

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 Watcrott, Treasurer
John Ungersma, M.D., Member at Large

ALSO PRESENT Victoria Alexander-Lane, Chief Executive Officer
Sandy Blumberg, Executive Assistant

REFINANCE OF
GENERAL OBLIGATION
BONDS H. Grant Wilson with HG Wilson Municipal Finance Inc. called attention to a proposal to refinance Northern Inyo Healthcare District's (NIHD's) 2005 and 2009 General Obligation Bonds in order to realize a savings opportunity of up to \$3,000,000.00. Following review of the information provided it was moved by D. Scott Clark, M.D., seconded by John Ungersma, M.D. and unanimously passed to approve moving forward with the refinancing of the 2005 and 2009 General Obligation Bonds as recommended.

OPPORTUNITY FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT Ms. Hubbard announced that persons in the audience may speak on any items not on the agenda for this meeting, on any matter within the jurisdiction of the District Board. Speakers will be limited to a maximum of three minutes each or as determined by the Chair based on the number of speakers. Members of the audience will also have the opportunity to address the Board on every item listed on the agenda.

The following persons spoke during public comment:

- Bonnie Pooley, RN
- Dara Powell, RN
- Sheri Aust
- Laurie Archer, RN
- Scott Vincik, RN
- Becky Taylor
- Lynne Greer
- Ken Kilgore
- Cindy Freeman
- Fran Yuschak
- Maggie Egan
- Robbin Cromer-Tyler, M.D.
- Susan Dewes

CONSENT AGENDA Ms. Hubbard then called attention to the Consent Agenda for this meeting, which contained the following item:
1. Approval of minutes of the July 15 2015 regular meeting
It was moved by Doctor Ungersma, seconded by Doctor Clark and

unanimously passed to approve the proposed consent agenda item as presented.

CEO REPORT

Chief Executive Officer Victoria Alexander-Lane reported that hospital administration continues to explore telemedicine options, taking great care to ensure that the best possible telemedicine partner is selected. Ms. Alexander-Lane also stated that incoming Chief Medical Officer/Chief Information Officer/Chief Operations Officer Kevin S. Flanigan M.D., MBA will assist with the telemedicine selection effort.

TELEMEDICINE
UPDATE

PHYSICIAN
RECRUITMENT

Louisa Salisbury M.D. is now practicing in the Northern Inyo Hospital (NIH) pediatric clinic, and general surgeon Allison Robinson, M.D. will join the NIH Medical Staff in the next couple of weeks. Additionally, OB/Gyn practitioner Martha Kim M.D. has already established an active practice as part of the NIH Women's Health Clinic. It was also noted that Stacey Brown M.D. is no longer acting as NIH Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Medical Director, and that position is currently being filled by Charles Hooper M.D. on a temporary basis.

CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH VISIT

Ms. Alexander-Lane also reported that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) conducted a licensing survey on July 21 and 22, and has approved the licensing of Northern Inyo Hospital's infusion unit and several other departments and specialties within the hospital.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL
LEAVE ACT UPDATE

Ms. Alexander-Lane also stated that hospital administration continues to look into details of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) in an effort to determine whether or not more can be done to assist hospital employees who go out on extended leaves of absence due to illness.

A CASE FOR CHANGE

Ms. Alexander-Lane also provided an overview of the financial changes that have been made at the hospital in the last year, providing a history of what has been done and the reasons why changes were needed. She reminded those present that we have not raised prices for our patients, stating that hospital staff has been working together to move toward a business model that will help us to remain successful into the future. Ms. Lane additionally noted that we are losing a significant amount of money on our managed practices, and the hospital will conduct Lean projects for all of our service lines in order to determine potential areas for cost savings opportunities.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Ms. Alexander-Lane also stated that the District's next Strategic Planning sessions have been scheduled during the month of October. She additionally called attention to information on the expected future landscape of the healthcare industry and the strategies that will help us to navigate the changes that we can expect in the upcoming years.

CHIEF OF STAFF
REPORT

Vice Chief of Staff Richard Meredick, M.D. reported following careful review and consideration, the Medical Executive Committee recommends

PRIVILEGING AND
CREDENTIALING

Board approval of the following Medical Staff privileging and credentialing:

1. Appointment to the NIH Provisional Active Medical Staff for William Timbers, M.D. (Emergency Medicine)
2. Appointment to the NIH Provisional Active Medical Staff for Louisa Salisbury, M.D. (pediatrics)
3. Appointment to the NIH Provisional Active Medical Staff for Allison Robinson, M.D. (general surgery)
4. Advancement From Provisional status to Full and Unrestricted status for Sunny Sawyer, Physicians Assistant (Certified); Allied Health Provider

It was moved by Doctor Clark, seconded by Doctor Ungersma, and unanimously passed to approve physician privileging and credentialing items 1 through 3 as presented. It was then moved by Peter Watercott, seconded by Doctor Ungersma, and unanimously passed to also approve the advancement of Physician's Assistant Sunny Sawyer to Full and Unrestricted status as requested.

POLICY AND
PROCEDURE
APPROVALS

Doctor Meredick then reported following careful review, consideration, and approval by the appropriate Committees, the Medical Executive Committee also recommends approval of the following hospital wide Policies and Procedures:

1. *Supervision and Direction of Allied Health Professionals at RHC*
2. *RHC Clinic Provider QA Policy*
3. *Argon Laser Therapy (Ophthalmic)*
4. *Glutaraldehyde Use Station Gus-Station High-Level Disinfection Device*
5. *Scope of Service*
6. *Interim Guidance for Environmental Infection Control for Patients with Probable/Suspected Ebola Virus*
7. *Triage of Patients suspected of Ebola*

It was moved by Doctor Clark, seconded by Denise Hayden, and unanimously passed to approve hospital wide Policies and Procedures 1 through 7 as presented.

