



MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

April 23, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was conducted In-person and via Microsoft Teams

Southern Nevada Health District, 280 S. Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89107
Red Rock Trail Rooms A and B

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Scott Black, Chair – Mayor Pro Tem, City of North Las Vegas (*in-person*)
Frank Nemece, Vice-Chair – At-Large Member, Physician (*in-person*)
Joseph Hardy, Secretary – Mayor, City of Boulder City (*in-person*)
April Becker – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)
Bobbette Bond – At-Large Member, Regulated Business/Industry (*via Teams*)
Nancy Brune – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*via Teams*)
Pattie Gallo – Mayor Pro Tem, City of Mesquite (*via Teams*)
Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Commissioner, Clark County (*via Teams*)
Scott Nielson – At-Large Member, Gaming (*via Teams*)
Shondra Summers-Armstrong – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*in-person*)
- ABSENT:** Monica Larson – Council Member, City of Henderson
- ALSO PRESENT:** Kelly Adams, Toluwanimi Babarinde, Christopher Boyd, Kami Dempsey,
(In Audience) Robert Fuller, Marianna Hernandez, Amber Lopez Lasater, Robert Nikora,
James Pendleton, Laura Rosales Lagarde, David Wines
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Cassius Lockett, PhD, MS, District Health Officer
- LEGAL COUNSEL:** Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel
- STAFF:** Jason Agudo, Malcolm Ahlo, Adriana Alvarez, Emily Anelli, Tonia Atencio,
Maria Azarelli, Tawana Bellamy, Haley Blake, Danielle Bohannon, Alexis
Brignola, Amanda Brown, Lori Bryan, Nicole Bungum, Nikki Burns-Savage,
Cory Burgess, Daniel Burns, Victoria Burris, Joe Cabanban, Nancy Cadena,
Belen Campos-Garcia, Magali Cano, Robin Carter, Mary Cooper, Andria
Cordovez Mulet, Susan Crutchfield, Cherie Custodio, Brendan Dalton, Aaron
DelCotto, Lisa Falkner, Adelina Folkes, Jason Frame, Kimberly Franich, Xavier
Gonzales, Cheri Gould, Jacques Graham, Steven Hall, Heather Hanoff,
Amineh Harvey, Richard Hazeltine, Carmen Hua, Daniel Isler, Danielle
Jamerson, Jessica Johnson, Bob Kingston, Josie Llorico, Cassondra Major, Anil
Mangla, Jonas Maratita, Chris Elaine Mariano, Blanca Martinez, Keanu
Medina, Jacquelin Merino, Alicia Mitchell, Kimberly Monahan, Corey Morrison,
Marites Navaro, Todd Nicolson, Brian Northam, Veralynn Orewyler, Ronaliz
Ordon, Kaylina Penksa, Chelsea Maria Perez, Shannon Pickering, Luann
Province, Yin Jie Qin, Jeff Quinn, Leticia River, Misty Robinson, Emma
Rodriguez, Larry Rogers, Alexis Romero, Chris Saxton, Dave Sheehan, Karla
Shoup, Jennifer Sizemore, Randy Smith, Ronny Soy, Candice Stirling, Rosanne
Sugay, Ronique Tatum-Penegar, Candyce Taylor, Will Thompson, Greg
Tordjman, Renee Trujillo, Justin Tully, Ashley Wheeler, Donnie Whitaker,

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

The Chair called the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Andria Cordovez Mulet, Executive Assistant, administered the roll call and confirmed quorum.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECOGNITIONS

The Chair recognized this year's Public Health Heroes. Each year, Health District staff nominate individuals and organizations whose dedication and service have made a meaningful difference in the health and well-being of our community.

1. Public Health Heroes

- Kelly Adams, Chief Executive Officer, Mesa View Regional Hospital

Mr. Adams, Chief Executive Officer of Mesa View Regional Hospital, was recognized as Public Health Hero for his leadership in expanding access to essential public health resources in rural Southern Nevada. Through a partnership with the Health District, Mesa View Regional Hospital became the site of one of the region's first COVID-19 test kit vending machines, dramatically increasing access to testing for residents in Mesquite and surrounding communities. Since 2022, the machine has distributed nearly 20,000 test kits and now also provides naloxone and drug-testing strips to support overdose prevention. Mr. Adams' commitment to collaboration and innovation has helped ensure that rural communities have greater access to life-saving public health tools.

