MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
October 22, 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 Nemec, Vice-Chair – At-Large Member, Physician *(in-person)* Nancy Brune, Secretary – Council Member, City of Las Vegas *(via Teams)* April Becker – Commissioner, Clark County *(in-person)* Pattie Gallo – Mayor Pro Tem, City of Mesquite *(via Teams)* Joseph Hardy – Mayor, City of Boulder City *(in-person)* Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*) Monica Larson – Council Member, City of Henderson*(via Teams)* Scott Nielson – At-Large Member, Gaming *(in-person)* Shondra Summers-Armstrong – Council Member, City of Las Vegas *(via Teams)*
ABSENT:	Bobbette Bond – At-Large Member, Regulated Business/Industry
ALSO PRESENT: (In Audience)	Zizi Boulware, RanDee Brems, Harold Collins, Maya Holmes, Deborah Kuhls, Laura McSwain, Bradley Mayer, Cameron Pfand, John Pope, Maddie Proctor, Anna Sirentco, Shana Tello, Will Yepez
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:	Cassius Lockett, PhD, MS, District Health Officer
LEGAL COUNSEL:	Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel
STAFF:	Kevin Abbott, Jason Agudo, Malcolm Ahlo, Adriana Alvarez, Kristen Anderson, Tanja Baldwin, Tawana Bellamy, Cory Burgess, Daniel Burns, Victoria Burris, Nancy Cadena, Belen Campos-Garcia, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Rebecca Cruz-Nañez, Brandon Delise, Chris DeHaan, Aaron DelCotto, Tara Edwards, Monica Galaviz, Tamara Giannini, Tina Gilliam, Xavier Gonzales, Cheri Gould, Jacques Graham, Heather Hanoff, Maria Harris, Amineh Harvey, Donna Houston, Dan Isler, Danielle Jamerson, Rebecca Johnson, Matthew Kappel, Bob Kingston, Theresa Ladd, Heidi Laird, Dann Limuel Lat, Annie Lin, Josie Llorico, Sandy Luckett, Jennifer Luther, Chris Elaine Mariano, Bernadette Meily, Alicia Mitchell, Kimberly Monahan, Corey Morrison, Semilla Neal, Todd Nicolson, Kyle Parkson, Yin Jie Qin, Wei Ren, Emma Rodriguez, Gloria Rodriguez, Alexis Romero, Aivelhyn Santos, Chris Saxton, Jennifer Sizemore, Bruno Stephani, Candice Stirling, Christine Sylvis, Ronique Tatum-Penegar, Will Thompson, Rebecca Topol, Renee Trujillo, Jorge Viote, Jordan Wells, Ashley Wheeler, Donnie Whitaker, Edward Wynder, Lourdes Yapjoco, Lei Zhang, Ying Zhang

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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

Member Brune joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

III. RECOGNITIONS

1. 2026 Open Forum Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) Impact Award

- Semilla Neal

The Chair recognized Semilla Neal, Program Evaluation Coordinator for the Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG), for receiving the 2026 Open Forum PHIG Impact Award. The PHIG Impact Award honors outstanding individuals, initiatives, or organizations who have leveraged the transformative investment of the PHIG to drive system-wide improvements in public health. The awardees recognized by this award exemplify the power of strategic investment in public health infrastructure, driven by the core principles of PHIG. On behalf of the Board of Health, the Chair congratulated staff on these well-deserved awards.

2. Southern Nevada Health District – October Employee of the Month

- Gloria Rodriguez

The Chair recognized the October Employee of the Month. The Health District, and the Board of Health, recognize employees that are nominated by their colleagues for going 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 Board of Health, the Chair congratulated the employee on this recognition.

3. Southern Nevada Health District – Supervisor of the Quarter (2026 Q3)

- Wei Ren

The Chair recognized the Supervisor of the Quarter for Q3. 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 Health District and Board, the Chair congratulated the supervisor 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.

Laura McSwain, representing the Water Fairness Coalition, commented on Item XI.5 regarding the Environmental Health Division Monthly Activity Report. She raised concerns about potential heat-related hazards associated with artificial turf at schools and public parks, citing reported high surface temperatures and student burn injuries. Ms. McSwain requested consideration of

standards for safe use, surface-temperature monitoring, and cooling protections, and asked about the process for requesting a formal Environmental Health Division review of artificial turf risks and the Health District's authority to establish safeguards. Ms. McSwain submitted her written comments for the record.

