CALL TO ORDER	Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Board Vice-Chair Lent called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.
PRESENT	David Lent, Vice-Chair Maggie Egan, Secretary Jean Turner, Member at Large Christian Wallis, 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
ABSENT	Melissa Best-Baker, Chair Laura Smith, Treasurer Adam Hawkins, Chief Medical Officer
TELECONFERENCING	Notice has been posted, and a quorum participated from locations within the jurisdiction.
PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS	Vice-Chair Lent reported that at this time, audience members may speak only on closed session agenda items. **Public Comment:** None
ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION	Adjourn to closed session at 4:17 pm.
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION	Return to open session at 5:23 pm.
REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION	No reportable action
PUBLIC COMMENT	Vice-Chair Lent reported that at this time, audience members may speak on any items not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of the Board. **Public Comment:** None
CONSENT AGENDA	**Public Comment:** None **Board Discussion:** None **Motion by** Turner to approve the consent agenda. **2nd:** Egan **Pass:** 3-0
CONSIDERATION OF CREDENTIALING	**Public Comment:** None

ACTIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE MEDICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Board Discussion: None

Motion by Turner to approve the credentialing actions recommended by the Medical Executive Committee
2nd: Egan
Pass: 3-0

MEDICAL STAFF BYLAWS

MEC Chair Dr. Jeppsen presented proposed amendments to the Medical Staff Bylaws, including revisions intended to expand physician representation on the Medical Executive Committee. Dr. Jeppsen explained that one proposed amendment would establish separate positions for the Chiefs of Anesthesia, Orthopedics, and Surgery to increase surgical representation. She noted that while the Medical Executive Committee had hoped to implement the changes in July, delaying action until August would not create a significant operational impact.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:
Board members discussed the proposed amendments and the importance of conducting a thorough review of the Medical Staff Bylaws before taking action. One Board member expressed that approval of the amendments also represented approval of the bylaws as a whole and requested additional time to review the document

Motion by Egan to bring the Medical Staff Bylaw amendments to the July 2026 meeting.
2nd: Turner
Pass: 3-0

CEO REPORT

Auxiliary Report

Auxiliary representatives Giansetto and Fratella provided an update on Auxiliary activities and volunteer efforts. They reported preparations for the annual holiday boutique, ongoing recruitment of new members through community outreach, and participation in local events to increase awareness of the Auxiliary. They also reported that volunteers contributed 6,882 service hours during the past year, an increase of more than 2,000 hours over the previous year, bringing the organization's cumulative volunteer service to 316,918 hours since 1988. Representatives announced plans to raffle a handmade quilt during the upcoming holiday boutique in addition to the annual $1,000 raffle. Hospital leadership recognized the Auxiliary's longstanding support of the District through annual donations for capital equipment and committed to providing a list of equipment funding requests for the Auxiliary's July meeting.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

Board members commended the Auxiliary for its outstanding volunteer service and discussed the organization's ability to foster long-term member engagement and a welcoming volunteer culture. The Board expressed appreciation for the Auxiliary's continued dedication and its lasting contributions to the District and the community.

Foundation Report

Foundation Board Member Watercott presented an update on Foundation activities and fundraising efforts. He reported that the Foundation established an annual fundraising goal of $250,000 and continues to explore sustainable fundraising opportunities following previous signature events. He highlighted the recent Bunco fundraiser, which generated approximately $2,000 in net proceeds while providing strong community participation. He also reported that the Foundation contributed more than $2,000 toward the stereotactic mammography machine and more than $3,000 toward improvements to the Healing Garden, and noted that the Foundation will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the CARE Shuttle in August.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:
Board members discussed potential fundraising opportunities, including the use of a silent auction in conjunction with future fundraising events. Appreciation was expressed for the Foundation's ongoing efforts to support the District through fundraising and community engagement.

NIH Bishop Housing

CHRO Murray presented an overview of the District's workforce housing needs and the operational benefits of securing ten units in the proposed Bishop Commons workforce housing development. She explained that housing continues to be a significant recruitment and retention challenge, particularly for traveling healthcare professionals and newly hired permanent employees who often require temporary housing while relocating to the area. She noted that the proposed one-bedroom units would provide appropriate accommodations for single occupants, allowing larger single-family homes to remain available for families relocating to the community. She also reported that the District continues to utilize Joseph House and local motels to meet workforce housing needs, but demand continues to exceed available resources.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:
Board members discussed the District's current workforce housing resources, including the use of Joseph House and local motels, and expressed support for the proposed workforce housing units as a means of improving recruitment while preserving larger homes for families.

