

- CALL TO ORDER** Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Governance Chair Lent called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.
- PRESENT** David Lent, Governance Chair
Laura Smith, Governance Vice-Chair

Christian Wallis, Chief Executive Officer
Allison Partridge, Chief Operations Officer / Chief Nursing Officer
Alison Murray, Chief Business Development Officer / Chief Human Resources Officer
- PUBLIC COMMENT** Chair Lent reported that at this time, audience members may speak on any items on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of the Board.

Public Comment: None
- BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN** Committee members reviewed the Board Self-Assessment Action Plan and noted that the plan is substantially complete, with remaining items expected to be addressed during an upcoming special meeting with Jacob Green. The item will remain under Governance Committee oversight until those final items are completed.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None
- MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 13, 2026** **Motion by** Lent to approve the meeting minutes for January 13, 2026
Pass: 1-0
Abstain: Smith
- BOARD RESOLUTION – CONSOLIDATED ELECTION** **Motion by** Smith to move the Consolidate Elections Resolution to the full board
2nd: Lent
Pass: 2-0
- ADVOCACY UPDATE** **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS LOBBYIST**

CEO Wallis presented the potential engagement of a legislative affairs lobbyist to support advocacy efforts, including monitoring healthcare-related legislation, coordinating outreach to policymakers, and representing the District’s interests. He provided an overview of potential costs and services

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:
The committee discussed the potential value of engaging a lobbyist to strengthen advocacy efforts and explored the possibility of collaborating with other regional hospitals to share costs. Members also discussed the indirect nature of legislative influence and the importance of aligning advocacy

priorities with organizational needs.

Voting:

No action taken; staff directed to return with additional information on costs, scope, and potential partnership opportunities.

CSDA SITE VISIT WITH LEGISLATORS

CEO Wallis provided an update on a planned CSDA-coordinated site visit with legislative representatives and staff scheduled for April 23. The visit will include discussion of rural health transformation initiatives, relevant legislation, and a tour of hospital facilities.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

Members agreed to recommend that Governance Committee members attend on behalf of the Board.

REPRESENTATIVE TANGIPA, BILL FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

CEO Wallis provided an update on legislative engagement with Representative Tangipa's office regarding a proposed bill for financial support. Following outreach from legislative staff, a placeholder bill was established, and a request of approximately \$2.5 million was submitted to address near-term financial needs and support operational stability, with no guarantee of funding at this stage.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

POTENTIAL FOR JOINT
MEETING WITH NIHD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND SMHD BOARD OF
DIRECTORS CEO

CEO Wallis presented a proposal to hold a joint meeting between the Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) and Southern Mono Healthcare District (SMHD) Boards of Directors, noting increased collaboration between leadership teams and a shared interest in strengthening regional coordination and communication.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

The committee discussed the value of continued collaboration between the two organizations and expressed support for fostering stronger regional relationships. Members noted that a joint meeting would promote alignment, communication, and shared understanding of regional healthcare needs.

Motion by Smith to recommend the joint board meeting to the full board.

2nd: Lent

Pass: 2-0

LEGAL CLAIMS

CEO Wallis presented a discussion regarding the handling of legal claims and clarified the distinction between routine administrative matters and claims requiring Board involvement. An example of a late claim was provided to illustrate standard administrative handling.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

The committee discussed appropriate thresholds for Board review of legal claims and supported an approach in which routine or time-barred claims are handled administratively, while significant or active claims are brought forward to the Board as needed.

HOSPITAL EVENTS

CEO Wallis initiated a discussion regarding Board member participation in hospital events, including expectations for visibility and engagement during staff and community activities.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

The committee discussed the value of Board member presence at hospital events as a demonstration of support and engagement. Members expressed a preference to attend and be recognized as present, while avoiding formal roles or prominent recognition during events.

BOARD BYLAWS

Staff presented proposed updates to the Board Bylaws to reflect recent changes in governance structure, committee organization, and current operational practices, along with minor administrative edits.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

The committee discussed the proposed updates and noted the importance of clearly defining governance roles, including reaffirming that authority resides with the full Board while the Chair serves in a coordinating role. Members expressed support for aligning the bylaws with current practices.

Motion by Lent to move the Board Bylaws to the full board for approval

2nd: Smith

Pass: 2-0

GENERAL INFORMATION

None


Adjournment

Adjourn at 2:45 pm.



David Lent
Northern Inyo Healthcare District

Governance Chair

Attest:  _____
Laura Smith
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Governance Vice-Chair