



RHINO

Routine Health Information Network, Inc
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Minutes RHINO Board of Directors' Meeting July 20, 2016

*RHINO Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Arlington VA, July 20, 2016*

Attendance

Board Members Present: Theo Lippeveld, Jason Smith, Jean-Pierre De la Malle, Nancy Pielemeier, Sally Stansfield, Tisna Veldhuijzen van Zanten (stand in for Barbara Turner), Vincent Shaw, Juan Eugenio Hernandez, Sanjay Zodpey, Jorn Braa, William (Bill) Heisel

Board Members Unable to Attend: Barbara Turner, Jordan Tuchman, Andy Beke, Alvin Marcel, Ayo Akala, Kathy O'Neill

Communications Specialist Present: No

RHINO Secretariat Present: Aimee Silva

The Board of Directors' Meeting was held in the JSI Rosslyn office for local attendees and remotely via WebEx on July 20, 2016.

Summary of Action items

A summary of the action items from the meeting are as follows:

- **Regarding Overview of Activities:**
 - Theo Lippeveld will send documents on Health Data Collaborative working groups and the “Community and facility data” RHIS group
 - Theo Lippeveld will also reach out to Bloomberg Project Director, Philip Setel and Alan Lopez from the University of Melbourne.
 - Theo Lippeveld and Nancy Pielemeier will continue to explore the One Campaign and consider elevator speech to Jamie Drummond
 - Tisna Veldhuijzen van Zanten will send the board presentations from the Center for Global Development forum on vital statistics.
 - Board will look into the new foreign assistance legislature on evaluation and communicate with our USAID/MEval colleagues
- **Regarding Update on RHIS Regionalization Satellite Session :**
 - Jason Smith and Theo Lippeveld will meet at UNC to discuss drafting an agenda for the satellite session on RHIS regionalization at the HSR Symposium in Vancouver in November 2016. The draft will be shared with the board once the agenda is created (deadline: end of September).
 - If you can be funded by your organizations please let us know. We will determine who is speaking based on who can attend.
 - Theo Lippeveld and Jorn Braa will discuss how to get Tome Ka to Vancouver
- **Regarding Communications Update:** If there are any journal articles or grey literature that the board members or their colleagues would like to have added to the RHINO Resource Library, please send the article details to aimee_silva@jsi.com
- **Regarding RHINO Secretariat:**
 - Please send headshots and bio-blurbs to the Secretariat so they can be added to rhinonet.org
 - Invoices for the HSG Symposium will be sent out, if you have any comments or

- need more clarification please contact Aimee Silva or Amanda Makulec
- Send any RHINO forum topics to Aimee Silva
- **Regarding Re-election of Board Membership:**
 - Ayo Akala and William Heisel were introduced. Aimee will send their bio blurbs to the board.
 - Theo Lippeveld will send e-mails regarding the re-election of Sally Stansfield and Vincent Shaw (terms expired 01/2016).

Detailed Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome & Update

The Board Chairman Theo Lippeveld welcomed everyone and introduced Akala from the World Bank, replacing E. Ashbourne (but could not make it for this meeting) and William Heisel from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation from IHME replacing Peter Speyer.

2. Minutes of last Board Meeting (January 2016)

The board members proceeded to review the minutes from the last Board of Directors Meeting, January 26, 2016. No revisions to the minutes were recommended by board members.

3. Meeting Agenda

The Board Chairman introduced the agenda and invited the members to suggest other topics and/or make comments. He pointed out that the main focus of this meeting would be discussing the RHIS Regionalization and Satellite Session in Vancouver. The Secretariat will also give a brief presentation on the website/forum revision and finances.

4. Overview of 2016 Activities (January – June 2016)

Board Chairman Theo Lippeveld provided a handout with the summary of 1st semester activities (see abridged version in Appendix 3). This handout included descriptions of the AeHIN RHIS Strengthening Focus Group, the WHO – MEASURE Evaluation - RHINO collaboration, the Health Data Collaborative working group, networking opportunities, RHINO's two online forums and membership updates.

Action item: Theo Lippeveld will send documents on Health Data Collaborative working groups and the “Community and facility data” RHIS group

Board member Bill Heisel mentioned the relevance of getting big funders (i.e. Bloomberg and World Bank) on board who recognize the importance of data specific projects. Bill also mentioned there should be a way to show the relative value to the long term commitment to CRVS and short term to routine health. There is a cultural component when it comes to registering people and it needs to be taken into account.

