CALL TO ORDER	Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Finance Committee Chair Egan called the meeting to order at 8: am.
PRESENT	Maggie Egan, Finance Committee Chair Melissa Best-Baker, Finance Committee Vice-Chair Christian Wallis, Chief Executive Officer Andrea Mossman, Chief Financial Officer Allison Partridge, Chief Operations Officer / Chief Nursing Officer Adam Hawkins, Chief Medical Officer Alison Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer, Chief Business Development Officer Patty Dickson, Compliance Officer
TELECONFERENCING	Notice has been posted, and a quorum participated from locations within the jurisdiction.
PUBLIC COMMENT	Finance Chair Egan 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
NIH FOUNDATION DONATION	CNO/COO Partridge informed the Board that the Northern Inyo Hospital Foundation donated approximately $30,000 to the District to outfit patient rooms for the Cardiology Department. She publicly thanked the Foundation for its support and contribution to the hospital. **Public Comment:** None **Board Discussion:** The Board expressed appreciation to the Foundation for its support and enthusiasm for the donation and its benefit to the Cardiology Department.
GO BOND UPDATE	CEO Wallis provided an update on the District's ongoing management of the General Obligation Bonds. He reported that staff are establishing a separate bank account to segregate GO Bond funds and simplify the tracking and payment of future bond obligations. The District is also working with its bond consultants to ensure required disclosures are current and to establish an annual process for maintaining bond-related reporting. **Public Comment:** None **Board Discussion:** The Board emphasized the importance of clearly communicating that the GO Bonds and the taxpayers' obligation to repay them were approved by the voters. The Board discussed that its current responsibility is to determine how the existing bond obligation is repaid, including establishing an appropriate tax rate and repayment period. The Board supported developing clear educational

information for the public, including updating Consultant Scaglione's educational video and working with the Marketing Team to make it available on the District's website.

HEALTHTRUST BENCHMARKING UPDATE

Benchmarking is the process of comparing an organization's performance, practices, and costs against industry standards or similar organizations to identify areas for improvement and greater efficiency.

CEO Wallis reported that the District received the results of the HealthTrust benchmarking assessment conducted in May and is reviewing the data to validate the findings and identify opportunities for improved efficiency. He noted that the review will consider both immediate savings opportunities and longer-term improvements, particularly through better management and measurement of productive and non-productive staff time. The District expects the review and implementation process to continue over the next several months.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

RHTP (RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROJECT) UPDATE

CEO Wallis reported that the District is pursuing three RHTP grant opportunities. The first is an approximately $1.8 million Eastern Sierra Women's Health Program in partnership with Mammoth Hospital, Southern Inyo Hospital, and Toiyabe Indian Health Project, with NIHD serving as the regional hub to support recruitment, retention, training, and telehealth for maternal and women's health services. The second application seeks funding for EHR modernization and a potential transition to Epic, with a longer-term goal of regional EHR alignment. The third is a collaborative chronic disease and preventive care initiative that would conduct patient outreach to improve follow-up care and screenings.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:
The Board discussed the regional Women's Health Program, including the lack of obstetrical services at neighboring hospitals and the use of telehealth to support emergency deliveries when needed.

SERVICE LINE UPDATE

CEO Wallis provided updates on behavioral health, dermatology, and telehealth services. The District is developing a contract with Dr. Jacob Headey to assess current behavioral health services, provide clinical oversight, and develop a longer-term integrated behavioral health program. Dr. Pam Mendel is completing credentialing to provide dermatology services approximately two days per month, with services anticipated to begin in late September. The District is also evaluating Eagle as a new telehealth partner, initially focusing on endocrinology, gastroenterology, and rheumatology, while pursuing grant funding to update telehealth equipment.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:
The Board discussed the availability and consistency of California-licensed providers through Eagle and the location of future telehealth services. Staff reported that Eagle anticipates providing consistent physicians with backup coverage and that the District will evaluate the most appropriate location for the program.

STRATEGIC GROWTH WIPFLI/WOLD UPDATE

CEO Wallis reported that the District received the market assessment as part of its strategic growth planning. The Executive Team will use the assessment to identify priority specialties for future recruitment and incorporate those selections into long-range financial forecasting. He noted that lower-demand specialties, including rheumatology, endocrinology, and gastroenterology, were identified for telehealth. The analysis will also evaluate projected patient volumes and revenue associated with a potential Medical Office Building to determine whether anticipated growth could support the cost of the project.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Egan to approve the meeting minutes from July 7, 2026
2nd: Best-Baker
Pass: 2-0

RADIOLOGY RFP

CNO/COO Partridge reported that the District released a Request for Proposals for professional radiology services on August 5, 2026, to evaluate available options for continuing radiology services. The RFP is open through the end of August, after which proposals will be evaluated using the criteria established in the RFP. She noted that the process is intended to evaluate available service options and may or may not result in a change from the current provider.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:
The Board discussed the current provider contract, the RFP timeline, and outreach to potential respondents. Staff reported that the current contract expires in January, the existing provider has been notified and may submit a proposal, and the District has directly notified several potential respondents. The RFP is also posted on the District's website and Radiology Today to broaden outreach.

INVESTMENT REPORT

CFO Mossman presented a new quarterly investment report and reported that the District's investments increased from approximately $10.2 million to $37.6 million during the fiscal year. She reviewed the District's investment accounts, including LAIF and Five Star, and noted that approximately $24 million was placed with Five Star during the year.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:
The Board discussed the purpose and history of a nursing scholarship account with a balance of approximately $25,000. Staff will continue researching the account and its historical use to determine how the funds have been administered.

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORT

CFO Mossman reported that the District ended the fiscal year ahead of budget, with revenue approximately $8 million above budget driven by increased volumes in orthopedics, urology, general surgery, and inpatient services. Operating expenses exceeded budget by approximately $8.6 million due in part to increased volumes, supply costs, professional fees, and unbudgeted MOU wage increases; however, the operating loss remained close to budget. She reported that the District achieved positive operating income during the final two quarters of the fiscal year, grew cash by approximately $11.1 million, reduced accounts receivable days to 64, and increased unrestricted funds to nearly $40 million. She noted that approximately $4 million of the year's income resulted from the Employee Retention Credit and emphasized that continued operational efficiencies and service line growth remain important to sustaining the improvement.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:
The Board discussed productivity-based physician compensation and its relationship to increased surgical volumes and physician engagement. Members also discussed improvements in revenue cycle performance, employee benefit costs, pension funding, and the importance of continued departmental ownership and accountability for budgets. The Board recognized the positive financial progress and staff and leadership efforts that contributed to the year-end results.

GENERAL INFORMATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 9:00 am

Maggie Egan
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Finance Committee Chair

Attest: Melissa Best-Baker
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Finance Committee Vice-Chair