



MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

January 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 Nemeec, Vice-Chair – At-Large Member, Physician (*in-person*)
Joseph Hardy, Secretary – Mayor, City of Boulder City (*in-person*)
April Becker – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)
Bobbette Bond – At-Large Member, Regulated Business/Industry (*in-person*)
Nancy Brune – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*in-person*)
Pattie Gallo – Mayor Pro Tem, City of Mesquite (*via Teams*)
Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)
Monica Larson – Council Member, City of Henderson (*in-person*)
Scott Nielson – At-Large Member, Gaming (*in-person*)
Shondra Summers-Armstrong – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*in-person*)

ABSENT: N/A

ALSO PRESENT:
(In Audience) Allon Adar-Burla, Saul Alvarez, David Anderson, Elva Anderson, Linda Anderson, Azucena Ayala, Toluwanimi Babarinde, Amanda Bowen-Trujillo, Scott Carlsen, Elisa Carothers, Ethan Charles, Renee Charles, Dawn Christensen, Greg Cole, Rick Davis, Lorraine DeBusk, Jessica Donnell, Maria Elliott, Andrew Farrell, Cynde Farrell, Tanascon Fowler, Irene Garcia, Mark Gilmour, Mark Goldstein, Carmen Gomide, Camilla Grantinutti, Lon Grasmick, David Harrison, Judy Heath, Rodney Heiselman, Diane Henry, Laurie Howard-Malm, Larry Ish, Edwin Kaehler, Demetria Kalfas-Gordon, Gary Kantor, Keith Kennedy, Jed Kimma, Barry King, Joyce Kotnik, Deborah Kuhls, Elaine Lane, Pamela Littleton, Tom Lobeck, Michael Lyle, Laura McSwain, Bradley Mayer, Mark Medina, Myra Medina, Ed Mikula, Connie Miles, Edwin Miller, Michael Mitchell, Brandon Monette, Tammy Moore, Dan Mooney, Tammy Moore, Dennis Neuhausel, Trent Nguyen, Cheryl Pastore, Mary Peters, Laurie Priest, Thomas Regenhard, Carol Reynolds, Cindy Romo, Dennis Romo, Christian Salmon, Jay Samuels, C. Thomas Sangretoro, Stacie Sasso, Angelia Schneider, Larry Seely, Sharon Seely, Karen Sevy, Michael Shapiro, Richard Shinnick, Cheri Sidhu, Steve Sidhu, Cindy Snow, Brigitte Solvie, Laurie Sutton, William Takohashi, Shana Tello, Michelle Van Geel, Charles Walker

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer

LEGAL COUNSEL: Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel

STAFF: Kevin Abbott, Adriana Alvarez, Emily Anelli, Tonia Atencio, Jacqueline Ayala, Maria Azzarelli, Tawana Bellamy, Haley Blake, Nikki Burns-Savage, Cory Burgess, Daniel Burns, Victoria Burris, Nancy Cadena, Belen Campos-Garcia,

Andria Cordovez Mulet, Shea Crippen, Gerard Custodio, Liliana Davalos, Jeff Dawson, Christian DeHaan, Aaron DelCotto, Yvonne Emry, Lisa Falkner, Kimberly Franich, Joe Ginty, Xavier Gonzales, Jacques Graham, Nancy Hall, Victoria Harding, Maria Harris, Richard Hazeltine, Raychel Holbert, Donna Houston, Carmen Hua, Jessica Johnson, Theresa Ladd, Josie Llorico, Julie Maldonado, Anil Mangla, Jonas Maratita, Blanca Martinez, Bernadette Meily, Marco Mendez, Kim Monahan, Deborah Moran, Todd Nicolson, Brian Northam, Brennen O’Toole, Rona Ordon, Verallynn Orewyler, Kyle Parkson, Shannon Pickering, Luann Province, Yin Jie Qin, Davin Raman, Vivek Raman, Emma Rodriguez, Larry Rogers, Alexis Romero, Chris Saxton, Dave Sheehan, Karla Shoup, Jennifer Sizemore, Cameron Smelcer, Randy Smith, Ronny Soy, Rosanne Sugay, Candyce Taylor, William Thompson, Rebecca Topol, Greg Tordjman, Renee Trujillo, Jorge Viote, Brenda Welch, Ashley Wheeler, Donnie Whitaker, Tiana Wright, Edward Wynder, Lourdes Yapjoco, Merylyn Yegon, Lei Zhang, Ying Zhang, Susan Zannis

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

The Chair called the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Andria Cordovez Mulet, Executive Assistant, administered the roll call and confirmed quorum.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chair acknowledged attendees present in relation to the proposed septic system regulations, expressing appreciation for their engagement. The Chair advised that as there was no posted agenda item related to the proposed septic system regulations, attendees were invited to share comments during the Second Public Comment period.

