



MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER (DHO) ANNUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

January 24, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was conducted via Webex Event

MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Black – Chair, Council Member, City of North Las Vegas
Nancy Brune – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*Call-in User 2*)
Joseph Hardy – Mayor, Boulder City
Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Commissioner, Clark County (*Call-in User 4*)
Jim Seebeck – Council Member, City of Henderson

ABSENT: N/A

ALSO PRESENT: Frank Nemec
(In Audience)

LEGAL COUNSEL: Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer

STAFF: Tawana Bellamy, Daniel Burns, Victoria Burris, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Renee Fejeran, Cassius Lockett, Kyle Parkson, Larry Rogers, Alexis Romero, Kim Saner, Chris Saxton, Jennifer Sizemore, Randy Smith, Betty Souza-Lui, Rosanne Sugay, Greg Tordjman, Donnie (DJ) Whitaker, Edward Wynder

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Member Black called the District Health Officer (DHO) Annual Review Committee Meeting to order at 9:07 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. 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 this portion of the meeting.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE JANUARY 24, 2024 MEETING AGENDA (*for possible action*)

A motion was made by Member Black, seconded by Member Hardy and carried unanimously to approve the January 24, 2024 Agenda as presented.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. **APPROVE MINUTES/DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER (DHO) ANNUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE: January 23, 2023;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

A motion was made by Member Black, seconded by Member Hardy and carried unanimously to approve the January 24, 2024 Consent Agenda, as presented.

Member Kirkpatrick joined the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

VI. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. **Nomination of Chair of the District Health Officer (DHO) Annual Review Committee;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick, seconded by Member Hardy and carried unanimously to approve/retain Scott Black as Chair of the District Health Officer (DHO) Annual Review Committee.

2. **Receive and Discuss DHO Report of Accomplishments and Proposed Goals for Next Review Period and Approve Recommendations to the Board of Health on January 25, 2024;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

In addition to the Report on District Health Officer and Division Accomplishments for 2023 and Proposed Goals, Dr. Leguen presented the following significant accomplishments:

- Held a successful Annual All Hands Retreat
- Received a 5-year CDC grant to support strengthening the Public Health Workforce.
- Implemented an Organizational Vital Signs survey with follow up of focus groups on areas of employee's concern.
- Completed two budget augmentations and received approval from Department of Taxation with no findings.
- Audited Financial Statements for June 30, 2023, received an unmodified opinion with no findings and the related Single Audit was delivered within the required timeframe.
- Filled all positions on the Finance Team.
- Completed and disseminated the 2022-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Awarded a new Health Start grant in the amount of \$1.1 million a year for five years.
- The Congenital Syphilis Case Management Program (CSCMP) now consists of two nurses and a Community Health Worker who served over 230 clients, including 16 active infants since its inception in January 2022.
- The Express STI Testing services screened over 1,700 asymptomatic patients for sexually transmitted infections (STI), identifying an average of 17% positivity rate.
- Reduced daily no-show rates from 35% to 14% by moving from advance appointments to same-day appointments for all Food Handler Safety Training Card testing.
- Partnership with UNLV and the Water District to implement wastewater surveillance for SARS-CoV-2.
- Partnership with HopeLink to refer clients impacted by COVID-19 to needed services such as housing assistance, utility assistance, and food assistance.
- Worked with the Southern Nevada Water Authority to begin implementing a septic-to-sewer conversion program.
- Partnered with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the Las Vegas Valley Water District to resume water service to portions of Old Town on Mount Charleston after severe flooding destroyed much of the existing infrastructure.
- Performed a total number of 38,655 COVID tests and detected 3,386 positive samples.
- COVID-19 Vending machine project distributed 19,558 kits .

- Added capability to increase respiratory virus surveillance by implementing the CDC SC2/Flu assay.
- Started work for the Public Health Laboratory expansion plan with funding provided by Clark County and the local jurisdictions. The new laboratory will include BSL-3 and molecular and microbiology laboratories to support bioterrorism counter response and disease surveillance testing.

