



Mission: To protect and promote the health, the environment and the well-being of Clark County residents and visitors.

MINUTES

CLARK COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

625 Shadow Lane
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106
Clemens Room

Thursday, December 16, 2004 - 8:00 A.M.

Chairman Reese called the meeting of the District Board of Health to order at 8:04 am and the Pledge of Allegiance was held. He noted that he had been provided with the Affidavits of Posting and Mailing of Agenda meeting notices, as required by Nevada's Open Meeting Law. The Affidavits will be incorporated into the Official Minutes.

Board Members Present:

Gary Reese
Jim Christensen, MD
Sherry Colquitt, RN
Susan Crowley
Steven Kirk
Donna Fairchild
Joseph Hardy, MD
Mary Jo Mattocks, RN
Stephanie Smith

Chairman, Councilman, Las Vegas
Physician At-Large
Appointee, Las Vegas
Appointee, Henderson
Councilman, Henderson
Councilwoman, Mesquite
Appointee, Boulder City
Appointee, Mesquite
Councilwoman, North Las Vegas

Absent:

Andrea Anderson
Robert Eliason
Chip Maxfield
Rory Reid

Councilwoman, Boulder City
Councilman North Las Vegas
Commissioner, Clark County
Commissioner, Clark County

Executive Secretary:

Donald S. Kwalick, MD, MPH

Legal Counsel:

Stephen Minagil, Esquire

Staff: Karl Munninger, Fran Courtney, Jane Shunney, James Osti, Ed Wojcik, Angus MacEachern, Ann Markle, Rory Chetelat, Patricia Rowley, Shannon Randolph, Kay Godby, Jeanne Palmer, Doug Joslin, Jennifer Sizemore, Susan Eiselt, Diana Lindquist, Montana Garcia, Shelli Loessin, Leo Vega

ATTENDANCE:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Dan Musgrove	Clark County/UMC
Kenyon Leavitt	Citizen
Gail Yedinak	UMC
Chris Salm	SEIU Local 1107
Jamie Ware	SEIU Local 1107
Bill Fairchild	Citizen
Lamal Sadiq	Haus Ice Cream

I. CONSENT AGENDA

These are matters considered to be routine by the District Board of Health and may be enacted by one motion. Any item, however, may be discussed separately per Board Member request before action. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

Correction to the minutes of November 18, 2004, were as follows: Andrea Anderson was not present at the meeting. Member Colquitt moved for approval of the correction to the minutes and the following consent items. The motion was seconded by Member Smith and carried unanimously.

1. **Minutes/Board of Health Meeting:** 11/18/04
2. **Approve Payroll/Overtime for Periods of:** 10/23/04 -11/05/04 & 11/06/04 – 11/19/04
3. **Approve Accounts Payable Register:** **#948:** 10/29/04 -11/03/04; **#949:**11/04/04 -11/10/04; **#950:**11/12/04 -11/17/04
4. **Petition #46-04:** Approve Contract with Nevada State Health Division for Local Continuation of Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Provisions

II. PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION

1. **Variance Request:** To install an Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) on an Undersized Lot Served by a Public Water Supply (APN 002-25-410-008): **Petitioner:** Michael D. Towne

Ed Wojcik, Environmental Health Manager/Engineer, stated the owner, who was not present, is in agreement with conditions and staff recommends approval with those conditions. Chairman Reese asked if any member of the public wished to speak on this item. Mr. Kenyon Leavitt spoke in opposition to this request. Mr. Leavitt indicated the lot size is 33' x 160' wide and the lots in Bunkerville are maintained at a 10,000 sq. ft minimum lot - it doesn't conform to the rest of the buildings in the area. Mr. Leavitt also referred to a water pipe on the lot which carries irrigation water to the lower part of town. He encouraged denial of this request.

Member Smith asked about the approval process in regards to building and zoning issues. It was indicated that an applicant first obtains a septic tank permit.

Mr. Wojcik indicated that information about the water line was not revealed during staff research. If there was, in fact, a water line, there are engineering controls that can be put into place even if it does not have the minimum setbacks. With regard to lot size, both the Clark County Assessor's office and Clark County Zoning departments have been contacted and it is recognized as a legal lot.