*Member Brune joined the meeting at 9:02 a.m.
Member Bond joined the meeting at 9:02 a.m.*

III. RECOGNITIONS

1. Las Vegas TGA Part A HIV/AIDS Program – Clark County – Certificate of Quality Improvement Leadership

- Ronny Soy and Brennen O’Toole

The Chair recognized Ronny Soy, Senior Community Health Nurse, and Brennen O’Toole, Health Educator, for receiving a Certificate from Clark County Office of HIV, Las Vegas TGA Part A HIV/AIDS Program for exemplary leadership in applying quality improvement tools, interpreting data, and driving meaningful, collaborative improvement within the Clinical Quality Management Program. Their consistency and willingness to engage in meaningful quarterly trainings and monthly meetings have elevated the overall CQM program. On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District and the District Board of Health, the Chair congratulated the employees on this recognition.

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

2. Southern Nevada Health District – December and January Employees of the Month

- Victoria Harding and Nancy Hall
- Jonas Maratita and Rona Ordon

The Chair recognized the December and January Employees of the Month. The Health District, and the Board of Health, recognized these employees go 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 Southern Nevada Health District and District Board of Health, the Chair congratulated the employees on this recognition.

3. Southern Nevada Health District – 2025 Employee of the Year

- Sarah Humphreys

4. Southern Nevada Health District – 2025 Manager of the Year

- Bernie Meily

The Chair recognized the 2025 Employee and Manager of the Year. The two individuals were selected from all the winners this past year that went above and beyond for the Health District and our community, and that best represent the C.A.R.E.S. Values. On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District and District Board of Health, the Chair congratulated these exceptional employees.

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.

Laura McSwain, from the Water Fairness Coalition, spoke regarding Item XI.3, the Community Health Monthly Activity Report, specifically the Health District's tobacco and vaping prevention efforts in school athletic settings. She raised concerns about student injuries associated with artificial turf, citing an August 2024 incident involving second-degree burns to student athletes, and characterized such injuries as a public health prevention and surveillance issue. Ms. McSwain also drew parallels between inhalation risks from vaping and potential respiratory exposures related to artificial turf particulates during athletic activity. She noted that Clark County School District has received expert testimony on artificial turf impacts but continues field conversions. Ms. McSwain requested clarification on whether and how the Health District was tracking and addressing artificial turf-related health risk. Ms. McSwain submitted supporting materials for the record.

Good morning, Chair Black and members of the Board. My name is Christian Salmon, spelled S-A-L-M-O-N. Under NRS 241.035(1)(d) I respectfully request the minutes reflect the substance of my remarks uh verbatim. Regarding the approval of the November 20, 2025 Board of Health Minutes on SNHD's quote audio and video recordings page, that meeting is labeled as a time of two hours 8 minutes 57 seconds, but the posted file stops at one hour, 10 minutes and 57 seconds. Two hours on the label, one hour and 10 minutes in reality. If the public can't access the complete recording, how can the public verify the accuracy of the minutes for what happened after one hour, 10 minutes and 57 seconds. And in the case specifically, my case specifically, the draft minutes preserve my public comment wording because I requested now and then that my

remarks be captured verbatim through my through through the NRS that I requested, as I did here. If the online recording is incomplete, what source was used to confirm the quoted words are correct? The video, the full video and a separate audio recording, staff notes, or something else. Please advise. So before you approve those minutes, I'm asking for three things. Please state on the record whether the SNHD had the full audio and or video for the November 20th meeting and what the official record recording of the record is. Two, if the full recording exists, please direct staff to post the complete file and confirm where it can be accessed. Three, if the full recording does not exist or cannot be produced then please do not approve the minutes that cannot be verified against a complete meeting recording. At minimum, the minutes should clearly disclose that limitation. Because these items are now raised, I res, I respectively ask the Board to pull the November 20th minutes from the consent agenda today so that this can be addressed in open session before any vote. Thank you.

