

- CALL TO ORDER Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) Board Chair Melissa Best-Baker called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
- PRESENT
Melissa Best-Baker, Chair
Jean Turner, Vice Chair
Ted Gardner, Secretary
David McCoy Barrett, Treasurer via zoom
Mary Mae Kilpatrick, Member at Large
Stephen DelRossi, Chief Executive Officer
Allison Partridge, Chief Operations Officer / Chief Nursing Officer
Adam Hawkins, DO, Chief Medical Officer
Alison Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer
Sierra Bourne, MD, Chief of Staff
- ABSENT
Andrea Mossman, Interim Associate Financial Officer
- 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.

There were no comments from the public.
- NEW BUSINESS
Chair Best-Baker called attention to new business.
- DR. JEPPSEN,
EMERGENCY
DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Dr. Jeppsen presented an update on the emergency department. Jeppsen expressed that things are going well. A doctor from UC Davis recently started, and NIHD has been hosting residents, and medical students from Arizona and New Mexico. The hope is to give residents and medical students experience working in a critical care access hospital with the potential of working at NIHD in the future.

Treatment of stroke patients is going well.

Scott Kobner has been doing educational presentations and the emergency department works to provide continuing education for the doctors.
- COMPLIANCE OFFICER
REPORT
Chair Best-Baker called attention to the compliance officer report.
1. Chair Best-Baker requested additional information about Language Line and CyraCom interpretative services.
2. Compliance Officer Dickson summarized the two different interpretative services.
3. Chair Best-Baker called attention to the workplace violence data. Compliance Officer Dickson explained the challenges and the need to keep patients and staff safe.
- RESOLUTIONS
Chair Best-Baker called attention to the resolutions.
1. Resolution: 24-04 Appropriations
a. CEO DelRossi summarized the resolution.

Motion: Jean Turner
Seconded: Ted Gardner
Roll call vote
Turner: Aye
Gardner: Aye
Kilpatrick: Aye
Barrett: Aye
Best-Baker: Aye
Passed: 5-0

2. Resolution: 24-05 Authorization of Operations Accounts
 - a. CEO DelRossi summarized the resolution.

Motion: David Barrett
Seconded: Mary Mae Kilpatrick
Roll call vote
Turner: Aye
Gardner: Aye
Barrett: Aye
Kilpatrick: Aye
Best-Baker: Aye
Passed: 5-0

3. Resolution: 24-06 Resolution Approving Certain Deposits and Investments
 - a. CEO DelRossi summarized the resolution.

Motion: Mary Mae Kilpatrick
Seconded: Ted Gardner
Roll call vote
Turner: Aye
Gardner: Aye
Barrett: Aye
Kilpatrick: Aye
Best-Baker: Aye
Passed: 5-0

4. Resolution: 24-07 New Named Fiduciaries for the NICLHD Plans
 - a. CEO DelRossi summarized the resolution.

Motion: Mary Mae Kilpatrick
Seconded: Jean Turner
Roll call vote
Turner: Aye
Gardner: Aye
Barrett: Aye
Kilpatrick: Aye
Best-Baker: Aye
Passed: 5-0

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER REPORT

Chair Best-Baker called attention to the CEO Report.

1. Position Recruitment: the goal is to continue to grow departments within the hospital.
2. Strategic Plan: Using key performance indicators we plan to quantify quarterly how we are meeting our strategic plan goals starting in 2025.

INTERIM ASSOCIATE
FINANCIAL OFFICER
REPORT

Chair Best-Baker called attention to the Financial and Statistical Reports.

1. Financial and Statistical Reports
 - a. CEO DelRossi summarized the financial and statistical reports, highlighting specific growth or change.

Motion: Ted Gardner

Seconded: David Barrett

Roll call vote

Turner: Aye

Gardner: Aye

Barrett: Aye

Kilpatrick: Aye

Best-Baker: Aye

Passed: 5-0

2. Recruitment for Revenue Cycle Director – CEO DelRossi expressed our current consultant is moving out of the hospital industry and we are actively recruiting and interviewing to fill this position.
3. Preparations for Audit and Cost Report – CEO DelRossi expressed that we are preparing and on track for the December audit.

Public comment via Zoom chat regarding the CEO's salary. Discussion ensued and included an expression from Vice Chair Turner that NIHD offers fair market-value salaries to its employees.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
REPORT

Chair Best-Baker called attention to the Chief Medical Officer Report.

