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**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  
William Timbers MD, Interim Chief Medical Officer  
Allison Partridge RN, MSN, Chief Nursing Officer  
Charlotte Helvie MD, Chief of Staff  
Keith Collins, General Legal Counsel, Jones and Mayer

**URGENT NEED TO ADD TO AGENDA** Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Interim Chief Executive Officer Kelli Davis, MBA requested that the Board of Directors consider adding two items to the agenda for this meeting, due to the fact that an immediate need to take action exists and because both items came to the attention of District Administration following the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The two proposed agenda items are:

- *Covid Crisis Staffing shift bonuses for District RNs, and approval of a Covid Crisis Outdoor Shift Differential of 25% per hour for represented employees, as agreed upon by District Administration and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)*
- *Approval of District Board Resolution 20-12, designating individuals authorized to act as fiduciaries with respect to the District's defined benefit retirement plan*

It was moved by Robert Sharp, seconded by Jody Veenker and unanimously passed to approve the determination that an immediate need to take action exists, and to add both agenda items to the agenda for this meeting due to the fact that both matters came to the attention of District Administration following the posting of the agenda for this meeting.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT** Ms. Turner announced the purpose of public comment is to allow members of the public to address the Board of Directors. Public comments shall be received at the beginning of the meeting and are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, with a total time limit of 30 minutes for all public comment unless otherwise modified by the Chair. Speaking time may not be granted and/or loaned to another individual for the purpose of extending available speaking time unless arrangements have been made in advance for a large group of speakers to have a spokesperson speak on their behalf. Comments should be kept brief and non-repetitive. The general Public Comment portion of the meeting allows the public to address any item within the jurisdiction of the Board

of Directors on matters not appearing on the agenda for the meeting. Public comments on agenda items should be made when that item is considered. No comments were heard.

## NEW BUSINESS

### ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR THE 2021 CALENDAR YEAR

Ms. Turner called attention to the appointment of District Board officers for the 2021 calendar year, and proposed the following slate of officers:

- President: *Robert Sharp*
- Vice President: *Jody Veenker*
- Secretary: *Mary Mae Kilpatrick*
- Treasurer: *Topah Spoonhunter*
- Member at Large: *Jean Turner*

It was moved by Ms. Veenker, seconded by Topah Spoonhunter, and unanimously passed to approve the slate of officers for the 2021 calendar year as presented.

### COVID 19 CRISIS STAFFING REQUESTS

NIHD Chief Nursing Officer Allison Partridge RN, MSN called attention to the following proposed (temporary) Covid-19 crisis staffing and pay incentives, as agreed upon by NIHD Administration and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME):

- Covid Crisis Staffing shift bonus for RNs of \$400 per shift
- Covid Crisis Outdoor Shift Differential of 25% per hour for represented employees who work shifts outdoors, and who would otherwise work indoors

It was moved by Mr. Sharp, seconded by Mary Mae Kilpatrick, and unanimously passed to approve both Covid-19 crisis pay increases as requested.

### DESIGNATION OF FIDUCIARIES FOR NIHD DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN, DISTRICT BOARD RESOLUTION 20-12

NIHD Financial consultant Vinay Behl called attention to District Board Resolution 20-12, which designates the following individuals to act as fiduciaries with respect to the Northern Inyo County Local Hospital District Defined Benefit Retirement Plan:

- Kelli Davis, Interim Chief Executive Officer
- Vinay Behl, Finance Executive/Consultant
- Charity Dale, Human Resources Director

It was moved by Ms. Kilpatrick, seconded by Ms. Veenker, and unanimously passed to approve District Board Resolution 20-12 as presented.

### CHILLER PLANT UPGRADE

NIHD Property Manager Scott Hooker reported that District management expects to have a final proposal for the Northern Inyo Hospital chiller plant upgrade at the time of the January District Board of Directors meeting. The District is currently working through the bidding process for the project.