Victoria Harding, an SNHD employee of 19 years and former Chief Steward, spoke in support of Dr. Cassius Lockett. She described the Health District's growth over time and the challenges that accompanied leadership and organizational changes. Ms. Harding stated that over the past year, employee engagement and communication have significantly improved, noting a renewed sense of unity, value, and shared purpose across the Health District under Dr. Lockett's leadership. She expressed strong support for Dr. Lockett's performance, contract extension, and compensation, emphasizing the importance of investing in leadership that prioritizes employee input, collaboration, and community impact.

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

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

A motion was made by Member Nielson, seconded by Member Kirkpatrick, and carried unanimously to approve the January 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:** November 20, 2025 *(for possible action)*
- 2. PETITION #18-26: Approval of the Interlocal Agreement (CBE NO. 607816-25), between the Southern Nevada Health District and Clark County, Nevada to collaborate on Ryan White Part A Jurisdictional Clinical Quality Management;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
- 3. PETITION #20-26: Approval of the 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 sudden unexpected infant death (SUID)/sudden death in the young (SDY) data and improve SDY data on febrile seizures and priority fields for entry into the National Fatality Review Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS);** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

4. **PETITION #21-26: Approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner (CCOCME) to collaborate on the collection of violent death data into the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS);** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
5. **PETITION #22-26: Approval of the 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 National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) through State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS);** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
6. **PETITION #23-26: Approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office (WCRMEO) to collaborate on the registry and prevention of sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) and sudden death in the young (SDY);** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
7. **PETITION #24-26: Approval of the Interlocal Agreement Number 142467-A between the Southern Nevada Health District and the Las Vegas Valley Water District for potable water utility service for the Southern Nevada Health District BSL-3 Lab Expansion Project;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

Further to an inquiry from Chair regarding any legal concerns in proceeding with the approval of the Consent Agenda, Ms. Anderson-Fintak advised that Nevada Open Meeting Law required minutes that substantially reflected a meeting. She noted that the Health District exceeds this requirement by also providing a full video and audio recording of the meeting. While minor technical issues such as buffering or early start times may occur with the video, the complete meeting recording is available online and meets or exceeds legal standards for public access. Ms. Anderson-Fintak confirmed that the Board was in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law with the minutes contained in the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Member Brune, seconded by Member Larson, and carried unanimously to approve the January 22, 2026 Consent Agenda, as presented.

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. **MEMORANDUM #05-26: Review and Approve the Proposed 2025 Public Accommodation Facilities Regulations;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
 - a. Attachment A: Business Impact Statement (BIS)

- b. Attachment B: Public Comment/Written Correspondence
- c. Attachment C: Summary of Major Changes
- d. Attachment D: Proposed 2025 PA Regulations
- e. Attachment E: Proposed 2025 PA Regulations – Red Line
- f. Attachment F: Regulations Workshop Notifications
- g. Attachment G: Posting Verifications
- h. Attachment H: Workshops
- i. Attachment I: BOH Presentation

Vivek Raman, Environmental Health Supervisor, and Christian DeHaan, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, presented the Proposed 2025 Public Accommodation Facilities Regulations.

The Chair opened for Public Comment. Seeing no one, the Chair closed the period for Public Comment.

Member Kirkpatrick thanked staff for accommodating the Board's request to delay action during the legislative session in order to receive more complete feedback. She noted that regulatory changes are often approached deliberately to ensure accuracy and clarity, as they are infrequent and require thorough consideration. She stated that the process helped address questions and potential miscommunications and commended staff for their work, noting that similar regulatory efforts in the past have taken significantly longer to complete.

Member Bond inquired whether the Culinary Union was contacted to provide comment on the draft regulations, specifically related to room cleaning requirements on housekeepers. Mr. Raman could not confirm that the Culinary Union received public notice for the draft regulation. Further, Mr. Raman advised that the minimum requirement for room cleaning was always part of the regulations.

Further to an inquiry from Member Summers-Armstrong regarding the waterproof barrier on mattresses, Mr. Raman advised that initially the draft regulations required a waterproof encasement for a mattress, however, the requirement was adjusted to a waterproof barrier.

