

CALL TO ORDER	Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Board Chair Best-Baker called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.
PRESENT	Melissa Best-Baker, Chair David Lent, Vice-Chair Maggie Egan, Secretary Laura Smith, Treasurer Jean Turner, Member at Large Christian Wallis, Chief Executive Officer Adam Hawkins, Chief Medical Officer Allison Partridge, Chief Operations Officer / Chief Nursing Officer Alison Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer, Chief Business Development Officer Andrea Mossman, Chief Financial Officer
TELECONFERENCING	Notice has been posted, and a quorum participated from locations within the jurisdiction.
PUBLIC COMMENT	Chair Best-Baker 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
CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND CALIFORNIA RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION (CalRHT) EHR MODERNIZATION GRANT FUNDS	CEO Wallis explained that the CalRHT EHR Modernization Grant requires a public entity applicant to provide governing body authorization to execute the grant agreement and accept, receive, and expend an award of up to \$2 million. The Special Meeting was scheduled to obtain that authorization before submission of the grant application. Wallis reviewed the District's current Cerner EHR, noting that NIHD is in a 10-year contract through 2030 with annual sustainment costs of approximately \$1.8 million. He discussed concerns with the original implementation and limitations with the system's data and reporting capabilities, which have affected the District's ability to rely on the information for data-driven decision-making. Wallis compared the current system with the proposed Epic implementation through Renown. He discussed Epic's capabilities and the additional technical support that would be available through Renown, noting that this would provide NIHD with more direct assistance than it currently receives. Wallis reviewed NIHD's eligibility for the current grant cycle, explaining that first-year funding prioritizes organizations moving from paper or non-certified records to a certified EHR. Because NIHD already has a certified EHR, its application will receive fewer points; however, the District intends to apply in case funding remains available and, if unsuccessful, would have an application prepared for a future funding cycle.

Wallis reviewed the financial considerations of transitioning systems. Approximately \$3.2 million remains on the Cerner contract over the next three years, while annual support through Renown is estimated to cost approximately \$600,000 less; after accounting for those savings, Wallis estimated the transition would result in approximately \$1.4 million in additional costs over three years. If the grant is awarded, the grant funding is expected to cover the Epic implementation costs.

Wallis identified benefits of transitioning to Epic, including interoperability with Renown and other Epic users, direct technical support, and the opportunity to support a regional EHR network. He described an “echo” approach in which NIHD could implement first, followed in future years by other regional healthcare organizations, creating greater connectivity among providers.

Wallis also identified disadvantages, including the estimated \$1.4 million financial impact over three years and the organizational burden of completing another EHR implementation after multiple system implementations in recent years.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion:

The Board discussed the financial and operational considerations of transitioning from Cerner to Epic, including the remaining Cerner contract obligations and the impact of undertaking another EHR implementation. Members discussed staff experience with the current Cerner system and noted that feedback regarding a potential transition to Epic had been positive. The Board also asked about other regional hospitals’ interest in Epic and alternative implementation options.

Motion by Turner to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of California Rural Health Transformation (CalRHT) EHR Modernization Grant funds.

2nd: Lent

Pass: 5-0

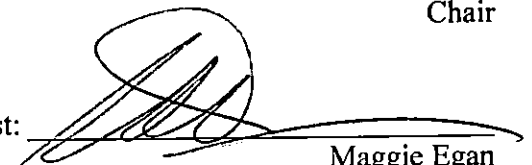
ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 8:00 pm.



Melissa Best-Baker
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Chair

Attest:



Maggie Egan
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Secretary