

- CALL TO ORDER                    The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by M.C. Hubbard, President.
- PRESENT                            M.C. Hubbard, President  
Denise Hayden, Vice President  
D. Scott Clark, M.D., Secretary  
Peter Watercott, Treasurer  
John Ungersma, M.D., Member-At-Large
- ALSO PRESENT                    Victoria Alexander-Lane, Chief Executive Officer  
Thomas Boo, M.D., Chief of Staff  
Sandy Blumberg, Executive Assistant
- OPPORTUNITY FOR  
PUBLIC COMMENT                Ms. Hubbard asked if any members of the public wished to comment on  
any items listed on the Notice for this meeting. No comments were heard.
- CONSENT AGENDA                Ms. Hubbard called attention to the consent agenda for this meeting,  
which contained the following items:  
    - Approval of minutes of the December 17 2014 regular meeting  
    - Approval of minutes of the December 17 2014 special meeting  
    - Financial and statistical reports for the month of November 2014  
It was moved by Denise Hayden, seconded by John Ungersma, M.D., and  
passed to approve all three consent agenda items as presented.
- CEO REPORT                      Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Victoria Alexander-Lane recognized  
Chief Performance Excellence Officer Maria Sirois for her hard work and  
dedication in implementing the Leapfrog program in 2014. She also  
reported that Administration continues to work with Fidelis Partners  
recruiters in an effort to obtain a general surgeon, and that we hope to  
interview a second potential general surgery candidate (who did not come  
to us through a recruiter) in the near future. She additionally noted that a  
proposed agreement for hospitalist services with Rural Physicians Group  
will be discussed later in this meeting, however she has been just been  
informed that the Hospital's existing Lead Hospitalist Joy Engblade M.D.  
has decided to stay on in that position. We will continue to recruit for two  
additional hospitalists to add to the existing rotation, and for mid-level  
providers for the Northern Inyo Hospital Rural Health Clinic (NIH RHC).  
Ms. Alexander Lane also noted that we hope to set up a room in the front  
admitting area of the Hospital where the on-duty hospitalist can assess  
patients prior to them presenting to the Emergency Department (ED) for  
services and incurring charges.
- Ms. Alexander-Lane also reported Northern Inyo Hospital (NIH) has  
retained the services of licensing consultant Brenda Klutz, who is  
extremely experienced and knowledgeable on California licensing issues.  
Ms. Klutz will assist us in ensuring that licensing of our new infusion,  
respiratory therapy, and EKG units is done correctly in preparation for  
operation of patient services. The Hospital's infusion unit will be moved

to its new location as soon as possible after the licensing details have been taken care of.

Ms. Alexander-Lane also reported she will meet with the NIH B Clinic practitioners as a team in the near future, in order to clear up any confusion or unknowns that exist in regard to formation of the new Clinic. Formation of the B Clinic will help the physician practices to operate more efficiently, both financially and in regard to patient services. She additionally noted that billing for the B Clinic practices will now be done in-house by hospital staff, and she complimented NIH Business Office staff for their hard work in making this change happen in a timely manner. She additionally reported that a pipe in the old hospital building recently broke, flooding the Employee Health office. Several departments of the Hospital acted quickly as a team in order to handle and rectify the problem as rapidly as possible. She noted that licensing consultant Brenda Klutz will also help us to address whether or not this community should be designated as an underserved area, which would help improve our chances of rebuilding and/or moving the RHC facility in order to better serve a larger number of patients. She also noted that the re-flooring project in the ED and surgery units is now underway.

CHIEF OF STAFF  
REPORT

Chief of Staff Thomas Boo, M.D. reported the Medical Executive Committee did not meet during the past month, and there is no Medical Staff news of significance to report at this time. Doctor Boo also stated that the Hospital has hired a new Medical Staff Support Manager, Mr. Anthony Peregretti, and that we all appreciate having Mr. Peregretti on board.

CHIEF NURSING  
OFFICER REPORT

Chief Nursing Officer Kathy Decker provided an update on the Hospital's employee flu vaccination efforts, stating that 95 percent of hospital staff received the flu vaccination this year, which is an increase over last year's 87 percent. She also acknowledged Employee Health Nurse Nel Hecht's efforts in regard to this achievement. She additionally reported on the recent measles outbreak of 22 cases in this country, and also stated that NIH has implanted a new vaccination screening tool for our inpatients. She also noted that nursing management is working on nursing competency plans, and on finalizing our Pillars of Excellence standards for 2015. She additionally stated that in the last six months 10 members of the nursing staff have received exceptional performance reviews, and that our communicable disease task force continues to improve upon our plan to handle any potential contagious disease threats that members of our community may be exposed to in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

HOSPITALIST  
SERVICES  
AGREEMENT WITH  
RURAL PHYSICIANS  
GROUP

Ms. Alexander-Lane stated the previously proposed Hospitalist Services Agreement with Rural Physicians Group no longer needs to be addressed, due to the fact that NIH's Lead Hospitalist, Joy Engblade M.D. will continue to serve in the capacity of Lead Hospitalist physician.