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

V. ADOPTION OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2026 MEETING AGENDA *(for possible action)*

A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick, seconded by Member Nielson, and carried unanimously to approve the October 22, 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:** September 24, 2026 *(for possible action)*

2. **PETITION #05-27: Approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and County of Clark, State of Nevada for the Southern Nevada Geographic Information System ("GIS")**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

3. **PETITION #06-27: Approval of the Revision to the SNHD Employee Handbook**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

4. **PETITION #07-27: Approval of the Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement among Clark County, Clark County Water Reclamation District, University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Las Vegas Valley Water District, Clark County Regional Flood Control District, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Southern Nevada Health District, Henderson District Public Libraries, Mount Charleston Fire Protection District, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Moapa Valley Fire Protection District, and Eighth Judicial District Court establishing the rates for the Self-Funded Group Medical and Dental Benefits Plans, effective January 1, 2027. (Also sitting as the Clark County Water Reclamation District Board of Trustees, the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada Board of Hospital Trustees, the Mount Charleston Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners, and the Moapa Valley Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners)**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

A motion was made by Member Hardy, seconded by Member Kirkpatrick, and carried unanimously to approve the October 22, 2026 Consent Agenda, as presented.

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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.

There were no items heard.

VIII. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. **Approval of the 2027 Board of Health Meeting Schedule**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

   Ms. Cordovez Mulet prepared the proposed 2027 meeting schedule and recommended to the Board that, consistent with previous years, meetings to be held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m., except in November, when the meeting proposal is for the third Thursday at 11:00 a.m. No meeting in December, unless necessary.

   A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick, seconded by Member Hardy, and carried unanimously to approve the 2027 Board of Health Meeting Schedule, as presented.

X. 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 Kirkpatrick recalled that during the last legislative session an EMR training schedule was passed for rural areas in order to obtain additional training, other than CPR. Member Kirkpatrick advised that Clark Carty received a grant and requested an update on the implementation of EMR training in the rural areas.

Further, Member Kirkpatrick raised concerns regarding delays associated with the Accela transition, noting that applicants were currently being advised to allow approximately 8-10 weeks for permit processing. She asked whether the Board could assist Environmental Health in addressing challenges, particularly in light of upcoming special events and emphasized the importance of early planning by applicants. Dr. Lockett stated that an update on the Accela implementation would be provided at the next Board meeting, including information on the progress made to date and efforts to address and monitor the permit processing backlog. He also noted that any additional support the Board could provide in messaging associated with the backlog would be appreciated. Member Kirkpatrick shared Clark County's experience during its Accela transition, explaining that the County temporarily closed operations for a day to focus exclusively on processing work. Member Kirkpatrick expressed confidence that reducing the backlog would help restore the quicker turnaround times historically achieved and emphasized that applicants should be advised to anticipate an 8-10 week processing timeframe while improvements continue to be made.

Member Summers-Armstrong requested information regarding the impact of legislation enacted during the previous legislative session related to home-prepared food sales, including any data collected on public health outcomes, complaints, foodborne illness incidents, sewer-related issues, or other concerns associated with these activities. She noted an increase in residences advertising food sales and asked how such operations were monitored, as well as whether mechanisms existed for the public to report concerns. Chair Black noted that the inquiry encompassed both the cottage food industry and food vendors preparing food in their homes for sale to the public. Dr. Lockett advised that staff would provide a future update on the transition of the cottage food program to the Department of Agriculture, to take effect on July 1, 2027, and would also report on efforts and activities related to unpermitted food vending in Clark County.

Member Kirkpatrick requested that information also be provided regarding public swimming pool permitting and inspections. She noted that pool operators frequently encounter delays when preparing to open for the season. Member Kirkpatrick further suggested exploring proactive outreach efforts, including information for the Board's individual newsletters.

Chair Black directed that staff provide a report to the Board in November regarding food permitting, cottage food activities, and related enforcement efforts. He also requested a proactive presentation for the January meeting focused on aquatic facilities and pool operations.