Mr. Leavitt then read a letter from David Leavitt, an adjacent property owner, who was not present, stating, in his opinion, the lot is not large enough to build upon, and it will create an undesirable density level.

Member Hardy, who stated he represents Bunkerville as an assemblyman, asked questions regarding water line placement and sewer systems. Discussion ensued regarding possible sewer system placement in the future. Member Hardy stated there were unanswered questions.

Member Colquitt asked if staff can research this and bring this back to the Board. Member Smith asked for continuance on this matter. *Member Smith motioned to deny this application. Member Hardy seconded the motion to deny the application and the motion was carried unanimously.*

III. REPORT/DISCUSSION - ITEMS ON WHICH ACTION MAY BE TAKEN

1. Committee Report/Recommendation: Nominating Committee – Board of Health 2005 Officers (Chairman Eliason, Members Anderson & Fairchild)

Member Fairchild reported the nominating committee has candidates for the 2005 calendar year as follows: Chairman Gary Reese, Vice Chair Donna Fairchild and Secretary Jim Christensen

Donna Fairchild motioned to accept those candidates, the motion was seconded by Member Colquitt and was unanimously carried.

2. Update on Trauma System Development

Rory Chetelat, EMS Manager, stated the RTAC (Regional Trauma Advisory Committee) will be meeting this afternoon at 2:00 pm and a final meeting of the catchment area work group will be held at 1:00 pm. Mr. Chetelat reported that after a lengthy discussion, the State Board of Health granted Clark County Health District a variance which granted the District authority, for a limited period of time (12 -18 months), to establish transportation criteria for trauma patients. Catchment areas have been roughly defined and will be finalized today. Should hospitals indicate they wish to begin trauma services, those catchment areas will be defined and will be put before the Medical Advisory Board for review and will be placed into effect prior to hospitals providing trauma services. A draft trauma plan should be completed by January that could establish authority for the RTAC. Those draft plans will be worked on this afternoon and once finalized will be submitted to the District Board of Health for approval.

Several BDRs (Bill Draft Requests) have been introduced to clarify the language in NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes) and will shift authority from state to regional areas for pre-hospital trauma care. BDRs were also introduced to protect the Quality Assurance components of the RTAC and EMS from discovery.

3. Memorandum #11-04: Ice Cream Vendor Trucks Using Dry Ice; Compliance date of 12/31/04

Chairman Reese indicated this item will be held in abeyance until July 30, 2005.

A motion was made by Chairman Reese, seconded by member Smith and the motion was unanimously carried.

IV. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Chairman Reese asked if any member of public wished to be heard. There was no response and Chairman Reese closed citizen participation.

V. HEALTH OFFICER & STAFF REPORTS

INTRODUCTIONS: Dr. Kwalick introduced Kay Godby, Office of Public Health Preparedness, who was declared Community Health Nurse of the year by the March of Dimes. Ms. Godby thanked staff and in particular, Jane Shunney, for giving her the opportunity to excel in her job. One of her areas of recognition was developing a plan for a mass prophylaxis clinic during Determined Promise 2003. At the time the goal was to process about 125 patients per hour and the Health District exceeded this goal by doubling it. Ms. Godby also stated the District completed the Pandemic flu drill earlier this month wherein the District also exceeded its goal by vaccinating 3,300 individuals with flu vaccine.

Shelli Loessin was introduced as Dr. Kwalick's new secretary. Dr. Kwalick thanked Montana Garcia for serving in this role and stated she will now be working in Human Resources on diversity issues.

HEALTH AID TO COUNTIES: Dr. Kwalick indicated that the resolution to restore funding to Health Aid to Counties was sent to the Governor along with Washoe County's resolution which was also approved unanimously. This request was further brought to members of the State Board of Health, who are gubernatorial appointees, with the recommendation that they work with the Governor to assure passage to restore funding at the \$1.10 per capita level. This will enable the Health District to develop a chronic disease prevention and control program in the next year and into the future.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: James Osti, Grant Writer, Office of Public Health Preparedness, stated that he was asked to prepare a presentation about mental health patients and the overcrowded hospital emergency room issue facing southern Nevada hospitals.