Action Item: Theo Lippeveld will reach out to Philip Setel, who directs one of the Bloomberg projects and was formerly Deputy Director of MEASURE Evaluation and to Alan Lopez from the University of Melbourne who works on CRVS with Bloomberg.

Board member Nancy Pielemeier pointed out that The One Campaign also focuses on the CRVS. She also saw Jamie Drummond speak and he appeared to be very focused on the Civil Registration topic.

Action item: Theo and Nancy will continue to explore the One Campaign and consider drafting an elevator speech to Jamie Drummond

Substitute board member Tisna Veldhuijzen van Zanten stated that she recently attended the Center for Global Development forum on vital statistics that focused on the bias against women registering (gender issues, high risks).

Action Item: Tisna will send presentations to board

Lastly board member Nancy Pielemeier discussed the new foreign assistance legislature in the United States. Because it is focused on evaluation, she asked if that would provide any benefit to the RHIS aspect.

Action Item: Board will look into this and communicate with our USAID/MEval colleagues

5. Update on Regionalization of RHINO (discussion)

Board Chairman Theo Lippeveld gave a brief overview on the status of the regionalization of RHINO. RHINO's proposal on a HSR 2016 Satellite Session in Vancouver has been approved. He thanked the Board members who already pledged a financial contribution. Two questions raised were: What are we going to talk about and who is going to present?

Tisna Veldhuijzen van Zanten stated that, if we want to get some specific results out of this short session, we need to have concrete handouts in the breakout sessions. She also asked if we could link it to SDGs, which the Board Chairman thought was a great suggestion.

The board came up with a short list of potential speakers listed below:

- Keynote Speaker: Kathy O'Neil, one of the leaders on Health Data Collaborative initiative
- Latin America, RELAC SIS: Juan Eugenio Hernandez
- Asia: Sanjay Zodpey or a PHFI representative (Sanjay will consider once we send a structured and concrete agenda)
- Southern Africa, HISP Network: Vince Shaw
- West Africa: Tome Ka, HIS Advisor to WAHO

Sally Stansfield, Jean-Pierre De la Malle, Tisna Veldhuijzen van Zanten have stated they will be attending the conference, funded by their individual organizations. Vincent Shaw will look into whether he can be funded.

Action item: If you can be funded to attend the HSR symposium by your organizations please let us know. The final choice of speakers is based on who can attend.

Action item: Theo Lippeveld and Jorn Braa will discuss how to get Tome Ka to Vancouver

RHIS Curriculum

Hemali Kulatilaka from MEASURE Evaluation and board member Jason Smith spoke with USAID Accra, who is funding some of WAHO's activities. They are interested in the dissemination of the new RHIS curriculum in West Africa. The curriculum needs to be tri-lingual (English – French – Portuguese). Once the curriculum is finalized (by the end of September), it will be translated in French with the help of the Brussels University team directed by Alain Leveque. Board member Juan Eugenio Hernandez said the curriculum is in the process of being translated in Spanish, but will stop until they receive the finalized version from MEASURE Evaluation. It was also mentioned that there are plans to make the curriculum into a MOOC.

6. Update on RHINO Communications (presentation & discussion)

Aimee Silva, Secretariat, gave a RHINO communications update in place of Amanda Makulec, who is currently traveling. She gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the changes on the website rhinonet.org, specifically relating to the forum platform. RHINO forums are now hosted on the website with the intention of increasing visibility and letting the discussions live beyond the moderated dates. There are now 1250 resource library articles listed on rhinonet.org. Aimee Silva and Amanda Makulec receive weekly updates from the JSI Librarian. There were also a number of key achievements related to the Knowledge Management and Communications Strategy, which have been detailed in the Activity Report January – June 2016. The RHINO listserv now consists of 950 members from more than 30 countries.

Action item: If there are any specific articles that the board wants us to add please e-mail aimee_silva@jsi.com.

7. RHINO Secretariat

Aimee Silva provided a brief update on the finances of RHINO and the confirmed pledges by RHINO board members.

Action Items:

- Aimee will send out invoices to all Board members, so as to document pledges made by RHINO Board members.
- Please send headshots and bio-blurbs to the Secretariat so they can be added to rhinonet.org.
- Send any RHINO forum topics to Aimee Silva

8. Re-election of the Board Membership

Ayo Akala and William Heisel did not require a vote since they were filling empty board seats from existing organizations. Sally Stansfield and Vincent Shaw's extensions (01/2016) will be voted on remotely.

