

CALL TO ORDER	Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Board Chair Turner called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.
PRESENT	<p>Jean Turner, Chair Melissa Best-Baker, Vice Chair David Lent, Secretary David McCoy Barrett, Treasurer Laura Smith, Member at Large</p> <p>Christian Wallis, Interim Chief Executive Officer Allison Partridge, Chief Operations Officer / Chief Nursing Officer Alison Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer, Chief Business Development Officer Andrea Mossman, Chief Financial Officer Samantha Jeppsen, MD, Chief of Staff</p>
ABSENT	Adam Hawkins, DO, Chief Medical Officer
TELECONFERENCING	Notice has been posted, and a quorum participated from locations within the jurisdiction.
PUBLIC COMMENT	<p>Chair Turner reported that at this time, audience members may speak on any items not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of the Board.</p> <p>Public Comment: The Board received multiple public comments regarding the status of Dr. Bo Loy. Commenters expressed strong support for Dr. Loy's character, clinical expertise, and contributions to the hospital and community. They raised concerns about his suspension, citing a lack of transparency and its negative effects on staff morale, patient trust, and physician recruitment. Several emphasized personal experiences with Dr. Loy's exceptional care and questioned the fairness of the administrative actions taken. The Board was urged to improve communication and decision-making processes to retain qualified physicians and ensure accountability at all levels.</p>
CONSENT AGENDA	<p>Chair Turner called attention to the consent agenda.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, including:</p> <p>The Emergency Management Plan was accepted with the proposed change of ensuring the full Board is notified of any changes.</p> <p>Motion to approve the consent agenda: Best-Baker 2nd: Lent Pass: 5-0</p>
NEW BUSINESS	Chair Turner called attention to the CEO Report.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER REPORT**

CEO Report – Christian Wallis

Christian Wallis provided an update on recent organizational developments, including progress on the strategic plan and operational priorities. He acknowledged ongoing staffing and recruitment challenges and discussed efforts to stabilize leadership and clinical teams. Wallis also addressed concerns raised during Public Comment and stated that trust-building, transparency, and process improvements remain key goals. He concluded by thanking the board and staff for their support during a period of transition.

1. Mammoth Orthopedic Institute Partnership – Information Item

An update was shared on collaborative efforts and cross-coverage between NIHD and Mammoth Hospital. Positive initial feedback was noted. No Board action taken.

2. The Joint Commission Survey Update – Information Item

The District is preparing for the next survey. Internal readiness assessments are underway.

3. Capital Equipment Purchase

- a. Public comment: A speaker questioned the timing and justification of the equipment purchase, given recent administrative concerns.
- b. Staff emphasized the importance of these purchases, noting that investment in surgical infrastructure such as the Spider Shoulder Positioner and Hana Table is vital for retaining top clinical talent and ensuring high-quality patient care.

- Spider Shoulder Positioner – \$29,200
- Hana Table – \$150,000

Motion to approve the capital equipment purchase of Spider Shoulder Positioner and the Hana Table: Smith
2nd: Best-Baker
Pass: 5-0

CHIEF OF STAFF REPORT

Chair Turner called attention to the Chief of Staff Report

Motion to approve the Medical Staff Initial Appointments 2025-2026: Best-Baker
2nd: Barrett
Pass: 5-0

Motion to approve Medical Staff Initial Appointments 2025-2026 – Proxy Credentialing: Best-Baker
2nd: Lent
Pass: 5-0

Medical Executive Committee Meeting Report

1. Dr. Jeppsen reported that the committee had recently reviewed data on provider performance and peer review outcomes, focusing on opportunities for improvement and identifying educational needs. She noted that the

committee continues to monitor trends and address any emerging issues to support quality of care and patient safety. No unusual patterns or critical incidents were reported during this period.

CHIEF HUMAN
RESOURCES OFFICER /
CHIEF BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Chair Turner called attention to the CHRO / CBDO Report

Alison Murray introduced her team.
Business Development Update

Community Engagement – Brittney Watson

1. NIHD is in early conversations with the City and other local organizations about potential wellness events to improve visibility and engagement.
2. Board members asked for clarification on what had been achieved during the past quarter.
 - a. The team remained in a “listening and outreach” phase and had not yet finalized any formal initiatives.
 - b. The Board requested a written community engagement strategy with clear outcomes and specific timelines, goals, and measurable results.

