



MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

February 22, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was conducted In-person and via Webex Webinar

Southern Nevada Health District, 280 S. Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89107

Red Rock Trail Rooms A and B

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)
Scott Nielson, Vice-Chair – At-Large Member, Gaming (*in-person*)
Frank Nemec, Secretary – At-Large Member, Physician (*in-person*)
Bobbette Bond – At-Large Member, Regulated Business/Industry (*in-person*)
Nancy Brune – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*Call-in User 2*)
Pattie Gallo – Council Member, City of Mesquite (*via WebEx*)
Joseph Hardy – Council Member, City of Boulder City (*via WebEx*)
Jim Seebock – Council Member, City of Henderson (*in-person*)
Tick Segerblom – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)
- ABSENT:** Scott Black – Mayor Pro Tempore, City of North Las Vegas
Brian Knudsen – Mayor Pro Tempore, City of Las Vegas
- ALSO PRESENT:** Linda Anderson, Georgi Collins, Jessika Dragna, Allison Genco, Lexa Green,
(In Audience) Savanna Harper, Maya Holmes, Lisa Kelso, Jason Klumb, Dale Martin,
Bradley Mayer, Javie Rivera-Rojas, Shana Tello, Jennalyn Wong, Minnie Wood
- LEGAL COUNSEL:** Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer
- STAFF:** Elizabeth Adelman, Malcolm Ahlo, Emily Anelli, Jacqueline Ayala, Maria Azzarelli, Tawana Bellamy, Julie Bingham, Haley Blake, Todd Bleak, Murphy Boudreaux, Amanda Brown, Lori Bryan, Nicole Bungum, Cory Burgess, Dan Burns, Victoria Burris, Donna Buss, Belen Campos-Garcia, Arcmiguel Cordial, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Susan Crutchfield, Cherie Custodio, Aaron DelCotto, Brandon Delise, Lisa Falkner, Brian Felgar, Jason Frame, Kimberly Franich, Jacques Graham, Heather Hanoff, Maria Harris, Amineh Harvey, Richard Hazeltine, Dan Isler, Jessica Johnson, Matthew Kappel, Theresa Ladd, Dann Limuel Lat, Josie Llorico, Cassius Lockett, Randy Luckett, Sandy Luckett, Hetal Luhar, Marisol Maciel, Jonas Maratita, Kimberly Monahan, Samantha Morales, Christian Murua, Brian Northam, Verallynn Orewyler, Kyle Parkson, Shannon Pickering, Luann Province, Katarina Pulver, Yin Jie Qin, Larry Rogers, Kim Saner, Aivelhyn Santos, Chris Saxton, Karla Shoup, Jennifer Sizemore, Randy Smith, Rosanne Sugay, Ronique Tatum-Penegar, Will Thompson, Gabriela Villafuerte, Jorge Viote, Donnie Whitaker, Edward Wynder, Lourdes Yapjoco, Merylyn Yegon, Lei Zhang, Ying Zhang

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

The Chair called the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Andria Cordovez Mulet, Executive Assistant, administered the roll call and confirmed 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. RECOGNITIONS

The Chair, on behalf of the Board of Health and the Health District, recognized Michael Johnson, PhD, who passed away earlier in the month. Dr. Johnson joined the Health District as the Director of Community Health in April 2016, and oversaw multiple public health programs during his tenure, and actively contributed to important public health initiatives such as:

- Tobacco Control and Youth Vaping Prevention
- Online renewals for Food Handler Cards
- Barber/Beauty Shop Health Outreach
- Expansion of the Public Health lab
- Incident Command System to the COVID-19 Response

Dr. Johnson always had a smile on his face to match his cheerful disposition. He was a champion for his staff and a strong advocate for the programs and initiatives he oversaw. A moment of silence was observed in memoriam.

Member Nielson joined the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

1. Immunization Team, Sarah Lugo (Community Health Nurse Supervisor), Chris Elaine Mariano (Community Health Nurse Supervisor)

- Silver Syringe Award Outstanding Adolescent Immunization Partner (Chris Elaine Mariano) – Immunize Nevada
- Silver Syringe Award Outstanding Adult Immunization Partner (Sarah Lugo) – Immunize Nevada
- Silver Syringe Award Outstanding Champion (Sarah Lugo) – Immunize Nevada

The Chair recognized the Immunization Team for receiving several Silver Syringe Awards from Immunize Nevada. Specifically, Chris Elaine Mariano for receiving the award for Adolescent Immunization Partner and Sarah Lugo for receiving the awards for Adult Immunization Partner and Champion. The Silver Syringe Awards recognize outstanding individuals and organizations that have worked to increase immunization awareness, improve immunization rates, provide in-kind services and other activities to help promote immunizations across Nevada. On behalf of the Health District and Board of Health, the Chair congratulated the entire team for this well-deserved honor.