- Clark County School District, Food Services Department – David Wines, Director

The Clark County School District (CCSD) Food Service Department was recognized as a Public Health Hero for its extraordinary efforts to address food insecurity and support student health in our community. During the 2024–2025 school year, the department served nearly 42 million meals, ensuring that every student in the district has access to nutritious food at no cost, regardless of household income. By strategically implementing the federal Community Eligibility Provision, they remove barriers, reduce stigma, and help nearly 300,000 students arrive at school nourished and ready to learn. Through their leadership and commitment to equity, the CCSD Food Service Department plays a vital role in protecting the health, dignity, and academic success of children across Southern Nevada. Accepting this award was David Wines, the Director of Food Services.

- Nevada State University, Sustainability Council, Breathe with Ease Initiative – Dr. Amber Lopez Lasater, Acting President, and Dr. Laura Rosales Lagarde, Sustainability Council

The Nevada State University's Breathe with Ease Initiative was recognized as a Public Health Hero for advancing tobacco prevention and promoting healthier campus environments. In 2025, Nevada State University adopted a comprehensive tobacco-free campus policy, joining

more than 2,000 colleges and universities nationwide committed to protecting students, staff, and visitors from the harms of tobacco and nicotine use. Through education, campus engagement, and partnerships with the Health District and community organizations, the initiative promotes cessation resources, reduces secondhand smoke exposure, and reinforces healthy norms across campus. Nevada State University's leadership serves as a model for advancing tobacco-free environments in Southern Nevada. Accepting this award was Dr. Amber Lopez Lasater, the Acting President, and Dr. Laura Rosales Lagarde, from the Sustainability Council.

- Officer James Pendleton, Henderson Police Department, Community Relations Unit

Officer James Pendleton of the Henderson Police Department's Community Relations Unit was recognized as a Public Health Hero for his commitment to protecting community health through prevention and education. Officer Pendleton has been instrumental in efforts to remove unused and potentially dangerous medications from homes through the Prescription Pill Disposal Program. By safely collecting and disposing of these medications, he helps reduce the risk of accidental poisonings, suicide attempts, and the diversion of prescription drugs that can fuel the opioid crisis. Through his outreach with youth, schools, and neighborhood programs, Officer Pendleton continues to promote awareness, prevention, and safer communities throughout Southern Nevada.

Member Summers-Armstrong joined the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

2. Southern Nevada Health District – April Employees of the Month

- Francisco Ruelas-Villanueva and Justin Tully

The Chair recognized the April Employees of the Month. The Health District, and the Board of Health, recognized these employees go above and beyond for the Health District and our community and best represented the Health District's C.A.R.E.S. Values. On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District and District Board of Health, the Chair congratulated the employees on this recognition.

3. Southern Nevada Health District – Supervisors of the Quarter (2026 Q1)

- Cory Burgess and Danielle Jamerson

The Chair recognized the Supervisors of the Quarter for Q1. Each quarter two individuals are selected, as nominated by staff, to recognize leadership, teamwork efforts, ideas, or accomplishments, and best represent the Health District's C.A.R.E.S. Values. On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District and District Board of Health, the Chair congratulated the supervisors on this recognition.

- IV. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT:** A period devoted to comments by the general public about those items appearing on the agenda. Comments will be limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. Please clearly state your name and address and spell your last name for the record. If any member of the Board wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this may be done by the Chair or the Board by majority vote.

Seeing no one, the Chair closed the First Public Comment period.

Member Kirkpatrick joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

V. ADOPTION OF THE APRIL 23, 2026 MEETING AGENDA *(for possible action)*

A motion was made by Member Hardy, seconded by Member Nemec, and carried unanimously to approve the April 23, 2026 Agenda, as presented.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA: Items for action to be considered by the Southern Nevada District Board of Health which may be enacted by one motion. Any item may be discussed separately per Board Member request before action. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

1. **APPROVE MINUTES/BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING:** March 26, 2026 and April 14, 2026 *(for possible action)*
2. **PETITION #30-26: Approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) and Clark County Social Services (CCSS) to support and strengthen SNHD's Street Medicine program;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
3. **PETITION #31-26: Approval of the Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and Computer Projection Systems LLC doing business as CCS Presentation Systems for performing a comprehensive upgrade of the Red Rock Conference Room AV system;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

A motion was made by Member Hardy, seconded by Member Nemec, and carried unanimously to approve the April 23, 2026 Consent Agenda, as presented.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING / ACTION: Members of the public are allowed to speak on Public Hearing / Action items after the Board's discussion and prior to their vote. Each speaker will be given five (5) minutes to address the Board on the pending topic. No person may yield his or her time to another person. In those situations where large groups of people desire to address the Board on the same matter, the Chair may request that those groups select only one or two speakers from the group to address the Board on behalf of the group. Once the public hearing is closed, no additional public comment will be accepted.