### WORKPLACE INVESTIGATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

NIHD Human Resources Director Charity Dale called attention to a proposed *Workplace Investigations* Policy and Procedure, which establishes guidance for conducting internal investigations of alleged

violations of NIHD Policies which prohibit unlawful discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and alleged violations of other NIHD Policies, rules and standards of conduct for employees. Following review of the proposed Policy the Board requested that language be added acknowledging that during an investigation, persons may be placed on paid leave of absence pending conclusion of the investigation. It was moved by Mr. Sharp, seconded by Ms. Veenker, and unanimously passed to approve the proposed *Workplace Investigations* Policy and Procedure as presented, with language being added to acknowledge the possibility of paid administrative leave being granted.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ACCESS TO  
PERSONNEL  
INFORMATION

District Legal Counsel Keith Collins presented information on Board of Directors access to District employee personnel information, as follow-up to questions raised at previous meetings. In general, Board members may only be made aware of personnel information in the event that they have a need to know and a right to know, and handling of personnel matters is generally delegated to District executive staff.

COVID 19 VACCINE  
STORAGE POLICY AND  
PROCEDURE

Chairperson Turner called attention to a third possible add to the agenda for this meeting, due to the fact that she had been advised that there is an urgent need for NIHD to establish a Covid-19 vaccine storage policy, and because the matter came to the attention of District Administration following the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Chief Nursing Officer Allison Partridge confirmed that an immediate need to take action exists, and it was then moved by Mr. Sharp, seconded by Ms. Veenker, and unanimously passed to add approval of a Policy and Procedure titled *Tissue Freezer Vaccine Storage* to the agenda for the meeting.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES  
OF BOARD  
GOVERNANCE

Keith Collins provided an overview of general rules that apply to legislative bodies, including guidance provided within the Brown Act; conflict of interest laws; and a summary of the most commonly applicable rules governing the conduct of elected officials as they relate to public service. He additionally reviewed ethics training and campaign and financial disclosure requirements pertaining to members of the Board, and provided information on Rosenberg's Rules of Order and rules of Parliamentary procedure.

STARK LAW AND  
CONTRACT  
CONSIDERATIONS  
RELATING TO FAIR  
MARKET VALUE

Attorney Noel Caughman with Best Best and Krieger provided an overview of the importance of Fair Market Value considerations relating to physician contracting. Ms. Caughman provided information on the Stark Law established for the purpose of preventing fraud and abuse relating to physician referrals for profit, and emphasized the importance of ensuring that physician compensation does not exceed fair market value when developing provider contracts.

COVID-19 VACCINE  
INFORMATION

Interim Chief Medical Officer William Timbers, MD provided an informational presentation on the Covid-19 vaccines that are expected to be received in Inyo County in the next several days. He provided an

overview of the science behind mRNA (Messenger RNA) vaccines, as well as an overview the expected rollout of the vaccine in Inyo County, noting that the vaccine will first be offered to healthcare providers and hospital employees.

TISSUE FREEZER  
VACCINE STORAGE  
POLICY AND  
PROCEDURE

Chief Nursing Officer Allison Partridge called attention to approval of a proposed Policy and Procedure titled *Tissue Freezer Vaccine Storage*, which was added to the agenda due to a determination that an immediate need to take action exists, and because the matter came to the attention of District Administration following the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The purpose of the proposed Policy is to ensure safe storage of vaccines that must be stored at temperatures of less than -80 degrees Centigrade. It was moved by Ms. Veenker, seconded by Mr. Sharp, and unanimously passed to approve the proposed *Tissue Freezer Vaccine Storage* Policy and Procedure as presented.

BOARD  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
OF DISTRICT  
OPERATIONS IN 2020

Chairperson Turner expressed the Boards' sincere appreciation of the exemplary job District staff and Medical Staff have done during the 2020 calendar year, including but not limited to the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board acknowledged that staff members rose far above and beyond normal job expectations, and did an exceptional job dealing of with the impact of the virus and positioning our community as well as possible to navigate the crisis well ahead of the curve of most other facilities.