2. Southern Nevada Community Health Center

- 2023 Community Health Quality Recognition (CHQR) Badge – Addressing Social Risk Factors to Health and Advancing HIT for Quality – Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)

The Chair recognized the Southern Nevada Community Health Center for being awarded two Community Health Quality Recognition Badges by HRSA, (i) Addressing Social Risk Factors to Health, and (ii) Advancing Health Information Technology for Quality. The badges recognize Health Center Program awardees and look-alikes that have made notable quality improvement achievements in the areas of access, quality, health equity, health information technology, and COVID-19 public health emergency response for the most recent Uniform Data System (UDS) reporting period. All health center efforts are central to advancing a model of coordinated, comprehensive, and patient centered care serving over 30 million people every year. On behalf of the Health District and Board of Health, the Chair congratulated the entire team for this well-deserved honor.

3. Heather Anderson-Fintak (General Counsel)

- Published chapter on “*Finding Success in Public Health and as In-House Government Counsel*” in the publication “*Her Story: The Resilient Woman Lawyer’s Guide to Conquering Obstacles (Book 2)*”

The Chair recognized Heather Anderson-Fintak for her contribution to Book 2 of “Her Story: The Resilient Woman Lawyer’s Guide to Conquering Obstacles”. This was a collection of essays written by women lawyers as a form of virtual mentoring to build up the next generation of woman advocates so that they, too, may add their stories. Ms. Anderson-Fintak’s chapter on “Finding Success in Public Health and as In House Government Counsel” followed her journey from deciding to go to law school to becoming the Health District’s General Counsel. On behalf of the Health District and Board of Health, the Chair congratulated Ms. Anderson-Fintak for this well-deserved honor.

- 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 five (5) 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.

V. ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2024 MEETING AGENDA *(for possible action)*

Item VI.6 was removed from the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Member Neilson, seconded by Member Nemec, and carried unanimously to approve the February 22, 2024 Agenda, as amended.

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:** January 24, 2024 *(for possible action)*
2. **PETITION #24-24: Approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner (CCOCME) to collaborate on the abstraction of drug overdose data for entry into the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS);** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
3. **PETITION #25-24: Approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner (CCOCME) to collaborate on the abstraction of violent death data for entry into the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS);** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
4. **PETITION #26-24: Approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the Clark County School District to provide services to support the CCSD's Safe Routes to School Program;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
5. **PETITION #27-24: Approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and Clark County, Nevada to implement the HIV Status Neutral Rapid PREVENT Program;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
6. ~~**PETITION #28-24: Approval of a Construction Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and Fong Construction for the replacement of the front entrance doors at the Main Facility;**~~ direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

Item VI.6 (Petition #28-24) was removed from the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Member Nielson, seconded by Member Seebock, and carried unanimously to approve the February 22, 2024 Consent Agenda, as amended.

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 Request for an Application to Construct a Septic System located at 7237 W. Washburn Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89149, on an undersized lot;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

Daniel Isler, Environmental Health Engineer Supervisor, presented the variance request for an application to construct a septic system located at 7237 W. Washburn Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89149. Mr. Isler advised that the staff recommended approval of the variance request, with three conditions. Dale Martin, the representative for the applicant, was also present.

The Chair opened for Public Comment.

Seeing no one, the Chair closed the Public Comment.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Member Seebock, seconded by Member Neilson, and carried unanimously to approve the Variance Request for an Application to Construct a Septic System located at 7237 W. Washburn Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89149 with the following conditions:

1. *Petitioner and their successor(s) in interest shall abide by all local governmental regulations requiring connection to community sewage systems. Use of the ISDS shall be discontinued and the structure it serves shall be connected by any community sewage system constructed in the future to within four hundred (400) feet of the applicant's property line when connection can be made by gravity flow and the owner(s) are notified and legally required to do so.*
2. *Petitioners and their successor(s) will abide by the operation and maintenance requirements of the most current SNHD Regulations governing individual sewage disposal systems.*
3. *Construction of the ISDS must commence within one (1) year of the date hereof. If the construction has not commenced within that period, this variance shall automatically expire and be of no further force and effect, unless application is made and approved for an extension of time prior to the expiration date by Petitioner or Petitioner's successor(s) in interest.*

VIII. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

There were no items heard.