Action Item: Aimee will send Ayo Akala and William Heisel's bio blurbs to the board.

Action Item: Theo Lippeveld will send e-mails regarding the re-election of Sally Stansfield and

Vincent Shaw (terms expired 01/2016).

The current list of RHINO Board members and current status of the board terms is provided in Appendix 1.

9. Closure

The Board Chairman notified the members that the RHINO secretariat plans to organize another board meeting within 6 months to follow up on the many ideas generated through this meeting, and more specifically to debrief on the RHINO satellite session in Vancouver. He closed the meeting at 12:00pm, thanking the Board Members for their participation.



RHINO Secretariat

Appendix 1: RHINO Board Members' Current Status

Current Board Members		
Name	Organization	Term
Theo Lippeveld	John Snow, Inc.	December 2016
Jason Smith	UNC	June 2017
Jean-Pierre Delamalle	AEDES/Belgium	December 2016
Nancy Pielemeier	Independent	January 2018
Sally Stansfield	Deloitte Consultants	January 2016
Barbara Turner	URC	January 2018
Jordan Tuchman	ABT Associates	January 2018
Vincent Shaw	HISP/South Africa	January 2016
Juan Eugenio Hernandez	INSP/Mexico	December 2016
Sanjay Zodpey	PHFI/India	January 2018
Andy Beke	University of Pretoria	June 2017
Jorn Braa	University of Oslo	June 2017
Alvin Marcelo	AeHIN	January 2018
William (Bill) Heisel	IHME	July 2018
Ayo Akala	World Bank	July 2018
Ex Officio Board members		
Kathy O'Neill	WHO	

Appendix 2: Agenda Board Meeting 7/20/2016



**ROUTINE HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING,
July 20, 2016 at 10.00am EST
At JSI/DC Office, 16th Floor
1616 North Fort Myer Drive
Arlington, VA 22209**

AGENDA

TIME	ITEM	DOC	PURPOSE
10:00 - 10:05	Welcome and update <i>Theo Lippeveld</i>		Information
10:05-10:15	Minutes, Board Meeting, January 26, 2016 <i>Theo Lippeveld</i>	BD2016/1	Information
10:15-10:20	Meeting Agenda <i>Theo Lippeveld</i>	BD2016/2	Approval
10:20-10:35	Overview 1st semester 2016 activities Followed by discussions <i>Theo Lippeveld</i>	BD2016/3	Information
10:35 -10:50	RHINO Secretariat Followed by discussion <i>Aimee Silva</i>		Information
10:50-11:25	Update on RHINO communications & RHIS Satellite Session <i>Aimee Silva</i>		Information
11:25-11:55	Update on RHIS Regionalization Followed by discussion <i>Theo Lippeveld</i>		Information
11:55 - 12:00	RHINO Board Elections (including proposed new members) <i>Theo Lippeveld</i>		Approval
12:00 - 12:10	Closure followed by Working Lunch		Information



Summary Activity Report

RHINO January – June 2016

RHINO Board meeting January 26, 2016

- The RHINO board met through a conference call on January 26. Lippeveld informed the Board members on the activities of MEASURE Evaluation related to RHIS strengthening, and more particularly on the AeHIN RHIS focus group in Asia. He invited members through the organizations they represent to facilitate the setting up of similar networks in Africa. One of the proposed advocacy initiatives is the organization of a RHINO meeting at the upcoming Health System Research Conference in Vancouver in November this year. Board members have been invited to provide a financial contribution to organize that meeting and several of them have already contributed.

Regionalization of RHIS strengthening

- The RHIS Strengthening Focus Group under the Asian eHealth Information Network (AeHIN) has continued to develop activities, with support by MEASURE Evaluation and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). A RHIS Focus Group meeting was organized during the Health Data Collaborative meeting in Dhaka on April 26-28. Also, the recently developed standardized RHIS curriculum was pilot tested in New Delhi on 6-17 June with USAID funding. Participants from five Asian countries and one African country attended. SEARO, the WHO Regional Office for South East Asia, also committed funds for some of the PHFI staff time as well as for the attendance of the Asian country participants to the RHIS pilot course.
- It is planned to set up a Steering Committee for the RHIS Focus Group during the AeHIN General Management meeting in Myanmar in late November. Various countries have promised to nominate a representative for this committee.
- Jim Thomas and Alimou Barry from the MEASURE Evaluation Project visited the headquarters of WAHO in Bobo Dioulasso in February to discuss with WAHO senior leadership on establishing a

more formal RHIS strengthening network for West Africa, including support to countries with PRISM assessments as well as introducing the new RHIS core course. Further follow up discussions are ongoing at the time of this report, including a conference call with the Director General. We are also exploring the possibility of setting up a similar network for Southern African countries, in collaboration with AFRO.

