

CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Jean Turner, District Board Chair.
PRESENT	Jean Turner, Chair Robert Sharp, Vice Chair Jody Veenker, Secretary Mary Mae Kilpatrick, Treasurer Topah Spoonhunter, Member-At-Large Kelli Davis MBA, Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer Tracy Aspel RN, BSN, Chief Nursing Officer William Timbers MD, Interim Chief Medical Officer Charlotte Helvie MD, Vice Chief of Staff Peter Tracy, Jones and Mayer, Of Counsel
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT	Ms. Turner announced at this time persons in the audience may speak on any items not on the agenda on any matter within the jurisdiction of the District Board. Members of the audience will have an opportunity to address the Board on every item on the agenda, and speakers will be limited to a maximum of three minutes each. The Board is prohibited from generally discussing or taking action on items not included on the agenda for the meeting. Ms. Turner thanked District staff and providers for their heroic efforts during the Covid 19 pandemic, and opened the meeting in their honor. No other comments were heard.
NETWORK SECURITY PENETRATION TEST RESULTS	Interim Information Technology Director Bryan Harper provided the results of a network security penetration test, which was conducted to determine the security posture of Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) computer systems and identify any potential vulnerabilities. The test identified both positive elements of NIHD's electronic security systems as well as vulnerabilities, and as a result improvements have been implemented to elevate the level of electronic security at NIHD.
DISTRICT BOARD RESOLUTION 20-05, CARES ACT FUNDING	NIHD Financial Consultant Vinay Behl called attention to proposed District Board Resolution 20-05, which would allow for implementation of provisions in the CARES Act in order to help address the negative economic impact of Covid-19 on District employees. The proposed Resolution would allow District employees the opportunity to withdraw monies from their retirement plans without incurring penalties. It was moved by Robert Sharp, seconded by Jody Veenker, and unanimously passed to approve District Board Resolution 20-05 as presented.
PENSION FUNDING POLICY	Mr. Behl additionally called attention to a proposed Policy and Procedure titled <i>Pension Funding Policy</i> , which would allow flexibility for funding of the District's Defined Contribution and Defined Benefit retirement plans during the financially challenging times that have resulted from the

Covid 19 pandemic. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Eastern Sierra Staff Representative Jane McDonald commented that the Union would like more time to look at this issue prior to the policy being approved by the District Board. Interim Chief Executive Officer Kelli Davis noted that the proposed Policy has been thoroughly reviewed and vetted by District Legal Counsel. Director Sharp requested verification that the Policy would have no impact on District employees who have already retired or are about to retire, and Mr. Behl provided that assurance. It was moved by Ms. Veenker, seconded by Topah Spoonhunter, and unanimously passed to approve the proposed *Pension Funding Policy* as presented.

AMENDMENT 5 TO THE
NIHD DEFINED
BENEFIT RETIREMENT
PLAN

Mr. Behl additionally called attention to Amendment 5 to the Northern Inyo Healthcare District Retirement Plan, which amends the Plan to allow for the *Pension Funding Policy* that was just passed. It was moved by Mr. Sharp, seconded by Ms. Veenker, and unanimously passed to approve Amendment 5 to the NIHD Defined Benefit Retirement Plan as presented.

DISTRICT BOARD
RESOLUTION 20-06,
ANNUAL
APPROPRIATIONS
LIMIT

Mr. Behl also called attention to proposed District Board Resolution 20-06 which would establish the District Appropriations Limit for the July 1 2020 through June 30 2021 fiscal year. It was moved by Mr. Sharp, seconded by Mary Mae Kilpatrick, and unanimously passed to approve District Board Resolution 20-06 as presented.

DISTRICT BOARD
RESOLUTION 20-07, RE-
FUNDING OF 2010
REVENUE BONDS

Mr. Behl additionally called attention to proposed District Board Resolution 20-07, which would authorize commencement of proceedings to re-fund the District's 2010 revenue bonds, in order to reduce annual debt service payments. It was moved by Ms. Veenker, seconded by Mr. Spoonhunter, and unanimously passed to approve District Board Resolution 20-07 as presented.

PRESENTATIONS ON
MANAGEMENT OF
NIHD INVESTMENT
PORTFOLIOS

Mr. Stuart Herskowitz with Hooker and Holcomb Investment Management Services provided an overview of NIHD's existing investment management plan, noting that the District's investment practices have not been reviewed since 1975. Mr. William Dennehy with Chandler Asset Management also provided an overview of the District's pension plan investment practices, recommending that they be re-assessed in order to realize a better return on investment. Both presentations were provided as information items only, to lay a foundation for further discussion of both topics at future meetings.

POLICY AND
PROCEDURE,
PATHWAYS FOR
DEVELOPMENT,
NURSING STANDARDS

Chief Nursing Officer Tracy Aspel, RN called attention to a revised Policy and Procedure titled *Pathways for Development, Review, and Revision of Nursing Standards*. It was moved by Ms. Kilpatrick, seconded by Mr. Sharp, and unanimously passed to approve the revised *Pathways for Development, Review, and Revision of Nursing Standards* Policy and Procedure as presented.