1. **Variance Extension Request for an existing septic system located at 4130 and 4140 W. Dewey Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89118 to remain split across two parcels;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

Daniel Isler, Environmental Health Engineering Supervisor, presented that the variance was originally approved in February 2025, for a septic system serving a parcel that was then split into two parcels, with the system located across both parcels and encroaching within 10 feet of the property line. The Board previously approved the variance with the condition that the property connect to sewer within 12 months. The petitioner was now requesting a 12-month extension, as the original deadline had expired. The request was due to delays in completing

required electrical system upgrades at the facility, which affected operations and revenue and, in turn, delayed the sewer connection. Mr. Isler advised that staff had no objection to the extension, noting the septic system remained operational and compliant with all other regulations. Mr. Isler advised that if the Board approved the extension, then staff recommended maintaining the same conditions: continued proper operation and maintenance of the septic system and connection to the Clark County Water Reclamation District sewer within one year, followed by abandonment or removal of the septic system in accordance with regulations.

Kami Dempsey and Robert Nikora, representing Carson Manufacturing, addressed the Board regarding the requested extension. They thanked staff for their assistance and confirmed they were not requesting any changes to the existing conditions or an exemption from sewer connection. The representatives stated that connection to the Clark County Water Reclamation District sewer was essential for business operations and that additional time was needed due to project complications. Mr. Nikora explained that efforts were actively underway, including combining the parcels, developing multiple sewer connection designs, and addressing impacts from an NV Energy power upgrade that required installation of a transformer and altered the planned sewer routing. He noted that these infrastructure milestones must be completed before full operations, including staffing, can proceed, and affirmed their continued diligence in pursuing the sewer connection.

The Chair opened for Public Comment. Seeing no one, the Chair closed the Public Comment.

The Chair stated that, based on discussions with the applicant and their representative, they have been actively pursuing the necessary steps toward opening their business and have not delayed in seeking progress before requesting the extension. He acknowledged that the relocation of the business from Texas reflects the applicant's intent to become operational as soon as possible. The Chair noted that utility coordination was often complex and involved multiple factors, making delays understandable. He also emphasized that connection to the municipal sewer system was a positive outcome, including the benefit of return flow credits associated with water use.

Further to an inquiry from Member Nemeč, Mr. Nikora advised that the facility was not in production but in the qualification stage.

A motion was made by Member Hardy, seconded by Member Nemeč, and carried unanimously to approve the Variance Extension Request for an existing septic system located at 4130 and 4140 W. Dewey Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89118 to remain split across two parcels, with the following conditions:

- 1. Petitioner and their successor(s) in interest shall discontinue use of the ISDS, connect structure it serves to the CCWRD community sewage system, and abandon or remove the ISDS in accordance with SNHD ISDS Regulations within one year of variance approval.*
- 2. Petitioner and their successor(s) will abide by the operation and maintenance requirements of the most current SNHD Regulations governing individual sewage disposal systems.*

Mr. Isler introduced John DeWolff, Environmental Health Engineer, who would be tasked with presenting variance requests to the Board in the future.

VIII. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

- 1. Receive, Discuss and Approve Proposed Amendments to the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Board Governance Policies;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel, presented the proposed amendments to the Board Governance Policies.

Further to an inquiry from Member Summers-Armstrong, Ms. Anderson-Fintak advised that the Board Chair had the authority to extend the time period for any individual during the public comment period.

Member Gallo inquired about the reason to remove the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Anderson-Fintak advised that it was based on previous comments received and the removal was only for committee meetings. The Pledge of Allegiance would still take place at the Board meetings.

A motion was made by Member Hardy, seconded by Member Nemec, and carried unanimously to approve the amendments to the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Board Governance Policies, as presented.

- IX. BOARD REPORTS:** The Southern Nevada District Board of Health members may identify and comment on Health District related issues. Comments made by individual Board members during this portion of the agenda will not be acted upon by the Southern Nevada District Board of Health unless that subject is on the agenda and scheduled for action. ***(Information Only)***

Member Summers-Armstrong requested consideration of a semi-annual report detailing small business participation in Health District contracting, including the level of engagement, and overall reach within the small business community.

- X. HEALTH OFFICER & STAFF REPORTS *(Information Only)***

- DHO Comments

In addition to his written report, Dr. Lockett reported highlights shared during the 2026 State of Public Health event, held during Public Health Week in early April. He announced the launch and early success of the Street Medicine Program, which provides primary care services to unhoused individuals. Since its implementation in November 2024, the program has served more than 100 clients. He thanked the Board for approving an interlocal agreement with Clark County Social Services, providing approximately \$490,000 annually to support the program, with potential renewal for up to four years. The funding will allow expansion of services, including additional staffing, referrals, behavioral health support, and implementation of heat mitigation strategies for the unhoused population.

