MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 20, 2026 – 8:00 a.m.
Meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Scott Nielson – Chair – At-Large Member, Gaming Nancy Brune – Council Member, City of Las Vegas Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Commissioner, Clark County Shondra Summers-Armstrong – Council Member, City of Las Vegas
ABSENT:	April Becker – Commissioner, Clark County
ALSO PRESENT: (In Audience)	Toluwanimi Babarinde, Isabella Peterson, Virginia Valentine
LEGAL COUNSEL:	Edward Wynder, Associate General Counsel
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:	Cassius Lockett, PhD, MS, District Health Officer
STAFF:	Adriana Alvarez, William Bendik, Victoria Burris, Donna Buss, Joe Cabanban, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Kimberly Franich, Tina Gilliam, Xavier Gonzales, Cheri Gould, Victoria Harding, Horng-Yuan Kan, Bob Kingston, Sandy Luckett, Kimberly Monahan, Corey Morrison, Veralynn Orewyler, Luann Province, Emma Rodriguez, Chris Saxton, Renee Trujillo, Laura Valentino, Ashley Wheeler, DJ Whitaker, Lei Zhang

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Nielson called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. Andria Cordovez Mulet, Executive Assistant, administered the roll call and confirmed a quorum. Ms. Cordovez Mulet provided clear and complete instructions for members of the general public to call in to the meeting to provide public comment, including a telephone number and access code.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT

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 Committee Chair closed this portion of the meeting.

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IV. ADOPTION OF THE AUGUST 20, 2026 MEETING AGENDA *(for possible action)*

A motion was made by Member Brune, seconded by Member Kirkpatrick, and carried unanimously to approve the August 20, 2026 Agenda as presented.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. **APPROVE MINUTES/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:** June 24, 2026 *(for possible action*

   A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick, seconded by Member Brune, and carried unanimously to approve the August 20, 2026 Consent Agenda as presented.

VI. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. **Receive and Discuss the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory (SNPHL) Expansion Budget and Approve Recommendations to the Southern Nevada District Board of Health on August 27, 2026**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

   Bob Kingston, Chief Facilities Officer, provided an update on the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory Biosafety Level-3 laboratory (BSL-3) expansion, a planned 12,800-square-foot facility adjacent to the existing laboratory in the Las Vegas Medical District. He stated that the project includes approximately 2,700 square feet of dedicated BSL-3 laboratory space, 5,500 square feet of other non-BSL space, and provisions for 4,600 square feet of future expansion, with completion anticipated in January 2028. Mr. Kingston reported an estimated $21.3 million in costs to complete the project and approximately $4.5 million invested to date, for an estimated total project cost of $25.8 million. He explained that expenditures to date include design, off-site utilities, CMAR planning, permits, security, inspections, and other soft costs. In response to Committee Chair Nielson, Mr. Kingston stated that the $1.8 million in off-site utility work included installation of two water lines, sewer service brought near the building, site preparation, removal of a wall section, grading, and removal of existing asphalt and improvements, while the remaining on-site work would primarily consist of vertical construction and utility connections. In response to Member Summers-Armstrong, Mr. Kingston stated that the design includes an MDF closet and necessary conduit and cabling for internet and data infrastructure, with some equipment already procured. Member Kirkpatrick asked why a new building was being constructed rather than expanding the existing laboratory vertically. Mr. Kingston explained that additional vertical expansion would be cost prohibitive and disruptive to ongoing laboratory operations. Dr. Lockett added that the project had been intended under the previous health officer to be constructed as an annex adjacent to the existing laboratory. Member Kirkpatrick expressed concern regarding Board involvement as the project and associated costs evolved. Mr. Kingston further explained that the $21.3 million required to complete the project includes approximately $20.4 million for vertical construction, installation of pre-purchased equipment, commissioning, and preparation for operations, as well as funding for design modifications intended to achieve cost savings, construction management support, third-party commissioning, builder's insurance, and third-party inspections. In response to Committee Chair Nielson, Mr. Kingston clarified that some equipment is included in the remaining project cost, while the majority had previously been purchased using grant funding.