Further to an inquiry from Member Nielson, Mr. DaHaan provided information on short-term rentals, confirming that local jurisdictions currently had oversight through code enforcement for short-term rentals. Mr. DaHaan advised that the Health District's website contained information related to short-term rentals.

Member Larson left the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Member Larson returned to the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

The Board requested that the Health District's involvement and/or oversight of short-term rentals be revisited.

A motion was made by Member Larson, seconded by Member Brune, and carried unanimously to approve the Proposed 2025 Public Accommodation Facilities Regulations, with the following revisions:

1. *Using the more stringent option ambient room temperature of 68°F and 80°F (Section 3.9.3).*

2. *Not issue updated regulatory requirement violations on existing facilities until January 1, 2028.*
3. *Update from 2025 to 2026 Public Accommodation Regulations.*

VIII. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. **Review, Discuss, and Accept the Single Audit, as of June 30, 2025, from FORVIS MAZARS LLP;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

DJ Whitaker, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the Single Audit reflected the same results as the draft presented by Josh Findlay of FORVIS MAZARS LLP at the November Board meeting. The final OMB Compliance Supplement was issued with no changes to the previously presented draft. Ms. Whitaker advised that the Single Audit received an unmodified opinion with no findings. Ms. Whitaker outlined that the following four major federal programs were audited:

- 93.788 – Opioid STR
- 93.889 – National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program
- 93.940 – HIV Prevention Activities Health Department Based
- 93.967 – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Collaboration with Academia to Strengthen Public Health

A motion was made by Member Nielson, seconded by Member Summers-Armstrong, and carried unanimously to accept the Single Audit, as of June 30, 2025, from FORVIS MAZARS LLP, as presented.

2. **Receive, Discuss and Approve the Recommendations from the DHO Annual Review Committee meeting on January 20, 2026 regarding the District Health Officer Annual Review;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

Chair Black provided an overview of the DHO Annual Review Committee meeting on January 20, 2026.

In addition to the written report on the District Health Officer and Division Accomplishments for Calendar Year 2025, Dr. Lockett briefly highlighted:

- SNHD Workforce, including the decrease in employee turnover
- Operational Strategic Plans
- Finance and Funding
- Programmatic and division accomplishments
- Youth Advisory Council
- Vaccination Efforts
- Harm Reduction Efforts
- Street Medicine

Dr. Lockett highlighted the following goals/next steps:

- Implement Healthcare Acquired Infections program
- Expand contractual partnerships for Street Medicine
- Expand pediatric service line in FQHC

- Obtain Patient-Centered Medical Home designation
- Expand data modernization efforts
- Explore MAC/MAA for outreach
- Apply for Reaccreditation in early 2027: 89% documentation completed (133 measures)
- Oversee pharmacy strategy, operations and compliance (e.g. formulary management, 340B, and cost-containment measures)
- Public Health Laboratory expansion plan (\$10 million investment)

The Board members expressed appreciation for Dr. Lockett’s leadership and noted improved organizational stability, positive staff feedback, and a renewed focus on community-centered public health priorities. Several members highlighted Dr. Lockett’s clear communication, openness to questions, and support for Board members without medical backgrounds. Concerns were also raised regarding the need for continued investment in technology and equipment, particularly related to electronic health records and data security. Board members commended staff efforts, community engagement, and recent presentations, and voiced strong support for Dr. Lockett and the Health District’s direction.

Chair Black advised that the DHO Annual Review Committee was recommending a two-year extension to Dr. Lockett’s employment agreement, a 2.5% salary increase, and 5% one-time bonus.

A motion was made by Member Summers-Armstrong, seconded by Member Kirkpatrick, and carried unanimously to (1) accept the District Health Officer and Division Accomplishments, (2) approve a two-year extension to the District Health Officer Employment Agreement, (3) approve a 2.5% salary increase, and (4) approve a 5% one-time bonus.