Grants – Brittney Watson

1. The team is beginning to identify potential funding sources to support outreach and engagement efforts. The FLEX and SHIP grants are opportunities under preliminary review.
2. Public comment: Who is the grant writer and how much funding has been secured to date?
 - a. Carole Newark was identified as the grant writer
 - b. The Board requested funding totals and grant outcomes.
3. NIHD is exploring endowments and foundation grants.
 - a. The Board requested a timeframe for when grant-related deliverables or updates would be brought back.

Government Relations – Brittney Watson

1. NIHD is monitoring state and federal programs for potential funding or regulatory changes that could impact rural healthcare. General communication with regional contacts has occurred, no formal legislative engagement or coordinated advocacy efforts have occurred.
2. The Board requested a formal legislative strategy of active engagement with policymakers advocating for the District’s priorities. The report should include current initiatives, contacts, and areas of policy focus.

Human Resources Plan – Marjorie Routt

1. There have been recent administrative transitions, and onboarding new department leaders is underway with a focus on stabilizing teams and aligning roles with District priorities.
2. Active recruitment for nursing, allied health, and specialty roles has been constrained by limited candidate pools and recruitment remains a top organizational priority.
3. Long-term housing solutions are needed to support workforce development, and the District is exploring partnerships to address this constraint.
4. The Board requested a report regarding:
 - a. Which platforms are currently in use

- b. A timeline for expansion to additional platforms such as Instagram
- c. Metrics or milestones for evaluating impact
- 5. The Board requested that the District reach out to Cerro Coso and the EMCC (Emergency Medical Care Committee, so EMT students can be on boarded to obtain clinical hours.

Marketing – Barb Laughon

- 1. Recent marketing efforts, highlighting key accomplishments such as:
 - a. Promoting NIHD’s recognition as one of the top 100 critical access hospitals.
 - b. Coverage of the new Behavioral Health Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP).
 - c. A video and outreach campaign focused on mental health resources and suicide prevention.
 - d. Internal campaigns supporting surgical services and Women’s Health Week. She noted that these efforts aim to increase community trust, raise awareness, and reinforce NIHD’s branding.
- 2. Backend updates, including refinement of the NIHD website layout, search engine optimization, and steps to improve digital engagement, are underway.
 - a. The Board requested a marketing plan that includes concrete goals, a timeline for implementation, and clear metrics for evaluating effectiveness.
- 3. Senator Alvarado-Gil is scheduled to attend the Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance event on September 27, 2025, which will take place at the Tri-County Fairgrounds. The District has extended an invitation for a visit to NIHD, but no formal meeting time has been confirmed by the Senator’s office.
 - a. NIHD will follow up with the Senator’s staff and notify the Board if a meeting can be arranged.

**CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER REPORT**

Chair Turner introduced the CFO report

Financial and Statistical Report

- 1. The Board reviewed current financial performance, noting revenue and expense trends year-to-date.
 - a. Financial updates will include:
 - i. Days in accounts receivable (AR)
 - ii. Denial rates
 - iii. A timeline for improvements tied to new billing processes
- 2. NIHD will present the Board with a revised capital plan. It will include capital project expenditures, and long-term infrastructure planning.
- 3. NIHD will present the Finance Committee with an updated investment performance report and the process for aligning strategy with cash flow needs

Motion to accept the Financial and Statistical Reports: Smith
2nd: Best-Baker
Pass: 5-0

GENERAL INFORMATION
FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Legal counsel will meet with Board members requesting information on retroactively changing their vote from a previous meeting.

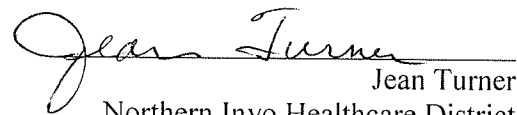
Legal counsel will advise the Board on how to request agenda items be added.


The Board requested follow-up on three items raised at the previous meeting:

- Conflicts of Interest.
- A response to financial questions related to long-term infrastructure planning and retroactive approval of prior financial reports.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 8:23 pm.


Jean Turner
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Chair

Attest: 
David Lent
Northern Inyo Healthcare District Chair
Secretary