



Dear NRTRC Board Members,

It is with mixed emotions that we are contacting you today.

As you have probably noticed, the most recent Telehealth Resource Center (TRC) grants/cooperative agreements have been announced. We would like to take this opportunity to share some information with you.

Our healthcare system, SCL Health, has decided that it does not want to compete for federally-funded projects that do not directly align with strategic priorities contributing to the system's ministry and mission. Therefore, it was decided that it would not be appropriate for St. Vincent Healthcare to apply for the TRC project; consequently, the Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center (NRTRC) will need to determine a new host.

Fortunately, this change will have minimal effect on the present staff: Bob will be retiring at the end of the current grant cycle, August 31, and St. Vincent has a great need for Martha to work full-time on its virtual health projects.

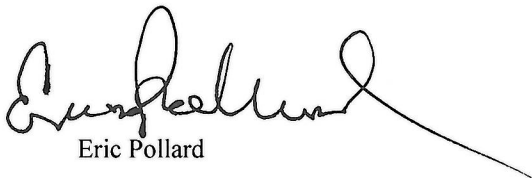
This may make it easier for a new entity to apply for the grant/agreement, because there will be no need for personnel transfers. We hope the Board chooses to work closely with the new TRC host.

To ease this transition, Bob and Martha will be available to help the new host establish with the TRC, and introduce the new staff to our colleagues.

Eric, Martha, and Bob are committed to the success of the NRTRC, as you have witnessed, and will do what it takes to ensure that its legacy continues. We are certain the Board feels the same.

We felt the Board should be made aware of the situation, and encourage you to discuss next steps and, perhaps, to determine if one of your organizations would be a good host for the NRTRC. We hope that the Board works with the new applicant, whoever that may be, to provide the leadership and assistance that has been so valuable to the NRTRC for the eleven years it has been in existence. The NRTRC is unique among its peers, due to our strong and dynamic Advisory Board, and we hope the applicants and next awardee recognize the benefit of availing themselves of your support.

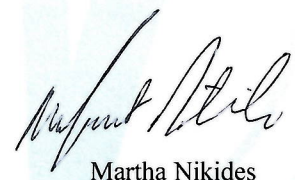
With best wishes,



Eric Pollard



Bob Wolverton



Martha Nikides