Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
Del Norte Healthcare District
October 27, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting

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

2. **ROLL CALL :** Directors Sperling, Mason, Vice Chair Babich and Chair Caldwell all present. Director Pearcey 5 minutes late.

   Chair Caldwell: So first we're going to have an urgency item for the agenda regarding 7 C 1. The Community Food Council and we are going to do it at the end of our meeting. We will have a closed session to discuss it.

   Director Mason made a motion to discuss prices and terms of purchase for real property transaction in a closed session. Director Sperling seconded the motion.
   Motion passed 4 – 0.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Valerie Starkey with the Del Norte Board of Supervisors: I wanted to let the board know that last weekend we had Senior Summit. I wanted to thank Dr. Caldwell for his generosity for the donation for the event. But I also wanted to just let you know that there is a need for the seniors to know exactly what's available for them in the community. We had over 20 vendors, we had probably 200 participants that came and wandered through to see what was available. I just hope that we can continue this on for the future, because I think it's valuable, especially as our population continues to age.

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

   a. Ratification of invoices paid from 9/17/2026 – 10/21/2026
   b. Approval of financial report for September 2026.

   Vice Chair Babich made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Pearcey seconded the motion.
   Motion passed 5 – 0.

5. REVIEW/POSSIBLE REVISION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2026, MEETING.

Director Sperling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Vice Chair Babich seconded the motion.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

6. COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Open Door: Shauna Burdick, informed the board that she has accepted the administrative director's position with Open Door. Anew physician has been hired and starts in November. Open Door has expanded the insurance they accept including Blue Shield, Cigna and Medicare.

b. Sutter Coast Hospital: Mike Lane, reported that planned projects including the Washinton Plaza expansion for urgent care, primary care, wound care, a draw station and rehabilitation evaluation will start at the end of the year. They are also working on a laboratory expansion and an emergency department fast track. The hospital received another Leapfrog A grade and is awaiting state approval to begin seeing patients in the IMPACT unit. They are looking at a possible workforce housing described as a 40-unit project behind the hospital, and a letter of support was requested. There was also discussion regarding support services space, potential cardiology and pulmonology expansion, increased staffing and incoming residents and physicians.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE: (Vice Chair/Treasurer Babich & Chair Caldwell)

B. COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE: (Director Pearcey & Vice Chair Babich).

C. HEALTHCARE EXPANSION:

1. Community Food Council: (Vice Chair Babich & Chair Caldwell)

   a. Consideration and possible adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding for the possible long term lease of land for the Building by the lessee of a facility to be used for the central Distribution of healthy fresh foods to Del Norte's citizenry.

   This item was moved to closed session.

There was a brief update from Andrea Lanctot that they now have cold storage, an electric van, a refrigerated trailer and are delivering harvest boxes and school district produce distribution using local and Humboldt County food.

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

I am still looking for someone to administer the project. I will be checking with the county public health department.

3. Mental/Public Health Updates (Janel Obenchain)

Janel reported participation in the senior summit and described the event as an effective way to reach older adults with preparedness and resource information.

D. HEALTH PROMOTION:

1. Swimming Programs:

Kelly Feola: The pool will close in early November for scoreboard installation, repairs, ADA improvements, shower updates and new lane lines. A new aquatic supervisor, Joe Norris, was introduced. There was a discussion regarding the high demand for senior passes and the possibility of increasing those passes.

2. Non-emergency Transport/Local Medical Transport:

Tonya Pearcey: I noticed that the non-emergency transportation information was not being recognized in local clinics and doctors' offices and suggested additional outreach.

8. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION – REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:
All matters listed under the report of the Executive Secretary will be acted on as one motion unless further discussion or action is to be taken on a specific item.

Parking lot needs re-striped, and the executive secretary to get quotes. Sidewalks need cleaned from bird residue and a discussion regarding keypad locks for the lobby restrooms.

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.

