. The new version of the bill limits the access to prescriber identifying data unless there is a court order or subpoena or the prescriber has provided written consent to release that data. With these changes, there are physician groups that now support NASPER. There are also physician groups that oppose NASPER.

   The Executive Committee reviewed specific proposed changes and issues. Following discussion, it was **moved, seconded, and unanimously approved** to take a position of neutrality on this legislation.

   Even though there were a number of the Committee members who thought the legislation was acceptable, because of the disagreement (Dave Renner) within organized medicine we cannot support at this time. If the opponents concerns are addressed the MMA will consider providing support to this legislation.

   This issue will be reviewed again at the March Board of Trustees meeting.

5. **Oversight/Information**
   Robert K. Meiches, MD, CEO, **provided** a variety of updates including the 2006 year-end financial update, 2007 membership update, discussion of IT discounts, staffing, and a recent article in Minnesota Medicine regarding single-payer issues.

6. **Executive Session**
   Michael B. Ainslie, MD, Chair, adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.