Doctor Meredick additionally reported that the Medical Executive Committee also recommends approval of the following forms:

1. Outpatient Clinic/Rural Health Clinic Clinical Privileges Form
2. RHC Provider Competency Form

It was moved by Mr. Watercott, seconded by Doctor Ungersma, and unanimously passed to approve both forms as presented.

CHIEF NURSING
OFFICER REPORT

Chief Nursing Officer Kathryn Decker RN provided a monthly Nursing Department report which included the following items:

1. Colleen Moxley, RN has accepted the position of Nursing Educator
2. Tracy Aspel, RN has accepted the position of Director of Nursing Practice
3. Paul Connolly with B.E. Smith will act as interim RHC Manager

4. Houda Rizk with B.E. Smith is acting interim Director of Rehabilitation Services

Ms. Decker additionally reported that the hospital will participate in a statewide disaster drill/medical health exercise during the month of September, which will involve a simulation of anthrax exposure. Ms. Decker also noted the following:

1. A Critical Care skills day for hospital staff will take place
2. Beta Healthcare has recognized the Hospital OB and Emergency Departments for excellence
3. The NIH RHC has been licensed for both family practice and women's health services
4. The number of swing beds at NIH has been increased to 15

PERFORMANCE
EXCELLENCE REPORT

Chief Performance Excellence Officer Maria Sirois provided a monthly report on Performance Excellence activities at NIH, including an update on Lean Six Sigma training and on the continuation of our Baldrige journey toward excellence. Ms. Sirois stated the importance of data analysis and measurement in the improvement and evaluation of organizational performance.

NIH FOUNDATION
BOARD MEMBER

Ms. Alexander-Lane then stated that approval of new NIH Foundation Board member Ken Partridge will be tabled to the next regular meeting of the District Board.

SURGERY UNIT
SERVICE AGREEMENT

Surgery Unit Nurse Manager Ann Wagoner RN called attention to a proposal for renewal of the hospital's surgery unit equipment service agreement with Steris Corporation. Following review of the information provided it was moved by Doctor Ungersma, seconded by Ms. Hayden and unanimously passed to approve the renewal of the Steris equipment service agreement as presented

FINANCIAL AND
STATISTICAL REPORTS
FOR JUNE 2015

Chief of Fiscal Services Carrie Petersen called attention to the financial and statistical reports for the month of June 2015, which showed the hospital realized a deficit for the month of approximately \$275,000. The hospital was over budget in revenue; however it was also over budget in expenses as well, losing approximately \$620,000 on net Medical Office activity. In spite of the loss for this month, the hospital has still realized a profit for the year-to-date in the amount of \$797,182. Ms. Petersen also reviewed the Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2015 as well as the status of the hospital's investments.

COMPENSATION
CLARIFICATION FOR
CATHERINE LEJA, MD

Ms. Alexander-Lane reported that clarification is needed regarding compensation for Catherine Leja, M.D.. Doctor Leja's most current agreement became effective on June 24 2013, however following discussion with the previous Administrator it was determined that Dr. Leja would be paid per the terms of her earlier agreement dated October 17 2012 and be compensated on a per patient basis. Following brief discussion it was moved by Doctor Ungersma, seconded by Doctor Clark,

and unanimously passed to approve continuing to compensate Doctor Leja per the terms of her October 17 2012 agreement.

EMERGENCY
DEPARTMENT
PROPOSAL

Ms. Alexander-Lane then called attention to a proposal from Emcare Incorporated to provide Emergency Department (ED) group physician coverage. Ms. Lane noted that the hospital's existing agreement with Eastern Sierra Emergency Physicians will expire in February of 2016, and she asked that the Board review the Emcare proposal in order to do due diligence regarding the possibility saving up to \$500,000 on the ED contract renewal. Ms. Alexander-Lane asked that the Board review the Emcare proposal in detail in preparation for possibly making a decision on ED coverage at the regular September meeting of the District Board.

BOARD MEMBER
REPORTS

Ms. Hubbard asked if any members of the Board of Directors wished to report on any items of interest. Doctor Ungersma reported the Hospital District is running informational sound clips on KIBS radio in order to provide general information to members of this community on a variety of hospital matters. No other reports were heard.

ADJOURNMENT TO
CLOSED SESSION

At 8:36 pm Ms. Hubbard announced the meeting would adjourn to closed session to allow the Board of Directors to:

- A. Hear reports on the hospital quality assurance activities from the responsible department head and the Medical Staff Executive Committee (*Section 32155 of the Health and Safety Code, and Section 54962 of the Government Code*).
- B. Confer with Legal Counsel regarding pending and threatened litigation, existing litigation and significant exposure to litigation (*Government Code Section 54956.9*).
- C. For discussion of the *Rural Health Physician Agreement* with Matthew Wise M.D. (*Government Code Section 54957*).

RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION AND REPORT
OF ACTION TAKEN

At 9:29 pm the meeting returned to open session. Ms. Hubbard reported that the Board took no reportable action.

RURAL HEALTH
PHYSICIAN
AGREEMENT WITH
MATTEW WISE, MD

Ms. Hubbard then called attention to approval of the *Rural Health Physician Agreement* with Matthew Wise, M.D.. It was moved by Doctor Ungersma, seconded by Doctor Clark, and unanimously passed to approve the *Rural Health Physician Agreement* with Matthew Wise M.D. as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm.

M.C. Hubbard, President

Attest:

D. Scott Clark, M.D., Secretary