PERSONNEL POLICY;  
*BENEFITS - TUITION  
REIMBURSEMENT*

Chief Human Relations Officer Georgan Stottlemire called attention to a proposed personnel policy titled *Benefits – Tuition Reimbursement*, which establishes a policy and procedure for determining eligibility requirements for employees seeking tuition reimbursement for advancement of their education. She noted that approval of this policy is one of the goals of the Hospital District’s Strategic Plan for 2015 regarding fostering a just and creative environment. Following review of the information provided, it was moved by Peter Watercott, seconded by Doctor Ungersma, and passed to approve the proposed personnel policy titled *Benefits – Tuition Reimbursement* as presented. Ms. Stottlemire noted that this policy was not budgeted for in the current fiscal year, so the intention is for it to start small initially and then develop more in the future.

APPROVAL OF NIH  
FOUNDATION BOARD  
NOMINEES

Northern Inyo Hospital Foundation (NIHF) Executive Director Greg Bissonette reported revitalization of the NIH Foundation continues, and that the following individuals have been nominated to become members of the Board: Richard Meredith, M.D.; Calvin (Caddy) Jackson; Mary Mae Kilpatrick; Debbie Core; and Kristopher Hohag. He also reported that a joint meeting of the NIHF and the Northern Inyo County Local Hospital District (NICLHD) Boards has tentatively been scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>, which will give both Boards the opportunity to meet and establish a foundation to work together as ambassadors for the Hospital and Hospital District in the future, with fundraising efforts to follow at a later time. Ms. Alexander-Lane complimented Mr. Bissonette of the diversity of members being seated on the NIHF Board, and Director Watercott stated his belief that the Foundation is headed in a very positive direction and that he is proud to be a member of the group. It was moved by Mr. Watercott, seconded by Ms. Hayden and passed to approve the proposed nominees for the Board of Directors of the Northern Inyo Hospital Foundation as presented.

BOARD MEMBER  
REPORTS

Ms. Hubbard asked if any members of the Board of Directors wished to report on any items of interest. Director Ungersma reported that the newly formed Bylaws Committee (Directors Ungersma and Hubbard, and CEO Victoria Alexander-Lane) recently met to begin the annual review of the Hospital District Bylaws. The meeting was extremely productive, and the Committee expects to present the updated Bylaws for approval at the next regular meeting of the District Board. He additionally noted it is his feeling that the fact that NICLHD is the first Hospital District formed in the State of California should be included in the preamble, stating he will research who the other Districts are who feel they have claim to that title. Director Ungersma additionally stated that two California District Hospitals have closed this year, and that a third is also at risk of closing. Ms. Alexander-Lane also stated that we should begin the process for changing the name of the Northern Inyo County Local Hospital District to the Northern Inyo County Local Health Care District. Ms. Hubbard also reminded members of the Board that the quarterly NIH employee All

Staff meetings will be held this week, and that all members of the District Board are invited to attend. No other comments were heard.

OPPORTUNITY FOR  
PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Hubbard again asked if any members of the public wished to comment on any items listed on the Notice for this meeting, or on any items of interest. NIH Applications Services Manager Robin Cassidy complimented Business Office Manager Mary Ellen Tillemans and her staff on their "can do" attitude regarding recent (significant) changes made to their operations, and for taking on the project of doing billing for the physician clinics. No other comments were heard.

ADJOURNMENT TO  
CLOSED SESSION

At 6:35 pm Ms. Hubbard reported the meeting would adjourn to closed session to allow the Board of Directors to/for:

- A. Hear reports on the hospital quality assurance activities, and hear a report from the Medical Staff Executive Committee (*Section 32155 of the Health and Safety Code, and Government Code Section 54962*).
- B. Discussion of Labraque settlement (*Subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54956.9(b)(3)(a)*).
- C. Discuss Trade secrets, new programs and services, letter to LAFCO (Colin Coffey) (*Section 32106 of the Health and Safety Code*).
- D. Discussion of a Personnel matter, Adam Taylor (*Government Code Section 54957*).

RETURN TO OPEN  
SESSION AND REPORT  
OF ACTION TAKEN

At 8:03pm the meeting returned to open session. Ms. Hubbard reported that the Board took no reportable action.

REVIEW OF AN  
EMPLOYEE  
GRIEVANCE

Ms. Hubbard then called attention to a request for review of a grievance submitted by former NIH Information Technology employee Adam Taylor. It was moved by D. Scott Clark, M.D., seconded by Doctor Ungersma, and passed to deny the request for Board review of the grievance filed by Mr. Adam Taylor.

DISCUSSION OF  
FUTURE MEETING  
DATES

Following brief discussion, it was determined that a Special meeting of the District Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, February 25, in anticipation of a quorum being lacking at the Regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 18.

OPPORTUNITY FOR  
PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Hubbard again asked if any members of the public wished to address the Board of Directors on any items of interest. No comments were heard.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

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M.C. Hubbard, President

Attest:

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D. Scott Clark, M.D., Secretary