Chair Caldwell: For a quick review of where we are now, this issue has been going on since July. And it came to our attention as a Healthcare District Board that there were some issues with rape exams being done in the emergency room. And it came to this board because we do have oversight for all things health related in the county. Now we don't really have any power, but we do have a lot of responsibility, and so, in that vein, we said yes. There is already a committee meeting to work on these problems. Our job was to facilitate it, coordinate it, and make sure that the meetings were happening and were progressing. We are not involved in the discussions. We are not litigating any of it in this meeting or in this forum, our job is to make sure that the committee is making progress. All indications are that they are because these are all relevant and difficult issues. Unfortunately in this county, when it comes to child abuse and domestic abuse, were number one. And so we really need this type of action, getting all the community working together to work on these problems. And the other unique part about it also is that at least with these cases the disease vector is the perpetrator, and like in everything with medicine, we want to eliminate the disease vector. So it's so important for the victim to see justice done for their healing, but we all know that these perpetrators, if left out there in the community, are almost always going to strike again. So we need it for our community health to get these people off the streets and much of the evidence collecting goes on in the emergency room.

Detective Mello: Yes, all parties have provided their changes to the draft MOU, so we're just working out very fine details at this point.

Chair Caldwell: OK, and Mr. Lane.

Mike Lane Sutter Coast Hospital: Yes, I totally agree with that. We met in September for the first meeting, we just met last week, we went through the red lines of our memorandum of understanding or MOU. And we just provided that to the team, and so we'll go through that as the officer said and make sure that everything is good. We don't want to have problems in the future, that's for sure. And then we're going to have another meeting in a couple of weeks and a couple of weeks after that, so we're going to work this out.

Chair Caldwell: Just prior to this meeting Mr. Lane sent a letter which was very positive about working together on these things, and all the issues where Sutter is already working closely with the community.

Director Mason: I'm loving everything. I had a conversation with Doctor Caldwell earlier about our being first and second place for domestic violence and sexual abuse in the state. And yeah, that definitely impacts public health which falls squarely under our responsibility to the community to collaborate solutions to get us out of first place and get us out of second place. And it's more that just the sheriff's department, it's much more than any of the other players by themselves, it's a community wide issue. It's a very serious community wide issue to be the worst in the state. Of all the counties, our rates per capita are the worst. We joke about it, saying we're in first place, but we're dead last when it comes to safety for the most vulnerable in our community. If it were staff and mersa or covid there would be resources to do something about it. But it's less damaging to the patients than those diseases, and it's just as important that we all get tother and try and find a solution. I am glad that we have members of the board of supervisors here tonight from two by two. This is something that goes far beyond the memo and all that. We've got to find a way to get ahead of it, prevention, I don't know if it's parenting classes for people that are careless with their children. I don't know what the specific injuries are. There has to be a solution, right? So, if you have parents and they care about their children you teach them how to be careful, right? I you have people that are in need of psychiatric counseling, psychiatric counseling, right? If you can identify what the main cause is. I'm a big believer in the biggest bang for the buck, so rather focus on the micro problem, step back and look at the whole forest. What can we do that'll have the biggest impact and bring those numbers down. So, that's something I'd like to see going forward as a separate co-issue. We can work on that, and this board has the ability to facilitate, coordinate, and in some cases provide funding. I'm optimistic that now that it's come to our attention, we can focus a little bit more on it and try and get us some better numbers.

Chair Caldwell: So we'll put this on the agenda again and get a report next month.

Mike Lane: I believe I will not be here next month.

Chair Caldwell: Is there any public comment?

b. Follow up regarding the Del Norte Healthcare District website.

The executive secretary reported that corrections were made to the main page, including mission and vision statements. Working with IT to check out any other problems.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

11. INDIVIDUAL DIRECTORS REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

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

13. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION:

a. Discussion with legal counsel regarding prices and terms of purchase for real property transaction.

Board adjourned the closed session at 6:29 p.m. and returned to open session at 6:57.

14. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND REPORT OF ANY ACTION:

Director Pearcey made a motion to approve the presented contracts, documents, and resolutions tied to the Food Hub project. Director Sperling seconded the motion.
Roll Call vote:
Director Sperling – yes
Director Pearcey – yes
Director Mason – yes
Vice Chair Babich – Recused
Chair Caldwell – yes
Motion passed 4 - 0

15. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

Doris Hendricks, Executive Secretary

Minutes approved by:

Dave Mason, Board Secretary