Additionally addressed at the State of Public Health was the status of drug overdose deaths in Clark County, noting a 23% decline from 2024 to 2025. Dr. Lockett emphasized that while the reduction was encouraging, a single year did not establish a trend, particularly given increases observed locally between 2019 and 2024. He highlighted naloxone distribution

efforts, with more than 212,000 doses disseminated and saturation goals exceeded in 2025. To strengthen local interventions, Dr. Lockett explained that the Health District was collaborating with the CDC on an epidemiological aid, involving joint fieldwork in overdose hotspot areas to better understand risk factors and inform targeted prevention strategies.

- Nevada Immunization Policy Update

Dr. Chris Elaine Mariano, Community Health Nurse Manager, provided an update on the Nevada Immunization Policy.

Member Hardy requested clarification on herd immunity, specifically whether measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) require a 95% vaccination rate to achieve community protection and whether lower rates place populations at risk. Dr. Lockett confirmed that approximately 95% vaccination coverage was required for MMR herd immunity and explained that recent measles outbreaks in other states occurred in communities where vaccination rates fell below this threshold, often due to increased exemption rates. He noted that measles was highly contagious and spreads rapidly in under-vaccinated populations.

Regarding COVID-19, Dr. Mariano confirmed that COVID-19 vaccination was not currently required for school entry. Dr. Lockett added that herd immunity for COVID-19 has been difficult to establish due to ongoing viral mutations, though vaccines continue to provide individual protection.

Member Summers-Armstrong expressed concern about misinformation related to MMR vaccines and asked about health impacts observed during recent outbreaks. Dr. Mariano reported that Nevada has had one confirmed measles case in recent months, with no cases identified within Clark County schools, and therefore no long-term effects observed locally. She emphasized the importance of continued public education on potential disease outcomes and preventive measures.

Dr. Lockett outlined serious complications associated with measles infection among unvaccinated individuals, including hospitalization, neurological complications, sensory impairment, and death. He noted that vaccinated individuals involved in outbreak settings typically experienced milder illness and were rarely hospitalized.

Member Hardy acknowledged that vaccines may have rare adverse effects, such as febrile seizures, and emphasized the importance of shared clinical decision-making and clear communication regarding risks and benefits. Dr. Mariano advised that pediatric vaccination practices, noting that certain combination vaccines were now administered as single-antigen doses during the first year of life in accordance with national recommendations, based on safety data and shared decision-making with families.

Dr. Lockett concluded by underscoring the importance of maintaining vaccine safety oversight and monitoring systems, including regulatory review processes and adverse event reporting mechanisms. He noted that these systems were designed to identify safety concerns and support informed public health decisions, emphasizing the continued need for scientific rigor and public trust.

- Heat-associated Deaths & Emergency Department Visits

Alexis Brignola, Epidemiologist, and Jeff Quinn, Public Health Preparedness Manager, presented on Heat-associated Deaths and Emergency Department Visits.

Member Summers-Armstrong noted that heat-related deaths affect older adults and those taking blood pressure medication and emphasized that people may underestimate how extreme heat impacts them over time. She inquired how heat-related health risks could lag for several days after peak temperatures, requiring continued caution even as temperatures gradually decline. Ms. Brignola advised that modeling showed the elevated risk from extreme heat persisted beyond the initial high-temperature days, reflecting a gradual decrease rather than an immediate return to lower risk.

- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

Merylyn Yegon, Community Health Nurse Manager, and Magali Cano, Community Health Nurse Case Manager, provided an overview of the Health District's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

Member Bond expressed appreciation for the presentation, noting it was her first time hearing a comprehensive overview of how the Ryan White funds were being used. She commended the effectiveness of the programs, particularly the focus on embedding services back into the community. She highlighted the high effectiveness rate among the population served as inspiring and thanked staff for the excellent presentation.

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Administration Division Monthly Activity Report
2. Community Health Division Monthly Activity Report
3. Community Health Center (FQHC) Division Monthly Report
4. Disease Surveillance and Control Division Monthly Activity Report
5. Environmental Health Division Monthly Activity Report
6. Public Health & Preventive Care Division Monthly Activity Report

- ## **XII. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT:** A period devoted to comments by the general public, if any, and discussion of those comments, about matters relevant to the Board's jurisdiction will be held. Comments will be limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. If any member of the Board wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this may be done by the Chair or the Board by majority vote.

Seeing no one, the Chair closed the Second Public Comment portion.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Cassius Lockett, PhD, MS
District Health Officer/Executive Secretary
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