Member Nielson left the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

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)**

Chair Black once again thanked public attendees for attending the meeting. Chair Black noted that earlier in the meeting outlined the multi-step process related to updates to the Public Accommodations Facilities regulations. The process included an initial proposal followed by community engagement, workshops, and public feedback, which resulted in significant revisions to the original proposal. The final outcome was described as balancing the Health District’s public health mission with practical considerations and stakeholder input. Chair Black recapped that the proposed septic regulations were postponed to allow additional time for public input on potential impacts to Clark County residents. Outreach efforts included a resident survey, a dedicated email inbox, postcard mailers with a QR code sent to all residential septic system owners, and email notifications to septic owners and prior commenters. Based on feedback received, staff are revisiting provisions related to operating permits and fees, sewer connection requirements, and property transfers. Staff anticipate sharing information on upcoming outreach sessions by the end of the month. Outreach session details will be distributed via postcard, email, and the septic regulations webpage.

Member Nielson returned to the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Member Kirkpatrick requested an update on the lab expansion project at a future meeting.

Member Nemec reported that Southern Nevada continues to face challenges recruiting and retaining physicians. While the state and Southern Nevada have invested significant funding to expand graduate medical education (GME), retention of trained physicians remains low at approximately 46 percent. The School of Medicine is proposing a study to better understand the causes of low retention and has requested collaboration from the Health District. Member Nemec requested further discussion on this topic. Member Summers-Armstrong emphasized the need for the proposed study to examine a broad range of factors affecting retention, including residency access, cost of living, education systems, community welcoming practices, and cultural competency. Member Kirkpatrick stated she serves on the Patient Protection Board and offered to help coordinate efforts. She noted that residencies are administered through the medical school rather than UMC and highlighted that many physicians leave Nevada due to the lack of certain specialty residency programs. Member Larson noted that the Governor has prioritized physician recruitment and retention.

Member Summers-Armstrong left the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Member Nemec left the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

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

- DHO Comments

Dr. Lockett submitted his written report.

- Update on Seasonal Respiratory Diseases

Dr. Rosanne Sugay, Medical Epidemiologist, presented an update on seasonal respiratory diseases in the community.

Member Nemec returned to the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Member Summers-Armstrong returned to the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Further to an inquiry from Member Summers-Armstrong, Dr. Sugay advised that the Health District increased community outreach, vaccination efforts and education early in the respiratory season that may have contributed to low cases.

Further to an inquiry from Member Hardy, Dr. Sugay advised that it was not too late to receive a vaccine to provide oneself and the community.

- Update on Immunization Rates and Outreach

Shannon Pickering, Community Health Nurse Manager, provided an update on immunization rates and outreach.

Member Hardy raised a question regarding the hepatitis B vaccine for newborns. Ms. Pickering explained that the Health District's perinatal program identifies pregnant individuals

who are hepatitis B surface antigen-positive and provides education early in pregnancy when possible. Infants born to hepatitis B-positive mothers continue to receive hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and the first hepatitis B vaccine dose at birth, consistent with current guidance. Member Nemeč noted that the primary concern involved infants born to mothers with unknown hepatitis B status who may be at risk of missed exposure. Ms. Pickering confirmed that when maternal status is unknown, infants should still receive HBIG and the hepatitis B vaccine within the first day of hospitalization. She added that the Epidemiology Department is notified of all positive cases and works collaboratively to ensure appropriate follow-up and prevention measures.

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. CY2025 District Health Officer and Division Accomplishments
2. Administration Division Monthly Activity Report (Nov 2025 / Dec 2025)
3. Community Health Division Monthly Activity Report (Nov 2025 / Dec 2025)
4. Community Health Center (FQHC) Division Monthly Report (Nov 2025 / Dec 2025)
5. Disease Surveillance and Control Division Monthly Activity Report (Nov 2025 / Dec 2025)
6. Environmental Health Division Monthly Activity Report (Nov 2025 / Dec 2025)
7. Public Health & Preventive Care Division Monthly Activity Report (Nov 2025 / Dec 2025)
8. Contracts Report – Up to \$100,000

- 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.

Member Hardy left the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Member Larson left the meeting at 11:12 a.m. and did not return.

Laura McSwain spoke regarding the proposed changes to septic system regulations, stating she represented members of the septic community who were unable to attend. She expressed concerns about the regulatory process and public notice, asserting that affected homeowners were not adequately or consistently notified and that recent survey outreach did not reach all impacted residents. Ms. McSwain argued that the proposed changes could impose administrative burdens, create uncertainty for property owners, and negatively affect property values, particularly where sewer connections are not reasonably available. She raised concerns that the proposed regulations are driven by water policy objectives rather than public health needs and stated that financial assistance pathways described in prior legislation are limited or unavailable. Ms. McSwain requested that the Board abandon the proposed rules and submitted written materials for the record.