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DJ Whitaker, Chief Financial Officer, presented the proposed funding plan for the remaining $21.3 million needed for the BSL-3 laboratory expansion, noting approximately $4.4 million had already been expended or committed and the total project cost was approximately $25.76 million. She identified available funding consisting of approximately $3.7 million in remaining special revenue funds and an additional $17.5 million proposed from the Capital Projects Fund, Bond Reserve Fund, and General Fund, including $3.5 million from capital projects, $3 million from bond reserves, and approximately $11.1 million from the General Fund. Member Kirkpatrick questioned the disposition of previously received municipal and other funding, the proposed use of reserves, and the potential impact on resources available for emergencies and future capital needs. Ms. Whitaker clarified the funding previously received from local jurisdictions and SB118, explaining that approximately $3.7 million remained available and that the proposed funding sources would close the remaining project funding gap. Committee Chair Nielson sought clarification regarding the impact on the General Fund balance. Ms. Whitaker explained that, after considering the FY2027 adopted budget, the laboratory project, and other planned strategic investments, the projected fund balance would be approximately $26.4 million, or 19 percent. She further explained that the Capital Projects Fund is historically supported through transfers from the General Fund and that approximately $1.5 million would remain after applying $3.5 million to the laboratory project, with additional FY2027 capital funding anticipated. Ms. Whitaker also described the Bond Reserve Fund as an accumulation of resources originally associated with potential bonding for a new building and noted that it had previously been used for capital activity.

Member Summers-Armstrong expressed concern regarding the lack of supporting financial materials provided in advance of the meeting and emphasized the difficulty of evaluating a significant funding decision without an opportunity for prior review. Member Kirkpatrick similarly requested advance documentation and additional clarification regarding reserve levels and the Bond Reserve Fund. Committee Chair Nielson agreed that advance materials would have better enabled members to review the financial information and formulate questions and expressed concern about maintaining adequate Capital Projects Fund reserves while indicating no objection to using the Bond Reserve Fund for the project.

Member Summers-Armstrong also questioned the potential impact of future reductions in grant funding on the Health District's financial position. Dr. Lockett stated that federal funding remained unpredictable and discussed the potential implications if the State Public Health Fund or Public Health Infrastructure Grant funding were no longer available. Ms. Whitaker clarified that those funding sources were available for FY2027 and estimated that replacing approximately $10 million in personnel funding from the General Fund in a future period could reduce the fund balance ratio to below 10 percent, absent other personnel or budget adjustments. She noted that current projections assume continued vacancy savings and existing staffing levels and account for projected collective bargaining increases. Ms. Whitaker confirmed that the proposed laboratory funding decision would affect the General Fund through June 30, 2027, and that the approximately $11.1 million General Fund contribution would likely be transferred to the Capital Projects Fund for expenditure on the project.

Committee Chair Nielson stated that formal action would require a motion and vote and expressed support for using the Bond Reserve Fund while ensuring that the Capital Projects Fund retained sufficient resources for other needs. He also recommended that supporting materials be provided to committee members at least 48 hours before future meetings to

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allow adequate review. Member Brune indicated support for moving the project forward but emphasized that the full Board should receive the same detailed presentation and have an opportunity for substantive discussion. Member Summers-Armstrong asked whether the proposed funding plan fully addressed the remaining project costs. Ms. Whitaker clarified that approximately $3.72 million remaining in special revenue funds, combined with $17.5 million from the Capital Projects Fund, Bond Reserve Fund, and General Fund, would provide the approximately $21.3 million needed to complete the project. Committee Chair Nielson confirmed his understanding that the identified funding sources would fully fund the remaining project costs and stated his support for recommending Board approval of the project as outlined, with the supporting materials distributed to all Board members in advance of the Board meeting for further discussion.

A motion was made by Committee Chair Nielson, seconded by Member Kirkpatrick, and carried unanimously to recommend approval to the Southern Nevada District Board of Health to build a 12,800 SF two story expansion of the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory, with an authorized total estimated project cost, not to exceed $21.3M, and Petition #32-26 Approval of the Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the Whiting-Turner Construction Company for completing construction of the new BSL-3 building of the public health laboratory located at 700 S. Martin Luther King Blvd.

VII. 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 Committee Chair closed this portion of the meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:51 a.m.

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