Mr. Osti indicated the components of this problem consist of the 'legal hold' issue, an under funded state mental health system, the lack of centralized triage, and explosive community growth outstripping available social services. To put the overloaded system in perspective, yesterday there were 97 individuals in local hospitals on 'legal hold' in a system of about 350 total emergency room beds. There are three components involved in overloading the system: the severely mentally ill, substance abusers, children and the elderly. Population growth impacts hospital overcrowding with 60,000 persons moving into Clark County in the year 2003. The problem escalated in the 1990's and resulted in more than 15,000 in our hospital system on 'legal hold.' The average 'legal hold' patient spends an average of 4 days in an Emergency Department designed to treat patients in less than 4 hours. Further statistics were presented. It was noted that in the early 1990's, Nevada had a revenue short fall resulting in cuts in services, especially mental health services. Starting in the year 2000, private hospitals eliminated psychiatric beds because they are less profitable than general medical surgical beds. The result of these cumulative problems is that Clark County is the first county in the US to declare a psychiatric emergency and lead a national trend in emergency department overcrowding that threatens basic emergency health care. Short term solutions include:

- Fund an interim expansion of the psychiatric observation unit at Southern Nevada Adult Mental health Services
- Fund the use of empty Northern Nevada State Psychiatric beds as overflow capacity for Southern Nevadans
- Fund the use of empty WestCare beds as temporary care for medically cleared patients until State hospital beds are available
- Fund the use of Monte Vista beds for overflow capacity for Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
- Increase funding and allow medical clearance to be done at WestCare
- Completely fund the new 196 bed State Psychiatric Hospital

Mr. Osti asked for questions from members. Member Colquitt asked if funding for support could come from the hospitals themselves. Mr. Osti stated he could not answer that. Member Hardy asked if there was discussion of the use of outpatient mental health clinics or sliding fee scales. Mr. Osti stated that discussions centered on hospital solutions rather than community services. There has been discussion about how difficult it is to obtain services in the community. Right now there is a three month waiting period to obtain medications at those outpatient mental health clinics. There has to be additional funding to do outpatient services.

Dr. Kwalick indicated that our interest is in the prehospital system and the emergency department crowding due to psychiatric patients. What needs to happen quickly is the expansion of the psychiatric observation unit with State Funds. Facilities and staff could then be found to develop a "mental health emergency department" to free up approximately a hundred beds a day that are being taken up by these mental health patients. This will have an immediate impact on the emergency department overcrowding problem.

Vice Chair Christensen indicated that a quick fix will not solve the problem and that we will continue to fight this battle. Board members thanked Mr. Osti for his presentation.

INFLUENZA: Dr. Kwalick called attention to the letter to the editor on the Districts' flu clinics in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. He complimented staff on the remarkable job they did and thanked staff for processing over 15,000 high risk individuals. Vice Chair Christensen asked Dr. Kwalick if there was an increase in influenza activity locally. Dr. Kwalick responded that there were two confirmed cases in Clark County. There has been sporadic activity in several states and 19 states with no activity.

Dr. Kwalick wished everyone **happy and healthy holidays** and the Board of Health members responded in kind.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Chief Health Officer and Administration:

1. Monthly Activity Report, Mid November 2004 – Mid December 2004
2. Financial Data: Revenue and Expenditure Report for Fund 705 (Operating), 706 (Capital Reserve) for the Month of November 2004
3. Health Education Monthly Report, November 2004
4. Epidemiology Monthly Report, November 2004
5. Public Information Monthly Report, November 2004

B. Environmental Health:

1. Monthly Activity Report, November 2004

C. Nursing and Clinics:

1. Monthly Activity Report, November 2004

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Christensen adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

SUBMITTED FOR BOARD APPROVAL

Donald S. Kwalick, MD, MPH, Chief Health Officer
Executive Secretary

se