Member Hardy returned to the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Member Bond left the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Cheryl Pastore provided comments on proposed septic regulations and mosquito control. Regarding septic regulations, she expressed concerns about the clarity and fairness of the process, stating that notification and survey questions were unclear and inconsistently distributed to residents. She also objected to the proposed regulatory changes, asserting that long-standing septic issues should not result in new financial burdens on residents.

Ms. Pastore also commented on mosquito control, referencing Dr. Lockett's report and expressing appreciation for his leadership. She raised concerns about mosquito breeding in poorly maintained swimming pools at rental properties, noting that tenants may shut off pool equipment and restrict access for maintenance, leading to unsanitary conditions and increased mosquito activity. She suggested that rental and property management agreements require proper pool operation and maintenance access to address public health concerns, reduce water waste, and mitigate mosquito issues. Further to an inquiry, Ms. Pastore advised that she resided on Rosana Street.

*Member Bond returned to the meeting at 11:20 a.m.
Member Brune left the meeting at 11:23 a.m. and did not return.*

Diane Henry spoke in support of prior public comments regarding proposed septic system regulations. She raised concerns about the completeness and accessibility of the video and audio recording from the November 20 meeting, stating that public comments related to septic issues were missing or not fully available online. Ms. Henry opposed replacing existing septic permits with temporary or revocable permits and expressed concerns about additional fees, enforcement requirements, and potential financial hardship for septic owners. She advocated for focusing on fully funded, voluntary septic conversion programs rather than regulatory mandates and stated that current funding options are limited. Ms. Henry also expressed concerns about public outreach efforts, survey design, and transparency, and requested greater direct Board involvement in workshops and the posting of recordings for public review.

Carol Reynolds spoke in opposition to the proposed septic regulations, stating that she has lived in Las Vegas for over five decades, including many years in a home with a septic system, without experiencing septic-related public health emergencies. She asserted that septic regulations should focus on protecting public health rather than imposing financial or administrative burdens on homeowners. Ms. Reynolds characterized the proposed regulations as unnecessary and urged the Board to reject them.

Hi, my name is Christian Salmon, S-A-L-M-O-N. Under NRS 241.035(1)(d) I respectfully request that the minutes reflect the substance of my remarks. I'd like to thank Diane Henry for playing that so we could see it on the record. Uh, this is the second time that I've interacted with the SNHD with, no the third time now, with an attorney that has not the the attorney at this meeting should have tabled that vote, gone and checked and then come back and reported on that. An officer of the court did not verify what they were supposed to do and is uh uh and it's like it's coming from, you know, God's mouth. I don't think that's appropriate. That's why we're upset. We keep seeing things done like this and that this is supposed to be about law and order and we don't feel that. We don't see that and it's very upsetting and that we're having a meeting and it's and it's not true. This is not a true meeting. If that, if those minutes were ignored, that is a part of what we're doing. What else are we missing here? You know, so I'm here to follow up the concerns raised on November, uh November 20th, 2025 and repeatedly actually before that regarding the this regulation. First, the basic question that still remains is we have not seen a public health emergency declared. Is there one? If so, what exactly is it? Where is it uh declared? And what study supports it? And if there is no declaration declared emergency, why are we being treated as if there is an urgent crisis that we have that justifies sweeping new burdens on law-abiding homeowners? Second, process and accountability. Who initiated this overhaul and why? What agency or individuals pushed it forward? And what and what problem statement and data drove this decision? Oh, uh, A package this large should not feel like it is it was started in a back office and arrived at the public microphone as a finished product. Because here's what it feels like from

