

CALL TO ORDER	Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Governance Chair Lent called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.
PRESENT	David Lent, Governance Chair Laura Smith, Governance Committee Vice-Chair Christian Wallis, Chief Executive Officer Alison Murray, Chief Business Development Officer / Chief Human Resources Officer Patty Dickson, Compliance Officer
ABSENT	Allison Partridge, Chief Operations Officer / Chief Nursing Officer Adam Hawkins, Chief Medical Officer Andrea Mossman, Chief Financial 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
ADVOCACY UPDATE	CEO Christian Wallis introduced Tim Madden, legislative advocate, to provide an overview of the California legislative process and review healthcare-related legislation relevant to Northern Inyo Healthcare District. Mr. Madden explained the structure of California's two-year legislative session, the committee and appropriations process, suspense file procedures, floor votes, and gubernatorial action on legislation. Discussion included how organizations may support, oppose, or monitor legislation, the timing of advocacy engagement, and how bills may change through amendments during the legislative process. Madden and CEO Wallis then reviewed the District's legislative tracking spreadsheet, including priority healthcare-related state and federal bills. Discussion included legislation related to distressed hospital funding, healthcare affordability impacts on hospitals, health professional shortage areas (HPSAs), Medi-Cal retroactive eligibility, rural provider grants, school-based health clinic grant opportunities, physician licensing pathways, and freestanding emergency department models. Committee members also discussed the importance of monitoring legislation impacting rural healthcare access and aligning advocacy efforts with organizations such as the California Hospital Association (CHA), Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD), and California Special Districts Association (CSDA). Due to time constraints, the committee paused review of several remaining Priority 2 and Priority 3 legislative items, with plans to continue discussion at a future Governance Committee meeting. Public Comment: None Board Discussion: Committee members discussed the value of understanding the legislative

process, the importance of early engagement on legislation, and the District's role in monitoring and advocating on healthcare policy issues affecting rural hospitals and healthcare districts. Committee members expressed appreciation for having legislative expertise available to assist the District in identifying and prioritizing bills that may impact hospital operations, healthcare access, and funding.

JOINT BOARD MEETING

CEO Wallis provided a brief update regarding the recent joint board meeting between Northern Inyo Healthcare District and Mammoth Hospital and discussed continuing regional collaboration conversations between the organizations. CEO Wallis also noted that a future joint board meeting in Bishop was anticipated for September 2026.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

Committee members discussed the value of continued communication and collaboration between regional healthcare organizations.

**MEETING MINUTES -
APRIL 8, 2026**

Motion by Smith to approve the meeting minutes for April 8, 2026

2nd: Lent

Pass: 2-0

VALUES AND TAG LINES

Draft organizational values and tagline concepts developed from prior Governance Committee discussions, existing District materials, and the 2024 Strategic Plan process were reviewed. Discussion included comparing current District values, Board values, and strategic planning language, as well as potential tagline options intended to support organizational identity and public messaging.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

Committee members discussed similarities and differences between the District's existing organizational values, Board values, and values identified during the strategic planning process.

Motion by Smith to move the Values to the full board for approval

2nd: Lent

Pass: 2-0

GENERAL INFORMATION

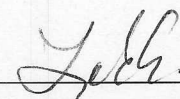
Committee members discussed the inclusion of the Pledge of Allegiance at Board meetings and shared differing perspectives regarding the practice. Discussion included balancing longstanding meeting traditions with ensuring meetings remain welcoming and inclusive to all members of the public. Committee members requested that the CEO consider adding the topic to a future regular Board meeting agenda for further discussion.

Adjournment

Adjourn at 3:04 pm.



David Lent
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Governance Chair

Attest: 

Laura Smith
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Governance Vice-Chair