

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Robert Sharp, District Board Chair.

PRESENT

Robert Sharp, Chair  
Jody Veenker, Vice Chair  
Mary Mae Kilpatrick, Secretary  
Topah Spoonhunter, Treasurer  
Jean Turner, 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)

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Sharp announced that 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 thirty (30) minutes being allowed for all public comment unless otherwise modified by the Chair. Speaking time may not be granted and/or loaned to another individual for purposes 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 must 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. Public comments on agenda items should be made at the time each item is considered. No comments were heard.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sharp opened the meeting by thanking all Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) staff and Medical Staff for their continued hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment during the Covid-19 pandemic.

CHILLER PLANT UPGRADE

NIHD Facilities Director Scott Hooker and Louis Varga with Colombo Construction provided an update on the Northern Inyo Hospital chiller plant upgrade construction project. The existing chiller plant is being re-engineered to create a higher quality longer-lasting system, and the cost of the project is estimated to be \$822,328, a significant increase over the \$250,000 previously budgeted for the current fiscal year. Following review of the information provided and discussion of the importance of the cooling system to hospital operations, it was moved by Jody Veenker, seconded by Jean Turner, and unanimously passed to approve the chiller plant upgrade for an estimated cost of \$822,328. Director Spoonhunter noted the importance of having legal counsel specializing in construction agreements review the District's capital construction

contracts, and Interim Chief Executive Officer Kelli Davis, MBA stated that District leadership will help to ensure that the appropriate legal reviews take place. It was additionally noted that the chiller plant upgrade proposal is not a guaranteed maximum price agreement.

VMG HEALTH  
INTRODUCTION

Chief Medical Officer William Timbers, MD introduced Anthony Domanico with VMG Health, who provided an overview of services the company currently provides for NIHD. VMG provides financial valuation advisory services, and the company is currently assisting the District in reviewing physician and provider contracts in order to ensure that they are in compliance with Fair Market Value (FMV) laws and requirements. The Board thanked Doctor Timbers for assisting the District with this difficult task, expressing their full support of the work being done and acknowledging that it will help to ensure that all NIHD physician and provider agreements are fair and equitable going forward.

FORMATION OF  
SUBCOMMITTEE TO  
ADDRESS PHYSICIAN  
COMPENSATION

Doctor Timbers called attention to the possibility of developing a subcommittee to address physician compensation and to assist in developing a fair and equitable provider compensation model that is based on service provided as well as the quality of that service provided. The subcommittee would ideally be made up of multi-disciplinary members including NIHD Chiefs; Medical Staff; Compliance; Human Resources; Board members; and a brain trust of other appropriate departments. It was moved by Ms. Turner, seconded by Mary Mae Kilpatrick, and unanimously passed to approve the formation of a subcommittee to address physician compensation, and to appoint directors Veenker and Sharp to represent the NIHD Board of Directors on that subcommittee.

HUMAN RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Ms. Davis respectfully requested that the Human Resources (HR) update listed on the agenda for this meeting be tabled to the February regular meeting, in order to allow time for a more detailed HR model to be presented. The Board agreed to the request to table this agenda item.

APPROVAL OF COVID  
VACCINATION  
FINANCIAL POLICY

Chief Nursing Officer Allison Partridge RN, MSN, called attention to a proposed policy titled *Covid Vaccination Financial Policy*, the purpose of which is to help ensure the expedient, equitable, and efficient administration of the Covid-19 vaccine during the current public health crisis. The proposed policy includes specification regarding administering of the vaccine to all vaccine-eligible individuals regardless of their ability to pay, in accordance with federal guidelines. It was moved by Ms. Veenker, seconded by Topah Spoonhunter, and unanimously passed to approve the *Covid Vaccination Financial Policy* as presented.

NIHD CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
SEARCH

Ms. Davis called attention to the need to begin discussion on the selection of the District's next permanent Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in light of the fact that her Interim CEO agreement will expire in the month of June. The Board indicated their preference for re-establishing a CEO

Search Ad Hoc Committee to begin the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for selection of a CEO search firm, and they acknowledged their appreciation of the outstanding job that Ms. Davis has done as Interim CEO. It was moved by Ms. Kilpatrick, seconded by Ms. Veenker, and unanimously passed to establish an Ad Hoc Committee of Board members Spoonhunter and Turner to address NIHD's permanent Chief Executive Officer search, and to begin the RFP process to select a CEO search firm.