the public side. Staff at agencies get an unlimited runway. Presentations, internal discussions, months uh months of momentum and homeowners get a 5 minute window with no dialogue. This is a structurally one sided and it's not how a trust is built. And it's not just about feelings, it's about transparency. Many of us, including myself via attorney Edward Wynder over here try to uh you know I we tried this path of getting information instead of uh clarity. What we've experienced is resistance, delays, denials and heavy withdraw a heavy withholding. I'm asking the Board to recognize when an agency proposes new rules that could affect more than 18,000 properties, secrecy or even the appearance of secrecy is unacceptable. This isn't a covert, clandestine CIA mission. It's health policy. It should be open for the public to review from day one. Do we have to petition the court to obtain records why somebody wants my toilet water so bad. Now to the bottom line. The public has overwhelmingly objected to these proposed uh regulations, so I am not here to ask for a better version of the same premise. I'm asking to have you reject the proposal as a whole and not to start treating and to start treating homeowners like we're supposed to accept regulatory package quote for just uh first and learn the consequences later. I think we've heard that before as if it were love it and you'll and once it passes, we will not. And I want to add a second question or request that matters to many homeowners right now. Rollback the current triggers and interpretations that push uh homeowners towards sewer conversion or deep regulatory entanglement simply because a system needs a repair. A homeowner should not be should should be able to repair or replace their own system responsibly, especially when the septic system is legally built and permitted. My gosh, this has been around since Rome without being forced into a new escalating permission structure for ordinary maintenance. We are not wrongdoers. We are not criminals. We do not deserve to be treated like a problem that needs to be managed. Finally, fairness and public reporting on municipal water. The public has been uh has seen detailed top water user quote un-quote disclosures including names of street addresses released and circulated widely. Yet when when homeowners ask for core public policy records, such as myself, that explain how and why this regulatory overhaul was uh was pursued. We hit a wall that looks like a double standard. Information flows freely in some areas.

Member Gallo left the meeting at 11:31 a.m. and did not return.

Edwin Kaehler spoke in support of comments made by Diane Henry regarding the proposed septic regulations. He thanked staff for posting FAQ materials on the website but raised concerns about their accuracy and completeness. Mr. Kaehler questioned whether documented public health emergencies related to septic systems exist and requested that data on septic-related health interventions be made public. He expressed disagreement with the rationale for five-year permit reviews, stating that early inspections may not be practical or cost-effective for septic systems, aside from routine pumping requirements already in place. Mr. Kaehler also raised concerns about potential permit renewal questionnaires, system age considerations, and requirements such as installing risers, which he stated could affect many existing systems. He noted that his septic permit, issued in 1978, does not include an expiration date.

Sharon Seeley, residing at 6475 Darby Avenue, spoke in opposition to the proposed 2025 septic regulations. She stated that the proposed changes are burdensome, unnecessary, and pose financial risk to her household. Ms. Seeley noted that her home was built approximately 49 years ago with a permitted septic system that has no expiration or renewal requirement and has been properly maintained. She asserted that decisions regarding repair or replacement of her septic system should remain with the homeowner and expressed concern that mandatory sewer connections would create significant financial hardship.

Mary Peters stated that she and her neighbors were unaware of the proposed septic regulations until learning about them through news and social media, noting that postcard notifications did not clearly convey the issue or prompt earlier participation. She reported living in her home for 25 years and stated that her septic system and well have been properly maintained at the homeowners' expense. Ms. Peters expressed concern that the proposed regulations would create financial hardship for her household, particularly as a retired family with a disabled veteran, and raised concerns about affordability and impacts on future property sales. She asserted that if new requirements are imposed, funding assistance should be provided, as homeowners did not request the changes. Further to an inquiry, Ms. Peters advised that she resided on Landberg, at Blue Diamond and Rainbow.

Elisa Carothers provided historical context on her family's long-standing residence in Las Vegas and stated that she and her neighborhood have relied on septic systems for decades without public health issues. She noted that septic use has been common in her area for over 50 years and that routine maintenance, such as pumping, has been sufficient. Ms. Carothers expressed opposition to proposed septic regulations, stating that community resources should instead focus on other local priorities. She requested that existing septic arrangements be left unchanged, citing the absence of documented problems in her neighborhood. Further to an inquiry, Ms. Carothers advised that she resided in LaMirada on Kamiasu Lane.

Lori Sutton, residing at 5274 Stacy Avenue, spoke in opposition to the proposed septic regulations. She stated that she has owned her home for 34 years and has worked to pay it off in preparation for retirement. Ms. Sutton expressed concern that the proposed changes are unnecessary and could create significant financial risk for her household and others in similar situations. She requested that the Board not move forward with the proposed regulations and thanked the Board for the opportunity to comment.

