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**Jon W. Allen, MD, FACP**

Associate Professor of Medicine, Director, ND STAR (North Dakota Simulation, Teaching and Research for Healthcare Education) Center and SIM-ND (Simulation in Motion – North Dakota) statewide mobile simulation program, Director, Clinical Skills, Year 2, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Upon completion of an Internal Medicine residency in Marshfield, WI Dr. Jon Allen began the first twelve years of his medical career in Minot, ND in 1987. He joined, and later became Medical Director of a 50-physician multi-specialty clinic in Minot practicing outpatient Internal Medicine and inpatient critical care. He served as Director of the local ground ambulance service and as the first director of helicopter and fixed-wing critical care air ambulance services that he was instrumental in starting. After helping educate many medical students at the bedside, academic medicine then drew him to Grand Forks in 1999 where he joined the faculty at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Internal Medicine Department at Altru Health Systems. In addition to directing the clinical skills portion of the second year curriculum he is the director of the medical school’s inter-professional simulation center and statewide mobile simulation program. He has served on multiple committees within the School and was appointed as Assistant Dean for the NE Campus of the statewide campus, serving in that position between 2004 and 2012. He continues an active practice of Internal Medicine and his work directing the rapidly growing simulation center.

**John Becknell**

John Becknell, PhD is a consultant and community and organizational psychologist. He is an accomplished facilitator, interviewer, teacher and researcher. He has been involved in emergency services and healthcare for 35 years and has worked as a paramedic, educator, manager, systems developer and consultant. John is the founding publisher of Best Practices in Emergency Services and the former editor-in-chief of The Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS). He serves on numerous national projects and provided the conceptual design for the National EMS Workforce Agenda for the Future (2009). John has been involved in emergency medical system development in North America, the Middle East, and Central America. He is the author of two books and has published articles in numerous journals and trade magazines on emergency services administration, management, and workforce. John has a passion for finding and identifying best practices as well as understanding the sociological relationship between emergency medical services and the communities they serve.

**Diane Calmus**

Diane joined the NRHA staff in 2015. She is one of NRHA’s federally registered lobbyists.She previously worked as a legislative assistant to Rep. Kevin Brady, the chair of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, where she handled a variety of health care issues with a focus on Medicare policy. She also worked as a health policy fellow at the Heritage Foundation.Diane earned a J.D. from Michigan State University College of Law and bachelor’s degrees in mechanical engineering from Lake Superior State University and psychology from Central Michigan University.

**John Gale**

John Gale is a Research Associate with the Maine Rural Health Research Center at the University of Southern Maine. His research focuses on Critical Access Hospitals and Rural Health Clinics as well as primary care, mental health, substance abuse, and emergency medical services. His work is practical and concentrates on tools to support rural providers and enhance access to care such as community benefit and health needs assessment tools, HIT and telehealth technologies, and program evaluation resources. He is the immediate past president of the New England Rural Health Roundtable and active in NRHA and the Association for Community Health Improvement.

**Kevin McGinnis, MPS, EMT-P**

Kevin has been an EMS system builder since 1974. He currently serves as the Community Paramedicine Chief of North East Mobile Health Services, the largest paramedic service in Maine.

He received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Brown University and Cornell University in health care delivery systems and hospital administration. He started working on ambulances in Rhode Island and has held EMT, Paramedic, and instructor certifications/licenses in New York and Maine (where he now holds a paramedic license). Kevin has been an ambulance service chief for volunteer, private, and hospital-based services, a hospital emergency department director, and Maine's state EMS director.

Kevin has been widely published in and a national speaker on the areas of public safety/EMS communications, rural EMS, community paramedicine, and airmedical systems while serving as a program manager for the National Association of State EMS Officials for the past 14 years. He serves that association, the National Association of EMTs, the National Association of EMS Physicians, the National EMS Management Association and the National Association of EMS Educators as their communications technology advisor.

He serves to represent the national EMS community in national public safety communications venues including FCC councils and committees, the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, and the Public Safety Alliance. He is the immediate past Chairman of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's SafeCom Program, and still serves on its Executive Committee.

In August, 2012, Kevin was named by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to a three-year term on the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Board of Directors. He is the FirstNet Board liaison to America’s tribes, helping to facilitate FirstNet planning for their public safety and telecommunications efforts. He was named by the Government *Technology/Solutions for State and Local Government* magazine as one of its 2013 'Top 25 Doers, Dreamers & Drivers in Public-Sector Innovation'.

## **Tracy Morton, MPH**

Tracy Morton, Senior Program Manager, National Rural Health Resource Center, 218-727-9390 ext. 227, [tmorton@ruralcenter.org](mailto:tmorton@ruralcenter.org), [www.ruralcenter.org](http://www.ruralcenter.org) has been with The Center since 2009 and is responsible for the management of the Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC), including strategic planning, work plan development and implementation and developing and maintaining program timelines. Along with providing technical support, education and information to state Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program grantees, she is responsible for regional and national meetings, conference calls and webinars, as well as managing consultant projects for Flex Programs and critical access hospitals. Tracy has worked in public health at the state, local and tribal levels. She received her Master of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Public Health from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire.

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**Aarron Reinert**

Aarron Reinert, BA, NREMTP is nationally known as a leader, master teacher and expert in management, leadership, system design and applied best practices in rural and small town emergency medical services systems. Aarron has been involved in emergency medical services for more than 20 years and is the executive director of an emergency medical service in central Minnesota. He is well known for asking tough questions and encouraging out-of-the-box thinking. Using such tools as the Balanced Scorecard, Aarron helps organizations recognize the necessary balance between finance, customer service, employee satisfaction and community awareness. Aarron’s recognized understanding of current emergency services issues led to him serving on numerous national boards and projects and to an appointment as chairperson of the National EMS Advisory Council by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

**Ralph Renger**

Dr. Renger is responsible for overseeing the evaluation of cardiac care systems in several Midwest and mountain west states. With the support of The Leona M. and Harry B. Charitable Trust he has assembled a team to evaluate training, leadership, continuous quality improvement mechanisms, information technology, and subsystem data flow to improve system efficiency and effectiveness. He works within the Center for Rural Health in the School of Medicine and Health Science at the University of North Dakota. He has 19 years of evaluation experience and is nationally and internationally recognized for his contributions to improving evaluation methods.

**Gary Wingrove**

Gary Wingrove is director of government relations and strategic affairs for Mayo Clinic Medical Transport in Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. He is a former state EMS director. Gary retired his paramedic credential in 2005 after 25 years of paramedic service. Gary is president of The Paramedic Foundation and the Center for Leadership, Innovation and Research in EMS. He is an inaugural recipient of the JEMS/Physio Control Top Ten EMS Innovator’s award, the Minnesota Department of Health’s Jim Parker Public Health Leadership Award, the Minnesota Rural Health Hero Award, the NOSORH’s Recognition Award, and he is an inaugural Commissioned Honorary Flight Paramedic.

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