

CALL TO ORDER                      The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mary Mae Kilpatrick, Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Board Chair.

PRESENT                                Mary Mae Kilpatrick, Chair  
Melissa Best-Baker, Vice Chair  
Jean Turner, Secretary  
Ted Gardner, Treasurer  
Jody Veenker, Member-at-Large  
Stephen DelRossi, MSA, Interim Chief Executive Officer / Chief Financial Officer  
Allison Partridge RN, MSN, Chief Nursing Officer / Chief Operations Officer (present via zoom)  
Alison Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer (present via zoom)  
Stefan Schunk, MD, Chief Medical Officer

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT                      Chair Kilpatrick 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. No comments were heard from the public.

NEW BUSINESS

CHIEF OF STAFF REPORT (TAKEN OUT OF ORDER)                      Chair Kilpatrick called attention to the Chief of Staff report. Dr. Arndal reported for Dr. Bourne.

MEDICAL STAFF APPOINTMENTS                      Dr. Arndal introduced the Medical Staff appointments and asked if the Board had any questions.

Jean Turner motioned to approve medical staff appointments a-f as presented, Jody Veenker seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Dr. Arndal called attention to the medical staff resignations and thanked the providers for their service.

Ted Gardner motioned to approve the medical staff resignations, Melissa Best-Baker seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Dr. Arndal provided an overview of the policies and procedures for approval.

- a. *DI CT Radiation Safety Policy*
- b. *Nursing Bedside Swallow Screen*

Melissa Best-Baker motioned to approve the policies as written, Jean Turner seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

MEDICAL EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Arndal provided a report of the Medical Executive Committee meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEE  
REPORTS

Chair Kilpatrick called attention to Ad Hoc Committee reports. Jean Turner reported the Governance Committee has submitted the first grouping of policies for approvals on this agenda. The rest will follow in the August and September Board of Directors meetings.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER REPORT

Chair Kilpatrick introduced the Chief Executive Officer Report. Interim CEO Stephen DelRossi provided updates on the following items:

- Bi-monthly Town Halls will continue indefinitely, once in the morning and once in the evening for better employee access.
- Anesthesia Department has had two resignations. Staff is working to optimize the OR department, and they are continuing recruitment efforts for new anesthesiologists.
- New Urologist and General Surgeon, Dr. Davis and Dr. Wiles, will be joining NIHD in August.
- Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Update: Staff is currently vetting two organizations. They will continue work on it throughout the next few months. Jean Turner asked for an explanation of what an ACO is. Dr. Schunk stated ACOs consist of groups of doctors, hospitals, and other health care professionals that work together to give patients high-quality, coordinated service and health care, improve health outcomes, and manage costs. ACOs are compensated by sharing in the savings they create by improving care. Currently the government allows this to be a voluntary program, but as of 2030 it will be mandatory.
- Beta Insurance Review: CEO DelRossi reported at the time of renewal for our Beta insurance, we did not have time to vet the entire insurance package, but we did vet workers comp which resulted in Beta lowering their fees by \$57,000.
- Legislation, hospital revenue: There are two State bills in effect or upcoming that will impact NIHD. We have applied for part of \$150M loan for hospitals in distress. This is a 7 year, 0 interest loan, with the possibility of forgiveness.
- Contract Savings: Neil's team in Material Management renegotiated our contract with GE, and the contract was lowered by approximately \$85,000 per year for the next 5 years

CHIEF FINANCIAL  
OFFICER REPORT

Chair Kilpatrick introduced the Chief Financial Officer report.

FINANCIAL &  
STATISTICAL REPORTS

CFO DelRossi reported with respect to the month of May, we had more inpatient days and more outpatient visits than this time a year ago, but RHC visits, outpatient surgeries, emergency room visits, nursing visits and observations were all down. We were busier with inpatient days, outpatient visits, clinic visits, inpatient surgeries, diagnostic imaging and rehab. Mr. DelRossi pointed out we had an error with respect to Pharmacy resulting in the financial statements are misstated by approximately \$300,000. As a whole, the hospital lost about \$1,200,000 change in net position and we lost about \$1,450,000 in terms of operating income.

It was motioned by Jody Veenker to approve the financial and statistical reports, seconded by Melissa Best-Baker and the motion passed 5-0.

FY 2023 BUDGET  
EXTENSION

CFO DelRossi reported he is in the process of reviewing the FY 2024 budget with management. It will be finished in next two weeks, and he will present it at next meeting. CFO DelRossi asked for approval to extend the FY 2023 budget through August.

It was motioned by Jean Turner to approve the extension of the FY 2023 budget through August, seconded by Ted Gardner and the motion passed 5-0.

FY 2022 AUDIT  
DEFICIENCIES

CFO DelRossi stated he will report audit deficiencies quarterly. The FY 2022 Audit findings included:

- Balance Sheet reconciliations: The Accounting department is in final stages of reconciling all balance sheets and he is confident we will not have a finding with balance sheets this year, except for two cash clearing accounts which will take 6-8 months to reconcile.
- Pension administration: Records were not available for the FY 2022 audit, but they were here in the building and will be available for this year's audit.
- The Pension program had been reported as an expense; this has been corrected.
- Contractual allowance in third party settlements: The last controller wrote the balances off in FY 2022. We reestablished those balances and will continue to audit them as settlements roll through.

TAG UPDATE

The Labor Committee has worked through a high of 459 FTEs last fiscal year, and it is now at 404 paid FTEs. With respect to Supply Chain, we continue to see improvement from Neil's team in Purchasing. Improvements in Services and Revenues are coming at a slower pace than we originally expected. We want to be very thoughtful about where we trim services.