Member Hardy inquired as to the correlation of the State Public Health Lab and the Southern Nevada Public Health Lab (SNPHL), including funding from the State. Dr. Leguen advised that the Health District receives minimal funding from the State. Dr. Leguen further raised the public health funding that was approved during the last legislative session; however it was difficult to make long term plans with those funds as there was no guarantee to receive the funds in the future. Member Kirkpatrick advised that the State public health was underfunded. Dr. Leguen further confirmed that the State Public Health Lab and SNPHL maintain a close collaboration.

Dr. Leguen proceeded with the following significant accomplishments:

- COVID-19 Vaccination Program administered over 10,542 COVID-19 vaccinations through strategic outreach clinics and strike teams that focused on health equity areas and high-risk populations.
- Administered 589 mpox vaccines.
- Administered a total of 86,585 vaccines to 30,851 clients.
- Successful Arm in Arm. Get the Facts. Get the Vax media campaign.
- Host 98 students, residents, and fellows = 4,053 hours of applied public health practice.
- The Tobacco Control Program staff developed an online ordering system featuring new educational materials for healthcare provider referrals to the Nevada Tobacco Quitline.
- Trained 880 student athlete teen influencers to share information regarding the dangers of electronic vapor products with fellow teens.
- The CDPP's Barber/Beauty Shop Health Outreach Program received the Nevada Public Health Association's (NPHA) Public Health Program of the Year Award.
- Hosted the 4th Annual Southern Nevada Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit (SNSMOPS) through ODTA efforts with 200 attendees.
- Our Linkage to Action (L2A) Team was recognized with the "Crushing Stigma and Siloes" Award from There is No Hero in Heroin.
- Distributed 85,900 condoms and 33,500 lube to over 50 community partners in Clark County.
- Launched SNHD Public Health Vending Machine for public use at SNHD Fremont location.
- Distributed 32,923 doses of naloxone throughout Clark County (up from 14,656 in 2022) and 66,700 fentanyl test strips to 37 unique agencies.
- 9,841 unique patients were served in the health center.
- Received multiple HRSA Community Health Quality Recognition awards.
- Relocated and expanded access to Refugee Health Clinic services at Fremont.
- Participated in approximately 60 community outreach events – Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Family Planning, Ryan White, and COVID-19 Testing, and Vaccinations.
- Distributed 70,000 mailer postcards, along with billboard, bus, and bus station advertisements.

Dr. Leguen highlighted the following goals/next steps:

- Implementation of SNHD's Strategic Plan
- Implementation of the Community Health Improvement Plan
 - Top health priorities → Access to Care, Chronic Diseases, Transportation, and PH funding
- Implementation of the Public Health Infrastructure Project
 - Retain, support, and sustain the public health workforce
- Public Health Laboratory expansion plan (\$10 million investment)
 - BSL-3, molecular and microbiology laboratories to support bioterrorism counter response and communicable disease surveillance
- Advocate the legislature and federal delegation for approval of sustainable public funding in NV

- Develop and implement comprehensive media and social marketing campaigns and community outreach interventions addressing Tobacco, Vaping, the Opioid epidemic, and Congenital Syphilis threats to our community.
- Enhance SNHC contribution to access to behavioral health services and interventions addressing the opioid epidemic in Clark County.
- Build a Dental Health Center and deliver preventive and other dental health services at the Fremont Health Center

Further to an inquiry from Member Hardy on planning for an increase in refugees and immigrants in our community, Dr. Leguen advised that the Health District collaborated with the Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada and other community groups, with plans on expanding current refugee services at the Fremont Health Center.

Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel, reviewed the highlights of Dr. Leguen's employment contract and the financial compensation received the previous year. Ms. Anderson-Fintak further outlined the financial compensation received by staff this fiscal year.

The Committee discussed financial compensation for Dr. Leguen.

Following discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Member Hardy, seconded by Member Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously to recommend that the Southern Nevada District Board of Health, at their meeting on January 25, 2024, (1) accept the District Health Officer and Division Accomplishments & Goals, (2) approve a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), (3) approve a 2.5% salary increase, and (4) approve a 7.5% one-time bonus.

- 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 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 this portion of the meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

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

/acm