Dr. Gary Kantor provided public comment opposing the proposed septic regulations. He summarized his medical background and decades of experience practicing critical care medicine in Southern Nevada and stated that, in his professional experience, he has not encountered health or environmental medical issues attributable to septic systems. He questioned the public health basis for the proposed regulations and characterized them as unrelated to documented health risks. Dr. Kantor also raised concerns regarding the adequacy and timing of public notice, stating that initial notification provided limited time to review extensive proposed changes. He expressed opposition to forced sewer conversion, permit renewal requirements, and inspection provisions, citing potential impacts on property values, marketability, and homeowners' financial security. He requested that the proposed regulatory changes be withdrawn and emphasized the importance of transparency and meaningful public engagement in regulatory development.

Cindy Snow described her experience attempting to build a retirement home on property purchased eight years ago, stating that she proceeded with the understanding that a septic system would be permitted, as is common in her neighborhood. She reported that despite multiple attempts over several years, she was unable to obtain a septic permit and was instead required to pursue a sewer connection, with an estimated cost of approximately \$156,000, including design fees. Ms. Snow stated that she applied for a waiver based on distance and cost but did not receive clarification on what constitutes an "exorbitant" expense. She further noted that her homeowners' association had issued fines for failing to build, which were recently paused. Ms. Snow requested that the Board consider regulatory relief or clarification for property owners in developed areas who are unable to obtain septic permits or afford required sewer connections. Further to an inquiry, Ms. Snow advised that she resided at 3141 Montecito Drive.

Allon Adar-Burla, residing at 2955 S Tenaya, spoke in opposition to proposed septic regulations, stating that he has lived in homes with septic systems for more than 30 years without issues. He expressed concern that many residents in his neighborhood are retirees and that requiring sewer connections at significant personal expense would create financial hardship. Mr. Adar-Burla asserted that if sewer connections are required, associated costs should not be borne solely by homeowners. He suggested that existing septic system owners be grandfathered under any new regulations and that any future requirements apply only prospectively. He emphasized support for clean water goals but objected to retroactive mandates affecting long-standing, functioning septic systems.

Member Kirkpatrick left the meeting at 11:52 a.m. and did not return.

Rodney Heiselman addressed the Board regarding proposed septic regulations, stating that he was not directly notified and learned of the issue through others. He spoke in support of other community members, particularly retirees and individuals on fixed or limited incomes, who may be disproportionately impacted by the proposed changes. Mr. Heiselman described his personal circumstances, including maintaining his septic system in good condition, employment challenges, and family health concerns, and expressed that additional regulatory or financial burdens would create hardship. He urged the Board to consider the financial and personal impacts on affected residents and requested that compassion and fairness be considered in the decision-making process. Further to an inquiry, Mr. Heiselman advised that he resided at 910 Baker Avenue.

Michael Shapiro, a resident of the Sierra Vista Ranchos area, spoke in opposition to the proposed septic regulations. He stated that his home, built in 1968, has a septic system with a lifetime permit, which was a key factor in his decision to purchase the property. Mr. Shapiro noted that many residents in his neighborhood, including retirees, were unaware of the proposed changes until recently. He reported assisting neighbors with completing the public survey and expressed strong opposition to the proposal, concurring with prior speakers. Mr. Shapiro thanked the Board for its service and encouraged members to consider community feedback and apply common sense in their decision-making.

Ms. Cordovez Mulet advised that six written comments were received and will be included with the meeting minutes.

Eugene Belin, a Henderson resident, stated that while his primary residence is connected to sewer, he owns multiple properties that rely on septic systems as well as undeveloped parcels. He expressed concern that owners of undeveloped land were not adequately notified of the proposed septic regulations and may be unaware of potential impacts on their ability to develop property due to the high cost of sewer connections. Mr. Belen noted that many additional property owners could be affected and may not yet be aware of the proposed changes, and he concurred with concerns raised by other speakers.

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

The Chair thanked attendees for their participation and acknowledged the significant concerns raised, noting that the proposed septic regulations are at the beginning of a process rather than a final decision. The Chair emphasized that public engagement is essential and encouraged residents to ensure their contact information is current with the Health District and to inform

neighbors who may be affected. The Chair announced that community outreach, including in-person and virtual engagement opportunities, will begin in February. The Chair expressed confidence that through continued public input, Board deliberation, and staff expertise, the process will result in balanced and reasonable regulations that uphold public health while respecting the concerns of affected residents.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

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

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