- The RHINO NGO will organize a satellite session on regionalization of RHIS strengthening on November 14th at the Health System Research (HSR) symposium. A concept paper was prepared including an agenda, and will be further discussed with RHINO Board during the July 20 meeting. During the half day session, various regionalization experiences will be presented such as RELACSYS in Latin America and AeHIN in Asia, and discussions will be organized around new regionalization initiatives, such as in West Africa with the West African Health Organization (WAHO) and in Southern Africa. The HSR Symposium is an excellent forum for RHIS advocacy with thousands of public health researchers from all over the world attending.

WHO – MEASURE Evaluation and RHINO collaboration

- In December it was agreed that quarterly calls would be set up to discuss the status of the activities of the joint work plan. A general coordination call was organized on March 11, during which we reviewed progress on the various joint RHIS strengthening activities. We also discussed how MEASURE Evaluation can contribute to the objectives of the recently established Health Data Collaborative (New York, March 9, 2016). MEval participated in the first meeting of the Facility and Community Data working group, but is also interested in participating in other working groups such as the health system monitoring working group and the analytics and use working group. We also had a separate call on March 23rd to discuss the link between the M&E and Review of National Health Strategies document (the blue book) and the guidelines on HIS strategic planning. The former document is being reviewed by WHO/Geneva, while the latter is reviewed by MEASURE Evaluation.
- The Health Data Collaborative working group on facility and community data met on May 3-5, 2016 in Glion (Switzerland). Kathy O'Neill, Jorn Braa, and Theo Lippeveld, all three RHINO



Board members, co-chaired the RHIS sub-group. The RHIS sub-group members developed and discussed a two year work plan for 2016-2017. Many activities are already funded via WHO and the MEASURE Evaluation project. The RHIS subgroup co-chairs will continue to finalize the work plans and to overview implementation of activities as planned.

Other networking activities

- On February 22-23, Lippeveld attended a DHIS2 workshop for NGOs in Washington DC and met with several senior managers of the University of Oslo and the various NGOs. He underscored the great potential of international NGOs to assist Ministries of Health in scaling DHIS2 in all districts of the country and have the information captured in the DHIS2 database better used for decision making.
- He also had regular meetings with senior IntraHealth managers to discuss ongoing work in post-Ebola countries to improve interoperability of the various RHIS subsystems
- Lippeveld also attended the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) Conference in San Francisco (April 9-11, 2016), where he presented a poster on building HIS resilience in Liberia. The poster explained the HIS strategic planning process as it happened in Liberia in the period between July 2015 and February 2016 and examined lessons learned and best practices. The conference was attended by more than 1,500 participants and was a great opportunity for networking around RHINO and RHIS strengthening.

RHINO forum on RHIS and Human Resources

- A RHINO forum on the link between RHIS and human resource management has been organized on May 10-19. 158 RHINO members have registered for the event. The Forum was moderated by Amanda Bendor-Puckett and Carl Leitner of IntraHealth. The forum was introduced through a webinar about the Health Worker Information System using the iHRIS, IntraHealth's open source software application, which has been deployed in over 20 countries. Some of the topics that were discussed were "how to link HR info with service statistics", and "what is HRH data's role in strengthening overall health systems in addition to HRH decision making". A total of 7 topics were discussed and 30 contributions have been posted. Details of this RHIS Forum can be found on the recently updated RHINO website.
- The next RHINO Forum is planned for August-September and will address RHIS architecture and data interoperability

RHINO website

- The refreshed RHINOnet.org website has been further updated with new information and new RHIS related journal articles for the Resource Library.

RHINO membership

- A total of 950 subscribers have responded to the RHINO mail chimp campaign and 30 new members were added this quarter.
- Two new RHINO Board members are proposed to join us to represent the World Bank and IHME. Francisca Ayodeji Akala will replace Elisabeth Ashbourne, who left us two years ago. William Heise will replace Peter Speyer who recently left IHME for new endeavors. Both members will be introduced at the July 20 RHINO Board meeting.