XI. HEALTH OFFICER & STAFF REPORTS *(Information Only)*

- DHO Comments

In addition to his written report, Dr. Lockett reported that the Health District confirmed the first case of Mpox Clade IB in a Clark County resident with no reported travel exposure, indicating the potential for community transmission and the likelihood of identifying additional cases through ongoing investigations. He noted that, in addition to the Clade IB case, 11 confirmed Clade II Mpox cases have been identified since August. While intermittent clusters have occurred since 2022, the total number of confirmed Mpox cases in the jurisdiction since that time has reached 365. Dr. Lockett provided an overview of Mpox transmission, symptoms, treatment, and prevention, emphasizing that the disease spreads through close physical contact and that vaccination remains the most effective prevention strategy. He reported that approximately 12,632 doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine had been administered locally, with nearly 58% of recipients completing the two-dose series. He further advised that a provider alert had been issued to the medical community to consider Mpox in differential diagnoses, collect lesion specimens for testing at the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory, promote vaccination, and promptly report suspected cases to the Division of Disease Surveillance and Control. Dr. Lockett stated that surveillance and contact tracing efforts remained ongoing and that additional vaccination clinics would be deployed as needed in higher-risk communities.

Member Kirkpatrick inquired whether outreach efforts were being conducted proactively within affected communities and asked whether investigators were exploring possible exposure sources for the individual who tested positive, particularly given the absence of travel history.

Dr. Lockett responded that contact tracing and testing activities were underway to identify potential sources of exposure and any associated cases. He noted that Clade IB could affect

household contacts, including children, and emphasized that investigators were actively working to determine whether an undiscovered index case may be linked to the infection.

- Update: Addressing the Overdose Epidemic – Clark County Data & SNHD Initiatives

  Brandon Delise, Senior Epidemiologist, and Rebecca Cruz-Nañez, Senior Health Educator, presented on Clark County data and the Health District's initiatives on the overdose epidemic.

  Chair Black reported that the North Las Vegas Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement Team hosted a Homeless Services Pop-Up Event at Tonopah Park. The event featured strong participation from the Health District, including immunization, Linkage to Action, and Street Medicine services. Chair Black advised that more than 600 individuals were served and thanked the Health District for participating in the event.

  Member Nemec inquired whether data was available regarding overdose incidents involving visitors in the resort corridor and what initiatives were in place to address overdoses among tourists. Mr. Delise stated that tourist overdose deaths could be identified and analyzed by relevant zip codes within the resort corridor and noted that the gap between tourist and resident overdose deaths has narrowed over time. Ms. Cruz-Nañez explained that community partnerships have been central to overdose prevention efforts, including outreach through bars using educational materials, training security staff at major hotels and casinos, and working to expand naloxone availability in high-visitor areas, such as the Strip and Fremont Street. She noted that while engagement in these venues presented challenges, ongoing collaboration and increased awareness were helping to open additional opportunities.

  Member Summers-Armstrong asked whether recent federal directives affecting the purchase of testing strips would impact grant funding and whether the current grant was nearing expiration. Ms. Cruz-Nañez explained that the OD2A grant was currently in its fourth year of a five-year funding cycle and that plans were in place to reapply for continued funding. She clarified that the funding concern was specific to testing strips and that alternative funding sources were being explored to maintain their availability to the community. In response to a follow-up question, Ms. Cruz-Nañez confirmed that the funding challenge applied only to the purchase of testing strips and not to the educational components of the program.

  Member Hardy emphasized that naloxone was a safe and critical intervention for suspected opioid overdoses and encouraged individuals not to hesitate in administering it. He stated that responders should focus on saving a life rather than determining which substance was consumed, noting that multiple doses may be necessary. Member Hardy stressed that naloxone will not harm the individual and should be administered repeatedly, if needed. He also informed the public that naloxone was available free of charge at Boulder City Hall without questions or restrictions. Additionally, he emphasized that administering naloxone was only the first step in responding to an overdose and urged the need for continued care to prevent a recurrence.

  Member Kirkpatrick thanked Jessica Johnson, her team, and the Health District for their ongoing efforts to raise awareness about opioid misuse, vaping, and fentanyl-related risks. She noted that many of the challenges discussed mirror broader public health issues and emphasized the importance of targeted outreach in communities experiencing greater health

disparities. She expressed concern about the growing prevalence of fentanyl nationwide and asked whether the school district has become a stronger partner in educating youth about vaping, which she believed was often an entry point to more serious substance use concerns. Ms. Cruz-Nañez explained that contracted partners conducted direct outreach and education with young people and offered to follow up with data and information regarding school-based prevention efforts. Member Kirkpatrick shared concerns based on personal experiences attending funerals of young people who died from substance-related causes and emphasized the need for stronger prevention efforts. She discussed the normalization of vaping in some households and advocated for education beginning in early childhood to discourage substance use and promote healthy alternatives. She commended the Health District for the progress in addressing substance misuse, noting improvements during her tenure and encouraged continued community outreach. She also offered to support public awareness efforts in the zip codes she represents through newsletters and other communication channels. Additionally, she suggested expanding naloxone availability and training through county programs, foster care training, Child Haven, and other county departments to strengthen overdose prevention and response efforts.