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. *Early Progressive Mobility Protocol*
2. *Echocardiography Use of Contrast*

It was moved by Ms. Kilpatrick, seconded by Ms. Turner, and unanimously passed to approve both Policies and Procedures as presented.

MEDICAL STAFF  
REAPPOINTMENT

Doctor Helvie additionally reported the Medical Executive Committee recommends approval of the following Medical Staff reappointment for calendar years 2021 and 2022:

1. *Mark Robinson, MD (orthopedics) – Active Staff*

It was moved by Ms. Kilpatrick, seconded by Ms. Turner, and unanimously passed to approve the reappointment of Mark Robinson MD for calendar years 2021 and 2022 as requested.

MEDICAL EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
REPORT

Doctor Helvie additionally reported that Medical Staff Committees continue to meet to help ensure the quality of patient care within the District, including the Infection Control Committee; the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee; and the Medical Staff Bylaws Committee. She noted that the Bylaws Committee intends to bring revised Medical Staff Bylaws to the February Board of Directors meeting for approval. She additionally reported that the Medical Executive Committee has voted to establish a monthly Covid Response Hero award, and that it will choose a recipient for the award on a monthly basis. This month, the following three staff members have been chosen to receive the award, due to difficulty encountered when trying to select only one person for the honor:

- *Tracy Aspel RN, BSN, former Chief Nursing Officer*
- *Robin Christensen RN, BSN, Director of Quality and Infection Prevention*
- *Ben (Dorman) McShan, ICU RN*

Doctor Helvie additionally reported that the Medical Executive Committee has appointed Lara Jeanine Arndal MD to serve as Interim Chief of Surgical Services.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. *Approval of minutes of the December 16 2020 regular meeting*

2. *Interim Chief Executive Officer report*
3. *Interim Chief Medical Officer report*
4. *Chief Nursing Officer report*
5. *Financial and Statistical reports as of November 30, 2020*
6. *Cerner Implementation update*
7. *Policy and Procedure annual approvals*

It was moved by Ms. Veenker, seconded by Mr. Spoonhunter, and unanimously passed to approve all seven (7) Consent Agenda items as presented.

BOARD MEMBER  
COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mr. Sharp reported that the Ad Hoc Committee established for the purpose of reviewing the NIHD Medical Staff Bylaws recently met and agreed upon a Bylaws version that will be presented for approval at the February regular meeting. He additionally thanked the Medical Staff, Dr. Timbers, and Dr. Helvie for their countless hours of work dedicated to the Bylaws revision effort. Director Kilpatrick reported that she recently attended a meeting of the NIHD Quality Committee, and also requested that the minutes of the meetings of the NIHD Ad Hoc Committee and Medical Staff members be reviewed in greater detail at the February Board of Directors meeting, requesting that minutes from those meetings which were attended by Dr. Helvie to be reviewed first. No other updates were heard.

BOARD MEMBER  
REPORTS

Director Turner reported that the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) will offer a virtual Harassment Prevention training that will be available to members of the Board, and she encouraged Board members to register for the class. Director Kilpatrick expressed her heartfelt appreciation of the outpouring of support and kindness extended to her following the passing of her husband, Chuck Kilpatrick.

ADJOURNMENT TO  
CLOSED SESSION

At 6:49 pm Mr. Sharp reported the meeting would adjourn to Closed Session to allow the District Board of Directors to:

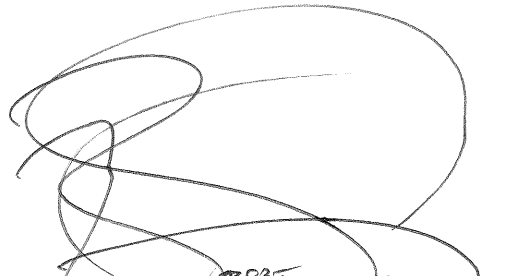
- A. Conduct a Public Employee Performance Evaluation (*pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)*), Title: Interim Chief Executive Officer.
- B. Discuss significant exposure to litigation (*pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9*), three cases.

RETURN TO OPEN  
SESSION AND REPORT  
OF ACTION TAKEN

At 9:02 pm the meeting returned to Open Session. Mr. Sharp reported that the Board took no reportable action.


ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.



Robert Sharp, Chair

Attest:



Mary Mae Kilpatrick, Secretary