PMA BUILDING MOVE  
UPDATE

Internal Medicine's move will be complete next week. Roofing supplies have been ordered for the PMA building, and work should begin in the next 45 days. Vendors are in the process of drawing plans for the Rehab clinic.

RSM UPDATE

Chair Kilpatrick called attention to the RSM Update. CFO DelRossi introduced Michael Brown who provided an update on RSM's engagement. All objectives were completed except for the implementation of denial analytics which was removed and in its place they completed charge bill audit to identify opportunities to capture more revenue. They are now in a transition period, and they are ensuring NIH employees are fully trained.

REVISED AMENDMENT  
NO.2 TO THE NORTHERN  
INYO HEALTHCARE  
DISTRICT

Chair Kilpatrick called attention to the revised Amendment No. 2 to the Northern Inyo Healthcare District 401(a) Retirement Plan.

Alison Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented a summary of the amendment. The amendment was originally approved by the Board on May 17, 2023, but needed further clarification regarding how long the contributions would continue from the District and when the actual effective date was going to be for the matching contributions would come from the employees. The clarifying language is included in this amendment.

It was motioned by Jean Turner to approve the revised Amendment No. 2 to the Northern Inyo Healthcare District, seconded by Jody Veenker and the motion passed 5-0.

CHIEF NURSING  
OFFICER/CHIEF  
OPERATIONS OFFICER  
REPORT

Chair Kilpatrick called attention to the Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Operations Officer Report. Allison Partridge reported department updates.

- Cardiopulmonary welcomed Adam Wells, one of the District's respiratory therapists, to the Echocardiography training program.
- Diagnostic Imaging is optimizing current workflows and expanding opportunities to provide services to the community.
- In Pharmacy, Jeff Kneip, Director of Pharmacy is expecting their annual inspection by the Pharmacy State Board toward the end of August.
- In the Facilities department, the Chiller project is close to complete and should be done by the end of the year. The Pharmacy project is moving along, also on track for end of year.
- Environmental Services is working in collaboration with Sterile Processing to help assist with picking up and delivering instruments that go out to other departments and make it a more efficient process.
- Security conducted a security assessment, and as a result they will add security cameras.

- Within Inpatient Nursing, Med-surg currently has one open full-time position, and they are using three travelers; ICU is completely staffed with our own team members and they have no travelers; the perinatal department is using a third party agency to recruit permanent staff.
- With regard to Outpatient Nursing, the ER is fully staffed with one traveler who will be exiting shortly, PACU is fully staffed with no travelers.
- Infection Prevention is preparing for next flu season, and they are implementing an antibiotic use and resistance program.

Chair Kilpatrick asked when the Pharmacy will be up and running. Allison Partridge stated it is on track to be up and running by the end of the year.

Chair Kilpatrick asked how many nurses have left the District in the past six months. Allison Partridge did not have the exact statistic, but stated it is a small number.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Kilpatrick called attention to the consent agenda which contained the following items.

1. *Approval of minutes of the June 21, 2023 Regular Board Meeting*
2. *Chief Medical Officer Report*
3. *Compliance Department Quarterly Report*
4. *Department Reports*
5. *Approval of Policies and Procedures*
  - i. *Leaves of Absence – Leave Donation*
  - ii. *District Competency Plan*
6. *Approval of Policies and Procedures – Biennial Review*
  - i. *Chief Executive Officer Compensation Philosophy*
  - ii. *Compensation of the Chief Executive Officer*
  - iii. *Authority of the Chief Executive Officer for Contracts and Bidding*
  - iv. *Basis of Authority Role of Directors*
  - v. *Reimbursement of Expenses*

Jody Veenker motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, Melissa Best-Baker seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

#### REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Kilpatrick opened up reports to Board Members.

Chair Kilpatrick recognized the passing of Dr. John Ungersma, who served on the NIHD Board for many years. His service will be in October. Ms. Kilpatrick thanked him very much for his contributions to NIHD and the community.

Chair Kilpatrick also reported she attended quite a few meetings, including the Chamber of Commerce, Healthy Lifestyles presented by Dr. Richard Meredick, the District's first town hall meeting with the employees, and the Foundation meeting. Ms. Kilpatrick asked how many grants the District has outstanding. CEO DelRossi stated there are three grants. Chair Kilpatrick announced the Foundation is planning a Meet and Greet fundraiser in September with Dr. Clayton Davis, our new Urologist.

Jean Turner stated she shares Chair Kilpatrick's appreciation of CEO DelRossi's thoughtful comments at the employee town hall. She also reminded the Board members of the ACHD conference coming up in September.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON  
CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Chair Kilpatrick announced at this time, persons in the audience may speak only on items listed on the Closed Session portion of this meeting. She announced there is one case on item b. There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT TO  
CLOSED SESSION

At 7:33, Chair Kilpatrick announced the meeting would adjourn to Closed Session to allow the District Board of Directors to:

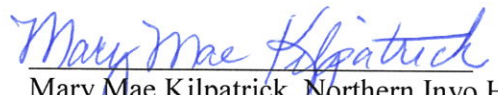
- a. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation.  
Government Code 54956.9(d)(4). Number of potential cases (1).
- b. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation.  
Government Code 54956.9(d)(1). Name of case: Tillemans  
v. NIHD
- c. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation.  
Government Code 54956.9(d)(2). Number of potential cases  
(4).
- d. Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to  
Government Code Section 54957(b)(1). Title: Interim CEO

Reconvened to open session at 8:43 p.m.

Chair Kilpatrick reported the Board voted 5 to 0 to reject a claim that was presented in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 8:43 p.m.



Mary Mae Kilpatrick, Northern Inyo Healthcare  
District, Chair

Attest:



Jean Turner, Northern Inyo Healthcare District,  
Secretary