



Approved: March 2, 2016

## GCRHN Advocacy Decision-Making Protocol

### INTERNAL PROCESS

#### 1. Initial determination:

- a. **Initial Protocol:** The GCRHN Board approves an Advocacy Agenda at the beginning of each year. Upon approval, the Agenda will guide the activities of the Board and staff. The Executive Director will update the Board of Directors at each meeting any issues or bills in which GCRHN has participated that aligns with the Advocacy agenda.

#### 2. Necessary adjustments:

- a. **Primary Protocol:** If issues or bills of concern arise that were not considered in the original Agenda or are on issues of controversy, the Executive Director will provide the information to the Board via email. The Board will discuss the issue or bill at the next Board of Directors meeting. If approved, the Agenda will be amended accordingly, thereafter guiding the activities of the Board and staff.
- b. **Urgent Protocol:** If a decision must be reached urgently on an issue that was not included in the Advocacy Agenda or are on issues of controversy, the GCRHN Executive Director will provide the information to the Board of Directors via email. The Board of Directors' Executive Committee will then vote on the issue or bill of concern.
- c. **Interim Urgent Protocol:** For during the time that GCRHN is without an Executive Director or if the Executive Director is unavailable for any other reason, and a decision needs urgent attention, GCRHN Executive Committee will make a decision. All other actions will follow the Urgent Protocol as established.

### DEFINITIONS OF ADVOCACY POSITIONS

**Support-** Dedicate all staff and grassroots resources as needed towards administrative advocacy, including:

- Distributing fact sheets and/or position papers
- Coordinating local voices for testimony
- Coordinating with other supporting groups
- Sending action alerts to members requesting legislator contacts
- Advocating to the organization administering the policy or any other affiliated organizations

**Monitor-** Review bill, policy, amendment or other informational materials. Monitor progress, including reviewing proposed and adopted amendments for possible impact on the access to care in the rural areas. No listing of GCRHN on fact sheets.

**Neutral-** Review bill, policy, amendment or other informational materials. No listing of GCRHN on fact sheets. Report on outcome. Staff and grassroots resources may be dedicated to:

- Distributing neutral information
- Convening affected populations
- Sending action alerts to members requesting legislator contacts

**Oppose-** Dedicate all staff and grassroots resources as needed toward defeating the bill, policy or amendment, including:



- Reviewing the bill, policy and all amendments
- Distributing fact sheets and/or position papers
- Coordinating local voices for testimony
- Coordinating with other opposing groups
- Sending action alerts to members requesting legislator contacts
- Advocating to the organization administering the policy or any other affiliated organizations.