

CALL TO ORDER	Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Governance Vic-Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.
PRESENT	Laura Smith, Governance Committee Vice-Chair Jean Turner, Governance Alternate Christian Wallis, Chief Executive Officer Allison Partridge, Chief Operations Officer / Chief Nursing Officer Adam Hawkins, Chief Medical Officer Alison Murray, Chief Business Development Officer / Chief Human Resources Officer Patty Dickson, Compliance Officer
ABSENT	David Lent, Governance Chair 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	Legislative Advocate Madden provided an overview of the final month of the 2025–2026 legislative session, noting that bills still moving must pass the Legislature by the end of August to advance to the Governor. He explained the Appropriations Committee suspense file process, under which bills exceeding specified fiscal thresholds are placed on the suspense file and considered collectively based on their potential fiscal impact to the State. Bills released from the suspense file may continue through the legislative process, while those held generally do not advance. Madden also explained the “gut and amend” process, in which the existing contents of a bill are removed and replaced with a substantially different subject while retaining the original bill number. He noted that the amended bill may be referred back through the appropriate policy committees, but must still meet the remaining legislative deadlines, significantly shortening the timeframe for consideration. • AB 1923 – The hospital-related provisions were removed after \$250 million for the Distressed Hospital Loan Program and related provisions were included in the State budget. The bill was subsequently gutted and amended to address local ballot measures in Fresno County and will no longer be tracked as a District healthcare priority. • AB 2353 – The California Hospital Association-sponsored bill requiring evaluation of the financial impact of proposed legislation on hospitals was stopped in the Senate Health Committee and will not move forward this session.

- AB 2208 – The bill aligning California Medi-Cal law with federal changes under H.R. 1 was placed on the Senate Appropriations Suspense File, with action expected following the suspense file hearing.
- AB 1607 – The bill extending the Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund sunset date advanced to the Senate floor and, if approved, will proceed to the Governor.
- H.R. 8209 – The federal bill that could provide grant opportunities for school-based health centers remains pending consideration by the full House of Representatives.

OHCA:

The Committee discussed the Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) and the proposed implementation of the statewide 3.5% healthcare spending growth target. The background information was presented on the creation of OHCA and explained that regulations under development could establish financial penalties for healthcare organizations that exceed the spending target. The Committee discussed concerns regarding the District's ability to meet the target given labor costs, inflation, capital needs, and other operating expenses, as well as uncertainty regarding how labor costs may be considered when determining compliance.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

The Committee requested a future Board update on the anticipated impacts of H.R. 1 on the District and local Medi-Cal recipients as additional information becomes available. The Committee also discussed monitoring funding available through the Distressed Hospital Loan Program for potential District eligibility, including possible funding for a future Medical Office Building.

The Committee discussed concerns regarding the Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) spending target and the District's ability to meet the target given labor costs, inflation, capital needs, and other operating expenses. The Committee supported participating in advocacy efforts regarding the proposed requirements. CEO Wallis will work with Legislative Advocate Madden and the California Hospital Association to determine the appropriate advocacy response, including preparation of a letter for consideration by the full Board.

**JOINT BOARD MEETING
UPDATE**

CEO Wallis reported that the Joint Board Meeting with Mammoth Hospital is scheduled for September 10, 2026, with an NIH hospital tour beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the NIHD campus and the joint session beginning at noon at the Boardroom. A consultant has been retained to facilitate the meeting and will interview Board members in advance to gather perspectives on the current relationship between the districts, opportunities for future collaboration, potential concerns, and desired outcomes for the meeting. He emphasized that the goal is for the meeting to result in meaningful direction and identification of potential opportunities for future collaboration rather than simply holding a

general discussion. Legal counsel with antitrust expertise has also been retained to provide guidance regarding appropriate parameters for discussions between the two organizations.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

The Committee discussed the consultant's planned interviews and the importance of establishing clear objectives for the joint meeting. Members expressed support for the structured approach and interest in identifying productive opportunities for future collaboration between the two districts.

STRATEGIC PLAN

CEO Wallis reported that the Strategic Plan is being updated while retaining many of the core elements of the existing plan. The revised plan will incorporate work completed over the past year, current strategic growth efforts, and initiatives already underway. He reported that the updated plan will be reviewed by the Executive Team and Governance Committee before returning to the Board for formal approval. Once approved, the plan will be used to track progress on strategic initiatives.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

MEETING MINUTES -
JULY 7, 2026

Motion by Turner to approve the meeting minutes for July 7, 2026
2nd: Smith
Pass: 2-0

BOARD REQUEST FOR
AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee reviewed a proposed process for Board members to request items for placement on future Board agendas. A standing agenda item would provide each Board member an opportunity to identify a requested future topic and briefly explain the purpose of the request. Another Board member would need to indicate support for the request before it moves forward; however, this would not constitute a formal vote or require support from a quorum of the Board. The process is intended to provide a consistent and transparent method for handling Board-requested agenda items.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

The Committee discussed how much information a Board member may provide when requesting an agenda item and the importance of avoiding substantive discussion of an item that has not been properly noticed. Members discussed allowing a brief explanation of the requested topic so other Board members have sufficient information to determine whether they support placing it on a future agenda. The Committee supported moving the proposed process forward and incorporating the procedure into the appropriate Board policy.

Motion by Turner to move the Board request for agenda items to the full board
2nd: Smith
Pass: 2-0

**BOARD MEETING
SCHEDULE**

CEO Wallis presented a proposal to consider moving regular Board meetings from the current 5:00 p.m. start time to daytime hours.

Pros identified included reducing late-night travel for Board members and outside presenters, particularly those traveling long distances; making Board service potentially more accessible to future candidates; making travel easier for guest presenters; and reducing staff overtime associated with evening meetings.

Cons identified included making it more difficult for working members of the public to attend and provide public comment and requiring Board members who work during the day to take time off or make arrangements with their employers to attend meetings.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

The Committee discussed the following potential benefits of moving Board meetings to daytime hours:

- Pros: Reduced staff overtime; increased availability of staff to participate during regular working hours; easier travel for presenters and others traveling long distances; and the potential to use time-certain agenda items to better accommodate presenters and topics of significant interest.
- Cons: Reduced accessibility for members of the public who work during the day; potential difficulty for employees wishing to attend or provide comment; and the need for working Board members to take time off or make arrangements with their employers.

The Committee discussed adjusting meeting times when significant public participation is anticipated and improving communication regarding meeting agendas and opportunities for public input. Members suggested the possibility of a trial period followed by an evaluation of the new meeting time.

Motion by Turner to move the Board meeting schedule to the full board
2nd: Smith
Pass: 2-0

GENERAL INFORMATION None

Adjournment

Adjourn at 2:57 pm.



Northern Inyo Healthcare District Board of Directors
Governance Committee Meeting

August 11, 2026

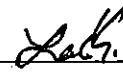
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David Lent

Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Governance Chair

Attest:



Laura Smith

Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Governance Vice-Chair