PIONEER HOME
HEALTH QUARTERLY
REPORT

Pioneer Home Health (PHH) Administrator Ruby Allen provided a Pioneer Home Health quarterly report which included the following:

- Home Health referrals have increased significantly, and PHH is seeing an increased interest in home care services
- PHH's Medicare reimbursement rates are higher than last year's rates
- The number of Home Health and Hospice patients being seen has increased significantly over the past year
- The staff at Pioneer Home Health is working hard to continually improve the services available to area residents

The Board inquired as to whether former PHH Administrator Pat West or District Compliance Officer Patty Dickson will act as Compliance Officer for Pioneer Home Health, noting that previous Board action designated the District's Compliance Officer (Ms. Dickson) to also act as Compliance Officer for Pioneer Home Health. It was determined that the PHH Compliance Officer role will be looked into in more detail, and that there would be a probable conflict interest if Ms. West were to assume that role. Director Sharp commended the staff at PHH for their recent sacrifices, hard work, and efforts to grow PHH services and cut costs in order to improve the financial condition of the organization.

BUILDING
SEPARATION
CONSTRUCTION
PROJECT UPDATE

NIHD Property Manager Scott Hooker reported that the hospital building separation project is moving forward, albeit at a slow pace. A Fire/Life Safety Officer from the Office of Statewide Healthcare Planning and Development (OSHDP) was on site at NIHD today to inspect a couple of the District's smaller projects, and the inspector provided input on the building separation project as well.

RETURN ON
INVESTMENT
COMMITTEE UPDATE

Vinay Behl provided an update on the efforts of the District's Return On Investment (ROI) Committee, which was established to assess District service lines and operations in order to identify areas that are not economically feasible and to grow new service lines that would be beneficial to the District and to area residents. The Committee meets on a weekly basis, and their current efforts focus on identification of potential new service lines, and re-negotiation of existing District contracts (including evaluation of physician contracts in order to better align production with compensation).

PHYSICIAN
RECRUITMENT
UPDATE

Interim Chief Medical Officer William Timbers MD provided a physician recruitment update which included the following:

- A report on the addition of multiple hospitalist providers
- The addition of Rural Health Clinic and Emergency Department providers
- The addition of a pediatrics provider in the month of October
- Report on updates to general surgery coverage
- Updates on negotiations that are in progress with a potential

plastic surgeon, and with a general surgeon who has sub-specialty training in hepatobiliary surgery

CHIEF OF STAFF
REPORT

Vice Chief of Staff Charlotte Helvie MD reported following careful review and consideration the Medical Executive Committee recommends approval of the following Annual Approvals:

1. *Standardized Procedure – Certified Nurse Midwife*
2. *Standardized Procedure – General Policy for the Nurse Practitioner or Certified Nurse Midwife*
3. *Utilization Review Plan (2020)*

It was moved by Mr. Sharp, seconded by Ms. Veenker, and unanimously passed to approve Annual Approvals 1 through 3 as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Turner called attention to the Consent Agenda for this meeting, which contained the following items:

- Approval of minutes of the June 17 2020 regular meeting
- Approval of minutes of the June 24 2020 special meeting
- Approval of minutes of the June 26 2020 special meeting
- Approval of minutes of the June 27 2020 special meeting
- Approval of minutes of the July 6 2020 special meeting
- Interim Chief Executive Officer report
- Chief Nursing Officer report
- Interim Chief Medical Officer report
- Policy and Procedure annual approvals

Ms. Turner requested that the minutes of the June 26 and June 27 2020 special meetings be amended to reflect Closed Sessions that took place at the end of both meetings. Ms. Kilpatrick also recommended that housekeeping changes be made to several Consent Agenda items. It was then moved by Mr. Sharp, seconded by Ms. Veenker, and unanimously passed to approve all 9 Consent Agenda items, including the requested edits to the June 26 and June 27 2020 special meeting minutes.

BOARD MEMBER
REPORTS

Ms. Turner asked if any members of the District Board wished to comment on any items of interest. She then noted that the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) annual meeting will be a virtual event this year, and that a small registration fee will be required to participate. Director Sharp stated his intention not to register for the event in the interest of the District's current financial challenges. No other comments were heard.

ADJOURNMENT TO
CLOSED SESSION

At 8:08 pm Ms. Turner announced the meeting would adjourn to Closed Session to allow the District Board of Directors to:

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel, anticipated litigation, significant exposure to litigation (*pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)*), 2 cases.
- B. For a Public Employee Performance Evaluation (*pursuant to*

Government Code Section 54957(b)), title: Interim Chief
Executive Officer.

RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION AND REPORT
OF ACTION TAKEN

At 9:45 pm the meeting returned to Open Session. Ms. Turner reported the Board took no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Jean Turner, Chair

Attest:

Jody Veenker, Secretary