

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PEND OREILLE COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1

March 26, 2026

In Attendance: Commissioners: Becky Walrath, Lois Silva, Lynnette Elswick, Melanie Kiss, Susan Johnson; Executive Officers: Kim Manus, Justin Peters, Joseph Clouse, Jennifer Lunz; Others: Jenny Smith, RaeLynn Wellman, Tina Batsch, Amy Howell, Cassie Wise, Rhi Drake, Jane Tilley, Josh Johnson, Rachel Davis, Trina Gleese, Don Gronning, Sophia Aldous

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

READING OF LEGAL NOTICE:

The regular meeting legal notice was distributed as required.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA / CONSENT ITEMS:

The meeting agenda, auditor's reports, and Uncompensated Care Report (Consent Packet) were approved by a motion that was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. Prior to approval, the agenda was amended to include an Executive Session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(o), to consider information regarding staff privileges or quality improvement committees under RCW 70.41.205.

Bad Debt/Charity: February, inclusive District Write-off: \$ 250,376.00

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES,

February 26th, meeting minutes were approved via a motion made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Medical Staff: Dr. Jeremy Lewis, MD, shared the new providers, Mikaela Corliagno, PA-C, and Dr. Lombardo, are doing well. He advised Dr. Taylor Stewart's new role as Director of Physician Engagement has been well received and helpful.

Finance: Justin Peters advised there are 90 days cash on hand and AR days are 39. The Rural Collaborative said NHHS has the strongest revenue cycle. He advised current year-to-date is sitting at -\$1.2M, which is similar to the past 4 out of 5 years. March is trending to hit a record month. The cash flow statement is up \$100K from last month. Idaho Medicaid sent notice that the 2021 reimbursement is \$752K. He shared that Trina Gleese has done a significant amount of work with Idaho Medicaid to consider NHHS instate. Moving forward there will be a hiring committee that will review productivity dashboards when making the decision on hiring. The CCO role has been paused for now.

The RHTP funds allocated to Washington are \$181M annually, however, there are strict requirements on how the funds can be used, we are waiting to see how we will be able to use the funds and what restrictions are in place.

Revenue Cycle Report: Cassie Wise reviewed the Revenue Cycle Report. Revenue is trending at \$8.3M, which is \$500K more than the last record. Cash collection is trending \$4.7M this month, which helps rebound the lower cash flow of last month. AR days in February closed at 41.7 days, today sitting at 40.9 days. The team is hopeful to get AR days in the thirties. She shared there was a requirement change with provider RVUs a lot of hospitals have noticed a negative impact. Cassie noted that the District has not suffered a negative impact with the changes due to the dedication provider enrollment specialist Annie

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put towards ensuring a smooth transition. Other hospitals have started reaching out to NHHS for guidance on how they can maximize like the District. She advised that aging is stagnant as there has not been any adjustments due to the frontloading adjustments.

RMAC/RMV had 1 admit and 2 discharges; expecting an uptick in admissions with the dementia unit.

Cassie advised the 2026 focus for revenue cycle is protecting revenue. Chargemaster reviews are taking place and there is a focus on denials.

Quality & Compliance: Rhi Drake advised the District will be receiving a silver award for Medicaid Quality Incentive.

External Affairs & IT: Jenny Smith shared the collaborative meetings that have taken place this month. Dr. Lewis and Justin are giving a presentation on healthy habits for the Pend Oreille Sports Association. The Ameriprise brokerage funds have been dispersed to an account, getting closer to receiving the funds. She gave kudos to Brea Hunt for leading the nurse triage grant project. The District is requesting \$750K from the Distressed Hospital Grant. Appropriations requests have been filed; any granted funds would be used for the clinic expansion.

IT launched a phishing campaign; there has been a reduction from 15% to 8% since the campaign started. There is more work to do here as 1% is too much. Bryce has focused on AI governance due to more tools offering AI components; he's creating a governance committee.

Marketing is working on the first community workshop of the year, Building Brains Healthy Habits, this is scheduled in April; there will also be Living with Diabetes, and the Medicare101 workshop in October.

The Foundation has agreed to sponsor the Hospital Week T-shirts. The Iron Sommelier brought in \$45K; with \$19K for Healthy Kids Snack Bags. The golf tournament is scheduled for June 12th.

Administrative Services Report: Joseph Clouse advised the construction at RMV for the specialized dementia care unit will be complete April 15th; then will come the inspections and licensing. There are five people on the waiting list. Managers will be focused on volunteering this year, hours will be reported and tracked monthly.

Clinical Services Report: Tina Batsch reviewed the clinical services report highlighting February as a busy month. She was excited to share that ECHO is now live and completed 33 exams in the first week.

Nursing Report: Jenn Lunz advised there was nursing in-service education on code blue. She shared the vision she has for nursing with a focus on education, improving documentation and a heavy focus on hiring.

CEO Report: Kim Manus shared the providers are happy that ECHO is live. She explained there will be an adjustment to the 2025 financial statements as the Idaho Medicaid cost report reimbursement is specific to prior years and will be recognized in 2025. She advised she is on the WSHA Rural Hospital Committee and has been participating in the review of the distribution methodology to be utilized for the WSHA RHTP funds as a sub-recipient, WSHA will be receiving \$39M to distribute to hospitals designated as "rural" by the State of Washington.

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She advised she is currently participating in the Rural OB Coalition created by Tom Jensen, Harbor Regional Health. The Coalition was formed to gather data from each of the rural hospitals to address the significant losses experienced by all rural facilities in the group. She advised our hospital's average loss per birth in 2025 was \$13K. NHHS was the recipient of the 1st place award for "Highest Screening Rate" in the 2025 TRC Breast Cancer Screening Campaign. The NHHS screening rate was 84.4%. The team continues to work on planning for the Hospital Renovation project. The Resolution to place a \$51M bond measure on the August ballot will be presented as an Action Item.

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion to approve to increase the annual maximum compensation amount authorized for District Commissioners entering into contracts with the District, as permitted under RCW 42.23.030(6)(c)(ii) from \$24,000 to \$24,640.00 was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Motion to approve the 2026 Foundation Letter of Agreement. was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Motion to approve the Foundation Memorandum of Understanding Tuition Assistance Program Funding was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-01 request for bond for hospital expansion and renovations. was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

As permitted by RCW 42.30.110, the meeting was moved to Executive Session at 9:54 am for approximately thirty minutes, per RCW 42.30.110 (o) To consider information regarding staff privileges or quality improvement committees under RCW [70.41.205](#);

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

The commission returned to open session at 10:20 am.

NEXT MEETING DATE


The next meeting will be on April 23, 2026, at 8:30 am.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:23 am.

Minutes recorded by RaeLynn Wellman, Executive Administrative Assistant.

Signed by:



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Lynnette Elswick, President
Board of Commissioners

Signed by:



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Melanie Kiss, Secretary
Board of Commissioners