Bishop Commons Worker Housing Memorandum of Understanding

CEO Wallis presented a proposed non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Foothill Partners regarding the District's interest in reserving ten workforce housing units within the proposed Bishop Commons development. He explained that the MOU would demonstrate the District's interest in the project and assist Foothill Partners in securing project financing, while creating no binding obligation for the District. Legal counsel reported that the MOU had been reviewed and determined to be a standard, non-binding agreement.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:
Board members discussed the omission of the MOU from the meeting packet and options for proceeding with the request. Following discussion and confirmation from legal counsel regarding the agreement's non-binding nature, the Board approved the MOU contingent upon review by the participating Board members prior to execution.

Motion by Turner to approve the Bishop Commons Worker Housing MOU contingent on no challenges by June 30, 2026
2nd: Egan
Pass: 3-0

Strategic Growth, Wipfli/WOLD

CEO Wallis provided a strategic growth update on the District's ongoing master facility planning and Medical Office Building (MOB) project. He reported that planning continues on the proposed MOB while the District is also pursuing renovations to the PMA Building to address immediate space constraints for physicians and specialists. The proposed PMA redesign would increase exam room capacity from 17 to 32 rooms while incorporating a more efficient team-based layout designed to support future conversion of the building to administrative space. He also reported that Dr. Reed's office would be relocated to allow phased construction and that the City approved consolidating the Reed property with the existing campus, creating a single site for future development of the Medical Office Building.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: Board members expressed support for the progress made on the District's strategic growth initiatives and discussed the importance of communicating the purpose and long-term value of the facility improvements to the community.

Opening Meeting Routine

CEO Wallis presented a request to reconsider the Board's opening meeting routine following a Board member's request to return the item for further discussion. It was noted that the Board had previously agreed to retain the Mission and Vision Statement as part of the agenda and that the current action item pertained only to the Pledge of Allegiance the beginning of regular Board meetings.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:
Board members discussed adding recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the opening meeting routine while emphasizing the importance of maintaining the Board's nonpartisan role.

Motion by Turner to add the pledge of allegiance to the opening meeting routine
2nd: Egan
Pass: 3-0

CHRO

Retirement Accounts
USI Consulting Group Partner and Vice President Herskowitz presented the annual actuarial valuation of the District's retirement plan and provided an overview of the plan's funding status, investment performance, and employer contribution requirements. He reported that the pension plan's funded status has increased from approximately 15% in 2020–2021 to 45%, reflecting the District's ongoing commitment to funding the plan and implementing improved governance practices. He also noted that pension assets have grown from approximately $10–11 million to nearly $26 million, supported by consistent employer contributions and investment performance. He commended District leadership, Human Resources, Finance, and the Pension Committee for their continued commitment to strengthening the retirement program.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:
Board members acknowledged the significant progress made in improving the pension plan's funded status and expressed appreciation for the efforts of District leadership and staff in strengthening the retirement program.

CFO REPORT

Financial and Statistical Report

CFO Mossman presented the April Financial and Statistical Report. She explained that April operating results reflected a one-time accounting correction to reverse a duplicate revenue entry from the District's electronic health record system, resulting in a temporary negative impact to the month's operating income, while underlying operating performance continued to exceed revenue expectations. She reported continued growth in orthopedic and surgical service volumes, a $5 million increase in cash during the fiscal year, and improvements in accounts receivable, with collection times reduced by 19 days compared to the prior year. She also reported that days cash on hand increased to 103 days, unrestricted funds grew to $34 million, and bond covenant requirements continued to exceed minimum thresholds. She concluded by highlighting ongoing initiatives to improve operating room utilization, service line growth, revenue cycle performance, and financial benchmarking, expressing confidence that the District remains on track to end the fiscal year with strong financial results.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:
Board members discussed the April financial results, including the impact of the one-time accounting correction, and expressed appreciation for the District's continued financial improvement and the Finance Department's efforts.

Motion by Egan to accept the Financial and Statistical Report
2nd: Turner
Pass: 3-0

GENERAL INFORMATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board members expressed appreciation for the continued contributions of the Auxiliary and Foundation and requested formal recognition of Auxiliary members for their longstanding volunteer service to the District. Members also highlighted community recognition received during Mule Days, including acknowledgment of the hospital's nearly 80 years of service to the Eastern Sierra and recognition of Chief Executive Officer Wallis by Senator Alvarado-Gil for his leadership and contributions to healthcare and the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 6:36 pm.

Melissa Best-Baker
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Chair

Attest:

Maggie Egan
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Secretary