LEAVING HOSPITAL  
AGAINST MEDICAL  
ADVICE REFUSAL OF  
TREATMENT OR  
TRANSFER

Ms. Turner noted that approval of the Policy and Procedure titled *Leaving Hospital Against Medical Advice Refusal of Treatment or Transfer* would not be addressed as a separate agenda item, but would be included for approval as part of the Chief of Staff portion of the meeting.

CHIEF OF STAFF  
REPORT

Chief of Staff Charlotte Helvie, MD reported following careful review, consideration, and approval by the appropriate Committees the Medical Executive Committee recommends approval of the following District-wide Policies and Procedures:

POLICY AND  
PROCEDURE  
APPROVALS

1. *Emergency Management Plan*
2. *Administration of Drugs and Biologicals*
3. *Cardiac Monitoring Policy*
4. *Dead on Arrival*
5. *Leaving Hospital Against Medical Advice Refusal of Treatment or Transfer*
6. *Qualitative Fit Testing*
7. *Safely Surrendered Baby Policy and Procedure*

It was moved by Ms. Veenker, seconded by Mr. Spoonhunter, and unanimously passed to approve Policies and Procedures 1 through 7 as presented.

MEDICAL STAFF AND  
APP STAFF  
APPOINTMENTS

Doctor Helvie also reported following careful review and consideration the Medical Executive Committee recommends approval of the following

Medical Staff and APP Staff Appointments:

1. *David Plank, MD (plastic surgery) – Provisional Consulting Staff*
2. *Sarah Starosta, PA-C (RHC Physician assistant) – Advanced Practice Provider Staff*

It was moved by Ms. Kilpatrick, seconded by Mr. Sharp, and unanimously passed to approve both Staff appointments as requested.

MEDICAL STAFF AND  
APP REAPPOINTMENTS  
FOR CALENDAR  
YEARS 2021-2022

Doctor Helvie additionally reported following careful review, consideration, and approval by the appropriate Committees the Medical Executive Committee recommends approval of the following Medical Staff and APP Staff reappointments for calendar years 2021 and 2022:

1. *Anu Agarwal MD, Cardiology*
2. *Abhilash Akinapelli MD, Cardiology*
3. *David Amsalem MD, Emergency Medicine*
4. *Lara Jeanine Arndal MD, OB/GYN*
5. *Thomas J. Boo MD, Family Medicine*
6. *Sierra Bourne MD, Emergency Medicine*
7. *Robbin Cromer-Tyler MD, General Surgery*
8. *Tracy Drew NP, Family Nurse Practitioner*
9. *Joy Engblade MD, Internal Medicine*
10. *Matthew Ercolani MD, Urology*
11. *James Fair MD, Emergency Medicine*
12. *Anne Gasior MD, Family Medicine*
13. *Anne Goshgarian MD, Emergency Medicine*
14. *Charlotte Helvie MD, Pediatrics*
15. *Samantha Jeppsen MD, Emergency Medicine*
16. *Jennifer Joos PA, Family Practice*
17. *Felix Karp MD, Internal Medicine*
18. *Katrinka Kip MD, Pediatric Cardiology*
19. *Earl Landrito MD, Radiology*
20. *Catherine Leja MD, Family Medicine*
21. *Bo Nasmyth Loy MD, Orthopedic Surgery*
22. *Tamara Loy NP, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner*
23. *Joseph Ludwick MD, Pediatric Cardiology*
24. *Atashi Mandal MD, Internal Medicine*
25. *Colleen McEvoy NP, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner*
26. *Monika Mehrens DO, Family Medicine*
27. *Jayson Morgan MD, Cardiology*
28. *David L. Nicholson CRNA, Anesthesia*
29. *Vlad Radulescu MD, Cardiology*
30. *Allison Robinson MD, General Surgery*
31. *Anna Rudolphi MD, Emergency Medicine*
32. *Jeanette Schneider MD, Psychiatry*
33. *Stefan Schunk MD, Internal Medicine*
34. *Uttama Sharma MD, Family Medicine*
35. *Saif H. Siddiqi MD, Radiology*
36. *Daniel Su MD, Urology*
37. *William Timbers MD, Emergency Medicine*

38. Thomas-Duythuc To MD, *Cardiology*
39. Matthew Wise MD, *OB/GYN*
40. Mara Yolken NP, *Adult Nurse Practitioner*

It was moved by Ms. Kilpatrick, seconded by Mr. Sharp, and unanimously passed to approve reappointments 1 through 40 for calendar years 2021 and 2022 as requested.

#### REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT

Doctor Helvie also reported following careful review and consideration the Medical Executive Committee recommends extension of appointment as per Bylaws Section 6.13.4 for the following:

1. Arrash Fard MD (*Cardiology*) – Adventist Health, Telemedicine Staff
2. Mark Robinson MD (*Orthopedic Surgery*) – Active Staff
3. J. Daniel Cowan MD (*Anesthesiology*) – Active Staff

It was moved by Ms. Veecker, seconded by Ms. Kilpatrick, and unanimously passed to approve all three extensions of appointment to the NIHD Medical Staff as requested.

#### MEDICAL STAFF RESIGNATIONS

Doctor Helvie also stated the Medical Executive Committee recommends acceptance of the following Medical Staff resignations:

1. Robert Nathan Slotnick MD (*Obstetrics/Gynecology & Genetics*) – effective 9/4/20
2. Benjamin Ge MD (*Teleradiology – Quality Nighthawk*) – effective 9/2/20
3. Joe Miller MD (*Urology*) – effective 11/2/20
4. Tamara McBride MD (*Family Medicine*) – effective 12/31/20
5. Stuart Souders MD (*Diagnostic Radiology*) – effective 12/31/20
6. Jake Ichino MD (*Cardiology, Renown*) – effective 12/31/20

It was moved by Mr. Sharp, seconded by Ms. Veenker, and unanimously passed to accept all six resignations as requested, with thanks going out to the providers for their service.

#### MEDICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Doctor Helvie additionally noted that eight Medical Staff Committees meet on a regular basis to help ensure quality of patient care, and those Committees include an Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee, an Ethics Committee, and others. A Physician Wellness Committee recently met to address physician burnout during this challenging year, and Medical Staff leaders are also looking at factors that encourage provider retention.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. *Approval of minutes of the November 18 2020 regular meeting*
2. *Financial and Statistical reports as of October 31, 2020*
3. *Cerner Implementation update*
4. *Board Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes*

It was moved by Ms. Veenker, seconded by Mr. Sharp, and unanimously passed to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 4 as presented.

NIHD COMMITTEE  
UPDATES AND BOARD  
MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Turner asked if any members of the Board of Directors wished to provide Committee updates or report on any items of interest. Director Sharp stated that the Board/Physician Ad Hoc Committee held another meeting with physicians, and he thanked NIHD Medical Staff members for their time and insight during those meetings. Ms. Turner additionally thanked Dr. Will Timbers for his help in facilitating those meetings. Director Veenker expressed interest in obtaining the results of the Medical Staff provider burnout survey, if physician leaders are comfortable sharing the results. Ms. Turner also reported that as a result of her participation on the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Advocacy Committee, she has information of the possibility of expanding patient services utilizing Advanced Practice Providers, as well as additional Covid-19 information that is provided by ACHD. Director Kilpatrick reported on her attendance at Medical Staff meetings, stating her appreciation of everything NIHD providers do in addition to their regular duties. She additionally reported that the NIHD Foundation is conducting a retreat by holding special sessions following their regular meetings. No other reports were heard.

ADJOURNMENT TO  
CLOSED SESSION

At 7:18 pm Ms. Turner reported the meeting would adjourn to Closed Session to allow the District Board of Directors to:

- A. Perform 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 8:47 pm the meeting returned to Open Session. Ms. Turner reported the Board took no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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Jean Turner, Chair

Attest:

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Jody Veenker, Secretary