Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
Del Norte Healthcare District
September 22, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL :**
Present: Directors Sperling, Pearcey, Mason and Chair Caldwell.
Absent: Vice Chair Babich
Vice Chair Babich entered meeting late.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

   a. Ratification of invoices paid from 8/20/2026 – 9/16/2026.
   b. Approval of financial report for August 2026.

   Director Pearcey made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Mason seconded the motion.
   Motion passed 4 – 0.

5. **REVIEW/POSSIBLE REVISION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 25, 2026, SPECIAL MEETING.**

   Director Sperling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Director Pearcey seconded the motion.
   Motion passed 4 – 0.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

   a. Open Door: Shauna Burdick, We have brought in a physician for a second interview, so we are hoping to go forward with that. We are also looking at a dentist as well. The maintenance team is working on cleanup and replacing chairs. We have put out a survey to the staff regarding how they want the lobby to look. Looking forward to adding some local culture.

Chair Caldwell: When you are offering salaries for the new Doctor's do you have the same cap limits that Sutter has? When Sutter first brought up the topic of us participating with paying bonuses, they said they couldn't pay more because they have some kind of a cap on how much they can offer
Shauna Burdick: That I don't know, I think anything is up for negotiations. I also know that we are looking at any and every incentive we can to make our sight attractive. It is really hard to recruit people to this area. It has been devastating to our practice.
Chair Caldwell: So, Dohn. Do you know what it is that they were talking about, that they had a cap on what ever they could offer as a salary.
Dohn Henion: No, my guess was they were talking about some kind of internal policy rather then a regulatory cap. I have never heard of it before.

b. Sutter Coast Hospital: Mike Lane, Not present.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE: (Vice Chair/Treasurer Babich & Chair Caldwell)
Nothing to report

B. COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE: (Director Pearcey & Vice Chair Babich).
Nothing at this time.

C. HEALTHCARE EXPANSION:

1. Community Food Council: (Vice Chair Babich & Chair Caldwell).
This will be discussed under 9 b & c.

2. Recruitment and Retention: (Director Pearcey & Chair Caldwell)

Director Pearcey: There was another meeting. There was work on the application. I spoke with Connie Brooks at McPherron's and she said she could administer the program at a flat rate of $125.00 per hour. She would need a letter of engagement. A draft was sent to counsel for review and he informed me that this is not what we need. I do have to say that between Sutter, Open Door and UIHS, that those three providers have six potential hires. So, the only thing is that the HAF funds can not be used to pay those bonuses for a dentist. It has to come out of the DNHCD funds. Potentially we are going to have $100,000 we will need to pay and we have no vehicle to pay it.
Dohn Henion: Is that arrangement with McPherron suppose to also Include word involving Sutter Coast?

Director Pearcey: Yes.
Dohn Henion: Ok, so the way her agreement is written it looks like she is our agent. The whole idea of having a third party do this is to take our agency out of it so we are not liable for penalties. Maybe we can work on the language. We need to make it clear that we may be paying her but not engaging her.
Director Pearcey: We have also met with Clinton Schaad with the county, and he said that he could cut checks but because the money is coming from multiple sources. He suggested that we go to the Department of Public Health and speak to them about managing those funds. If they manage the funds Mr. Schaad could cut the checks. We did speak with public health, and they are checking into that.
Chair Caldwell: Dohn, did Sutter attorneys ever get in touch with you?
Dohn Henion: I have not heard a thing and I don't expect to.

Director Mason made a motion to add an urgency item to the agenda regarding an agreement with McPherron's to manage the funds. Motion was seconded by Director Sperling.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

Discussion/approval of a facilitator to manage the Million Dollar Mission subject to the approval of the Million Dollar Mission sub-committee members of the healthcare board and contractor and the agency's attorney.

Director Pearcey made a motion to approve the urgency item. Director Mason seconded the motion.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

3. Mental/Public Health Updates (Janel Obenchain)

Janel Obenchain: Thank you Tonya for sharing the discussion that was held by the retention/recruitment meeting. We are continuing to move forward on other portions of the CHIP work groups. We were able to get funding from another grant to increase the score card. There is information on the website to look into these things.

D. HEALTH PROMOTION:

1. Swimming Programs:

Total attendance for Saturday swims was 192. Total attendance for Senior passes was 76. Total for swim lessons was 30 in attendance.

2. Non-emergency Transport/Local Medical Transport:
Nothing to report.

8. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Approved as submitted.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

a. Follow up discussion with Detective Mello and Mike Lane from Sutter Coast Hospital regarding the compliance and Sexual Assault Response Team Protocols.

Detective Mello: There was a meeting with Sutter. Everyone got out their perspectives and now there is an MOU proposed to Sutter.
Chair Caldwell: So, do you think it's going to work out?
Detective Mello: We're hoping.
Director Mason: I would like to add something to this. For the record, it came to my attention that some people thought that bringing this matter to this board was invoking the nuclear option without trying to be nice first. And that is absolutely 100% completely fraud. This board exists to facilitate, collaborate all the partners in the county, state, city and tribal to improve the health generally in the community. This is the appropriate place to bring any health matter where there is conflict or disagreement so we can help facilitate a solution. We don't have any direct authority to make anybody do anything. However, we do have the ability to push the nuclear button and file a formal complaint with the California Department of Health or the U.S Department of Health and Human Services office of the Inspector General. We can do that; we don't want to do that. It should not be necessary to do that. We would rather play nice and have everybody get along and come to an equitable solution where everybody can live with it. However the ultimate goal is the service provided to the community. Does the service provided to the community meet the standards necessary for the health and safety of the public? I don't care what the board of supervisors thinks, or what the city council thinks or what the tribal council thinks. Does it meet the needs of the community? Period. If it doesn't then we'll work on it. But we are here to facilitate, I am rather disappointed that Mr. Lane did not show up. I think he didn't show up on purpose but that is my own personal opinion. However, if anybody wants to push back you tell them to come and see me and I will set them straight.
Director Pearcey: Just to add, I had a meeting with the physician's recruitment committee and Ellie informed me that Mike Lane and herself would not be able to attend because they are out of town for meetings.

Director Mason: Rest assured that everything that needs to be done will be done or the people that have the ability to penalize, suspend or revoke licenses and permits can be involved. I'm not playing games with Sutter on this, it's too important.
Follow up to be added to the October agenda.

b. Follow up regarding Food Hub lease.

To be discussed with item 10 a.

c. Follow up regarding MOU with DNHCD & DNATL.

To be discussed with item 10 a.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discussion/approval of the lease agreement for the property at 510 E. Washington Blvd. The lease is between the DNHCD & DNATL.

Chair Caldwell: These are items have been given to Council Henion to review and have ready for the October meeting.

b. Discussion/approval of updating the district website. (Monica Sperling).

Director Sperling noticed some issues on the website regarding the mission statement and vision statement. Executive Secretary (Doris) to contact IT in regard to these items and updates that are needed.

11. INDIVIDUAL DIRECTORS REPORT OF ACTIVITIES: Director Mason: I did contact Detective Mello about the progress they made and got an update from her.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ANY CLOSED SESSION ITEMS: Nothing at this time.

13. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION: No closed session.

14. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND REPORT OF ANY ACTION: No action was taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

Doris Hendricks, Executive Secretary

Minutes approved by:

Dave Mason, Board Secretary