- 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**)

The Chair requested a sub-committee to address free standing emergency rooms to review the value that they bring to our community. The Chair, Member Bond, Member Brune and Member Nemecek requested to be members of this sub-committee. Member Bond requested that an understanding of the patient experience be added to the sub-committee.

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

- DHO Comments

In addition to his written report, Dr. Leguen raised the issues that there have been an increase in opioid overdose and death in Clark County. In 2020, there were 73 deaths and in 2023, it increased to 144 deaths associated with opioid overdose. Dr. Leguen advised that the Health District was working with community-based organizations, the state and federal governments. Dr. Leguen further advised that an important tool to combat this increase was Narcan. However, the number of doses available was still relatively small based on the demand. Narcan was available at the Health District and injectable Naloxone was available at seven public places in the community.

Member Nemecek suggested a broader distribution of Narcan by including them near AED machines. Dr. Leguen advised that staff would explore this suggestion and further advised that the challenge was the supply of Narcan. Brandon Delise, Senior Epidemiologist, advised that that Health District received a grant for \$500,000, all of which was used to purchase Narcan. The Chair suggested staff contact the Chamber of Commerce to assist in the distribution in the community. Mr. Delise further advised that the Health District provided organizations, on a quarterly basis, with training on Narcan and a supply to distribute to their staff and the community. Mr. Delise indicated that in 2023, 30,000 doses of Narcan were distributed in the community. The Chair suggested that a letter be sent to the state regarding available opioid funding.

- Overview of the 340B Program

Dr. Todd Bleak, Pharmacy Services Manager, provided an overview of the 340B Program.

Further to an inquiry from the Chair regarding the increase in pharmacy volume, Dr. Bleak advised that the majority of the increase related to chronic care medications for primary care. Dr. Bleak advised that the increase in dollar amounts were for Ryan White and sexual health medications. Dr. Bleak advised that some manufacturers have a patient assistance program for uninsured patients that provide medications for either free or at a discounted rate. The Health District would apply, on behalf of patients, for this program. Dr. Bleak advised that in the last 5-7 years, there has been a decrease in the reimbursement for the medications for 340B entities, which would result in the Health District absorbing any outstanding amount.

Further to an inquiry from Member Bond, Dr. Bleak advised that insurers were attempting to pay 340B providers less than non-340B providers for providing the same medications and services. Dr. Bleak advised that a benefit to the Health District was having its own pharmacies as it provides a convenience to patients and providers, with any savings going back into the Health District.

Further to an inquiry from Ms. Bond, Dr. Bleak advised that the original 340B legislation excluded vaccines from the 340 program.

- Overview of Cybersecurity

Jason Frame, Chief Information Officer, provided an overview of cyber resilience at the Health District.

Member Segerblom left the meeting at 10:22 a.m. and did not return.

- Addressing Surveillance Data from Public Health Perspective

Dr. Ying Zhang, Senior Scientist, and Brandon Delise, Senior Epidemiologist, provided a presentation on addressing surveillance data from a public health perspective. Mr. Delise outlined the Health District's data suppression rules that safeguard protected health information. Mr. Delise advised that a threshold of five was set for count data. Therefore, if any count data was less than five it would be removed from reporting.

The Chair, along with others on the Board, expressed concern on removing the count data when it was below the threshold and suggested a notation explaining the data suppression rules of data, along with a less than symbol (<5). This would avoid any confusion in the community on the representation of the data.

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. 2024-2027 Strategic Plan
2. Administration Division Monthly Activity Report
3. Community Health Division Monthly Activity Report
4. Community Health Center (FQHC) Division Monthly Report
5. Disease Surveillance and Control Division Monthly Activity Report
6. Environmental Health Division Monthly Activity Report
7. Primary & 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 five (5) 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 10:40 a.m.

Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH
District Health Officer/Executive Secretary

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