

CALL TO ORDER Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Board Chair Melissa Best-Baker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT Melissa Best-Baker, Chair
Jean Turner, Vice Chair
Ted Gardner, Secretary
David McCoy Barrett, Treasurer
Mary Mae Kilpatrick, Member at Large
Stephen DelRossi, MSA, Chief Executive Officer
Allison Partridge RN, MSN, Chief Operations Officer / Chief Nursing Officer
Adam Hawkins, DO, Chief Medical Officer
Alison Murray, MBA HRM, SHRM-CP, Chief Human Resources Officer
Sierra Bourne, MD, Chief of Staff

ABSENT

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT Chair Best-Baker reported that at this time, members of the audience may speak on any items not on the agenda on any matter within the jurisdiction of the District Board. Public comments shall be received at the beginning of the meeting and are limited to three minutes per speaker, with a total time limit of thirty minutes for all public comment unless otherwise modified by the Chair. The general Public Comment portion of the meeting allows the public to address any item within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors on matters not appearing on the agenda. Public comments on agenda items should be made at the time each item is considered.

There were no comments from the public.

NEW BUSINESS
NIHD BOARD OF DIRECTORS GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION PRESENTATION

Chair Best-Baker called attention to the NIHD Board of Directors General Election Information presentation.

Patty Dickson, NIHD Compliance Officer presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board about the upcoming elections for Zone I, III, and IV. Discussion ensued. The Board requested more information at the next Board meeting on information about filing for the November election open seats. Ms. Dickson agreed to reach out to Inyo County and will report back to the Board at the next regular meeting.

RESOLUTION 24-02, ELECTION CONSOLIDATION

Chair Best-Baker called attention to District Board Resolution 24-01, Election Consolidation.

Chair Best-Baker read Resolution 24-02 aloud. Discussion ensued. There were no questions or comments.

Motion by: Mary Mae Kilpatrick
Seconded by: Jean Turner
Passed 5-0 vote

BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT

Chair Best-Baker called attention to the Board Self-Assessment.

Vice Chair Turner introduced the Association of California Healthcare District (ACHD)-sponsored board self-assessment to the full Board of Directors. ACHD has partnered with The Walker Company to complete CEO and Board self-assessments. The Board received an email link from The Walker Company today, March 20, 2024 to complete with a due date of March 31, 2024. Discussion ensued.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Chair Best-Baker called attention to the Chief Executive Officer Report.

- **Strategic Plan** – Mr. DelRossi reported that there is a Special Board meeting planned for the following day 3/21/2024 to present a draft Strategic Plan to the Board for the next three years.
- **Women’s Services collaboration with Southern Inyo Healthcare District** – Mr. DelRossi reported that he has been in conversation with Southern Inyo Healthcare District to possibly implement an agreement to use Southern Inyo’s location with NIHD’s providers to provide reasonable access to OB/GYN services who have been affected by the Ridgecrest women’s services closure. Mr. DelRossi wanted to highlight that this agreement would not benefit NIHD from a financial standpoint but would help Southern Inyo financially as well as support the patients in need of women’s services who have to travel for prenatal care.
- **Preliminary discussions with Toiyabe dialysis / Connor Wiles, MD** – Mr. DelRossi introduced Dr. Hawkins to give an update on the preliminary talks between Dr. Wiles and Toiyabe. Dr. Hawkins reported that Dr. Wiles has been with NIHD for a little over a year and has spearheaded the potential project to provide support to the area’s dialysis patients in collaboration with Toiyabe. Dr. Wiles possesses the expertise to perform services that would support the dialysis patient population. These procedures and future procedure maintenance would happen in NIHD operating room on campus.
- **Update on Ridgecrest** – Mr. DelRossi reported that he has been in communication with Ridgecrest CEO about their recent discontinuation of women’s services and the possible collaboration with them for patients’ in the Eastern Sierra that need OB/GYN testing done. Mr. DelRossi wanted to make it clear that this collaboration would have no financial impact on NIHD at all but would benefit the patients of the Easter Sierra that are in need of women’s testing services.
- **Women’s Clinic – OB/GYN** – Mr. DelRossi reported that NIHD

is currently in the process of hiring a Midwife that will provide much needed support to our current women's services. Mr. DelRossi also added that NIHD is currently looking at a possible future separation of the GYN clinic apart from the RHC where our women's services providers would be able to perform procedures in office that are not capped by payments.

**CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER REPORT**

Chair Best-Baker introduced the Chief Financial Officer report.

- Financial & Statistical Reports:
 - CEO DelRossi presented the financial & statistical report. Discussion ensued.

Motion by: Ted Gardner
Seconded by: David McCoy Barrett
Passed 5-0 vote

- New CFO (4/15/2024) – Mr. DelRossi reported that the new CFO's original start has been pushed to 4/29/2024 due to the background check taking a little longer than expected.
- Standard & Poor's Review – Mr. DelRossi reported that he just met with the Standard & Poor's review team in a formal meeting, we usually meet with them quarterly throughout the year. Mr. DelRossi reported that they are very pleased with our recovery so far.
- Audit (Siemens' Bonds) – Mr. DelRossi reported that we meet with Siemens about every six weeks to provide and update on our recovery plan, they are very pleased with the financial progress NIHD has been compared to last year's financial situation.
- Revenue Cycle – Self Pay – Mr. DelRossi reported that NIHD is currently working on implementing a new process to collect patient payments after insurance payments are collect. This new self-pay process on campus will provide security and support to our community and patients.

**CHIEF OF STAFF
REPORT**

Chair Best-Baker called attention to the Chief of Staff report.

POLICIES

Dr. Sierra Bourne provided an overview of the policies/procedures.

1. Standardized Protocol – General Policy for the Physician Assistant
2. Employee Health NIHD Workforce Onboarding Policy
3. Employee Health NIHD Workforce Tuberculosis Surveillance Program
4. Infection Control Policy Perinatal

Discussion ensued.

Motion by: Mary Mae Kilpatrick
Seconded by: David McCoy Barrett

Passed 5-0 vote

MEDICAL STAFF
APPOINTMENTS 2024-
2025

Dr. Sierra Bourne provided an overview of the 2024-2025 Medical Staff Appointments:

1. John Avery Neal, DO (pediatrics) – Courtesy Staff
2. Rami-James Assadi, MD (neurology) – Telemedicine Staff
3. Rajeshwary Swamidurai, MD (anesthesiology) – Active Staff

Motion by: Mary Mae Kilpatrick

Seconded by: Jean Turner

Passed 5-0 vote

MEDICAL STAFF
REAPPOINTMENT OF
CALENDAR YEAR 2024

Dr. Sierra Bourne brought attention to the Medical Staff Reappointments:

1. Amy Saft, CRNA (nurse anesthesia)

Motion by: Ted Gardner

Seconded by: Mary Mae Kilpatrick

Passed 5-0 vote

MEDICAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Sierra Bourne provided the Medical Executive Committee meeting report.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Best-Baker called attention to the consent agenda that contained the following items.

- *February 21, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes*
- *CMO Report*
- *Department Reports*
- *CEO Credit Card Statements*
- *Approval of Policies and Procedures:*
 - *Practitioner Re-Entry Policy*
 - *Medical Staff Department Policy – Radiology*
 - *Password Policy*

Discussion ensued. Chair Best-Baker requested that all Department reports be removed from the Consent Agenda

Motion by: Jean Turner

Seconded by: Ted Gardner

Passed 5-0 vote

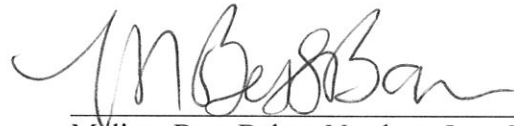
GENERAL INFORMATION
FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Best-Baker called for information from Board Members.

Discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 07:01 p.m.



Melissa Best-Baker, Northern Inyo Healthcare
District, Chair

Attest:



Ted Gardner, Northern Inyo Healthcare District,
Secretary