

GCRHN Board of Directors

Strategic Decision Point Document – February 25, 2016

Guideposts for GCRHN’s Public Policy Role

Background: GCRHN staff wants guidance on how to decide which partner letters we should sign onto, as we have gotten multiple requests in the past year. Most of these letters are addressing federal or state actions that would directly impact the areas of our work.

Proposed Guideposts:

1. Content “buckets”:
 - a. Does this directly impact the content areas that GCRHN has prioritized?
 - i. Such areas include: ensuring access to healthcare for Grand County residents, access to mental health, rural impact, provider reimbursement levels, or ability to provide healthcare.
2. Tone:
 - a. Does this letter
 - i. Use a moderate and non-partisan tone?
 - ii. Avoid using exaggeration or hyperbolic language?
 - iii. Use data that is indisputable, and when appropriate, real stories of why we are writing the letter?
3. Quality:
 - a. Is this piece polished and professionally written? (e.g., coherent, no spelling or grammar errors)?
 - b. Is the language of the piece appropriate? (e.g., not overly “wonky” or cluttered with legal citations)?
 - c. Has the advocacy group identified how this bill will affect rural communities?
4. Political ramifications:

- a. Would this letter advance the policy conversation without penalizing our position as a neutral and administrative advocacy organization?

Decision Point:

- ✓ Does this criteria work for GCRHN decisions to be decided solely by policy staff?
What else should be added?
- ✓ What sorts of action items GCRHN would first need clearance from the Executive Committee?