1. Chair Best-Baker and CMO Hawkins drew attention to the Quality department's diligence in meeting all 12 QIP measures, including the challenges of meeting them for 2024.
2. Vice Chair Turner and CMO Hawkins expressed appreciation for NIHD's women's health services and appreciation for the Labor and Delivery department.
3. Drs. Kristin and Rich Meredick are leaving and there is active recruitment for those positions.
4. Dr. Wiles has finished his first year with us and has added service lines allowing patients to stay in town rather than seek services out of town.
5. Chair Best-Baker commented on fistulas and CMO Hawkins elaborated.

Public comment via Zoom: 'No anesthesiologist is listed on our web page.' CEO DelRossi explained that NIHD is in the process of updating the website. NIHD contracts with Anesthesiologists Dr. Theodore Rasoumoff and Dr. Paul Kim.

CHIEF OF STAFF REPORT

Chair Best-Baker called attention to the Chief of Staff Report.

1. Dr. Sierra Bourne expressed that emergency department visits are up 400 visits from last year. A 'Years of Celebration' was held at Cardinal Village. She along with other medical staff collect coding resources and real-time feedback.

Public Comment: 'Is dialysis still being done at Toiyabe?' Dr. Hawkins expressed NIHD does not offer dialysis services but he believes that Toiyabe is offering dialysis services.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Best-Baker called attention to the consent agenda.

1. Removed three items from the consent agenda:
 - a. September Department Leader Updates
 - b. Department leader updates, Learning Internships, Clinical or Academic Rotations, and Career Shadowing, Opportunities
 - c. Temporary Telecommuting Assignment Policy

Motion: Ted Gardner

Seconded: Jean Turner

Roll call vote

Turner: Aye

Gardner: Aye

Barrett: Aye

Kilpatrick: Abstain

Best-Baker: Aye

Passed: 4-0, 1 Abstention

2. Chair Best-Baker requested more information about 'Moonlight Mammogram nights.' Manager of Marketing Barbara Laughon expressed we extended hours on Wednesdays from 4:00-8:00 pm for breast cancer screening. There are three special days NIHD works with Southern Inyo Hospital, Toiyabe, and NIHD employees to offer mammogram days.
3. Chair Best-Baker requested more information about the Oncology Navigator. COO/CNO Murray explained that their role is to coordinate care with outside providers, assure follow-up, get information for our providers at NIHD, and coordinate the care specifically for oncology patients.
4. Chair Best-Baker drew attention to Learning Internships, Clinical or Academic Rotations, and Career Shadowing Opportunities Policy. She asked if ENTs qualify for a learning internship. COO/CNO Murray expressed that ENTs can join our program and that they need to go through the student onboarding process. COO/CNO Murray distinguished between clinical students working with patients and learning internships that do not. This policy includes both student and learning internships.

Public Comment: 'NIH may want to consider a physician rural hospital fellowship position.' CMO Hawkins expressed that NIHD has explored this possibility and wants to ensure the trainee has the volume and support they need to make it worthwhile.

5. Chair Best-Baker drew attention to the ‘Temporary Telecommuting Assignment Policy,’ questioning whether employees in training can telecommute or work from home. CHRO Murray explained that most exempt employees can and are teleworking, this policy addresses non-exempt employees.
6. Vote to accept:
 - a. September Department Leader Updates
 - b. Department leader updates, Learning Internships, Clinical or Academic Rotations, and Career Shadowing, Opportunities
 - c. Temporary Telecommuting Assignment Policy

Motion: Jean Turner

Seconded: Ted Gardner

Roll call vote

Turner: Aye

Gardner: Aye

Barrett: Aye

Kilpatrick: Aye

Best-Baker: Aye

Passed: 5-0

GENERAL INFORMATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Best-Baker drew attention to general information from board members.

1. Chair Best-Baker is attending the ACHD annual meeting in Sacramento at the end of September.
2. Member at large Kilpatrick stated the NIH foundation is raffling a painting to raise funds for an AED machine needed for the third NIHD shuttle van.
3. Member at large Kilpatrick expressed appreciation regarding the ceremony honoring Halfen and Ungersma.
4. Vice Chair Turner is attending an ACHD board meeting and the ACHD annual meeting in Sacramento at the end of September.

Public Comment: ‘Barb did a wonderful job on everything.’

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

Adjournment to closed session at 6:33 pm.

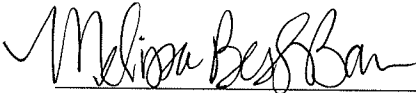
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Called back to order at 7:49 pm.

Chair Best-Baker stated there were no reportable actions from the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 7:49 pm.



Melissa Best-Baker
Northern Inyo Healthcare District
Chair

Attest: 

Ted Gardner
Northern Inyo Healthcare District Chair
Secretary