Chair Black inquired whether kratom was the only substance identified in overdose deaths that were readily available for purchase over the counter at smoke shops or convenience stores. Mr. Delise confirmed that kratom was the most widely available substance on the list. He further noted that federal officials were considering scheduling 7-hydroxymitragynine (7OH), another alkaloid found in kratom, but that kratom products remain available for purchase at smoke shops and gas stations. When asked by Chair Black whether individuals could overdose and die from kratom use, Mr. Delise confirmed that they can. Member Kirkpatrick requested additional information regarding kratom regulation, suggesting that local jurisdictions could pursue ordinances if state action was not forthcoming. Drawing a comparison to prior efforts addressing synthetic hemp and spice products, she noted that Clark County had previously enacted local ordinances to prohibit those substances in response to public health concerns. Chair Black expressed interest in learning more about potential regulatory approaches, either through a future agenda item or separate discussion, and voiced concern about the ease with which kratom could be purchased at gas stations and convenience stores despite its potential lethality. He suggested that local land use and business regulations, including those affecting smoke shops, may offer avenues for mitigation. Ms. Cruz-Nañez advised that the Substance Use Response Working Group (SURG) was actively examining the issue and had already proposed several measures related to kratom and similar substances. She emphasized that while these efforts were not specifically covered in the presentation, the matter was recognized and remained under consideration. Member Kirkpatrick urged prompt action and cautioned against relying solely on the legislative process, citing delays previously experienced with hemp-related regulations. She recommended pursuing municipal law changes, as they could be enacted more quickly. Chair Black concurred, noting that local jurisdictions meet regularly and can often respond more rapidly. Member Hardy emphasized the importance of engaging in the legislative process and sought clarification on whether the Board was prepared to formally support legislative action. Chair Black acknowledged the presence of government affairs staff and indicated that they were noting the discussion. Member Hardy reiterated the need for the Board to take an active position rather than remain passive on the issue. Member Kirkpatrick informed the Board that several legislators were already exploring bills related to synthetic substances and kratom. She suggested that government affairs staff engage with those legislators to communicate the Board's concerns and the importance of addressing the issue for public health and community safety. When Member Hardy asked whether the Board could

formally express support for action, Ms. Anderson-Fintak advised that a Board resolution could be considered and brought forward at a future meeting.

Member Summers-Armstrong noted that the zip codes most affected by overdose deaths were concentrated in the same downtown Las Vegas areas where homeless services and other support programs were located. She stated that the concentration of services in those neighborhoods contributed to ongoing challenges and called for greater regional participation in providing homelessness, recovery, and supportive services across Southern Nevada. She highlighted the City of Las Vegas' recent opening of a recuperative care center and emphasized the need for continued collaboration, noting that drug activity often follows areas where individuals seek assistance. Member Kirkpatrick responded that recovery and navigation services existed throughout the valley and suggested that the issue reflected broader social and public health disparities. She recommended comparing affected areas with other communities that had similar resources to identify gaps, opportunities, and successful practices, and offered to collaborate with Member Summers-Armstrong on the issue. Dr. Lockett agreed that the Board should examine the overlapping public health challenges affecting these communities, including overdose deaths and other health indicators. He proposed mapping both community needs and existing assets to better identify service gaps and guide future interventions. Member Kirkpatrick encouraged expediting the analysis by building on mapping approaches used during the COVID-19 response and partnering with local governments to identify available resources. Dr. Lockett agreed and stated that staff would work to compile and map community assets.

XII. 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

XIII. 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.

Ms. McSwain expressed concern about the widespread use of artificial turf at schools and public facilities and the potential perception that government incentives imply the material is safe. She cited research regarding elevated turf surface temperatures and urged the agency to consider appropriate safeguards and conditions for use, particularly during periods of high temperatures.

Ms. Cordovez Mulet advised that two written comments were received regarding the Accela software system, in advance of the meeting, which would be included with the minutes, as part of the meeting record.

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

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

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