



## MINUTES

**Public Health Advisory Board Meeting  
April 8, 2019 – 8:30 A.M.  
Southern Nevada Health District, 280 S. Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89107  
Red Rock Trail Room A and B**

**BOARD:  
(Present)** Tina Coker – Member, City of Henderson  
Michael Collins – Member, Registered Nurse  
LeQawn McDowell – Member, City of Las Vegas  
Kenneth Osgood – Member, Physician  
David Wachs – Member, Environmental Health

**ABSENT:** Ronald Kline – Member, City of North Las Vegas  
Dick Tomasso – Member, City of Mesquite  
Warren Harhay - Member, City of Boulder City

**ALSO PRESENT:  
(In Audience)** None

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Heather Anderson-Fintak, Esq.

**EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY:** Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer

**STAFF:** Michelle Cintron, Amy Hagan, Michael Johnson, Fermin Leguen, JoAnn Rupiper, John Shannon, Mimi Ujije, Leo Vega, Jacqueline Wells

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Collins called the Public Health Advisory Board Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. 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 step up to the speaker's podium, 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 Chairman or the Board by majority vote.

Seeing no one, the Chair closed this portion of the meeting.

**IV. ADOPTION OF THE APRIL 8, 2019 AGENDA (for possible action)**

*A motion was made by Member Osgood seconded by Member McDowell and carried unanimously to adopt the April 8, 2019 Agenda as presented.*

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:** Items for action to be considered by the Public Health Advisory Board 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/Advisory Board Meeting:** January 14, 2019; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

*A motion was made by Member Osgood seconded by Member Coker and carried unanimously to adopt the January 14, 2019 Consent Agenda as presented.*

## VII. **REPORT/DISCUSSION/ACTION**

1. **Review/Discuss Accreditation Site Visit**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

Mimi Ujiie, Quality Improvement and Performance Coordinator presented an update on the District's accreditation site visit. She reported the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) has placed the Southern Nevada Health District on an action plan status. Upon completion and submission of action report, the Health District will receive its accreditation status. ([Attachment 1](#))

*A motion was made by Member Coker seconded by Member Osgood and carried unanimously to continue accreditation activities as a standing agenda item, including related action plan deliverables and ongoing accreditation efforts.*

2. **Review/Discuss Board Membership Terms Expiring on June 30, 2019**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

Appointments for terms expiring on June 30, 2019 are due to the Health District's Office of Administration by June 24, 2019. The Board positions will be placed on the July meeting agenda.

*There was no action taken on this item.*

3. **Review/Discuss Legislative Priorities for 2019**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

Dr. Leguen reviewed the Health District's Legislative priorities as noted in the 2019 Legislative Session handout ([Attachment 2](#)).

*There was no action taken on this item.*

4. **Review/Discuss and Approve Recommendations to the Southern Nevada District Board of Health on April 25, 2019**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

There was discussion regarding the Health District's legislative items being supported by both the Public Health Advisory Board and the Southern Nevada District Board of Health. Staff confirmed the Health District's legislative priorities are reviewed and supported by the District Board of Health.

*There was no action taken on this item.*

## VIII. **HEALTH OFFICER & STAFF REPORTS**

There were no items to report.

- IX. **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. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of this Agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken pursuant to NRS 241.020. Comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker. Please step up to the speaker's podium, 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 Chairman or the Board by majority vote.

Regena Ellis, SNHD/SEIU, reported community partners and patients spoke during the March 28, 2019 Board of Health Meeting regarding the Healthy Start program. She stated the program grant was not approved, and as a staff member she does not see the grant. The grant expired, and it served African American women in targeted zip codes who were pregnant. It would help women get into a program to be seen by a nurse, making sure the patients got to their appointments and infants received their vaccines. The grant was not approved, and the community partners spoke on the value of grant and asked for funds to be put into place to continue the work of the grant. She noted patients also spoke on

behalf of their families, and employees spoke on behalf of the grant too. She added this is a health issue in the community, for the people of the city, specifically pregnant woman and infants, which is basic public health in making sure an infant has a healthy start in life. Those employees will be moved from the program into other positions. Perhaps these women can get help somewhere else; however, this was a public health initiative. It was a grant which was very valuable, and the staff request was for funding to be moved from one area of the budget to another in order to re-fund this service until another grant could be applied for and the request was denied. This information was shared because sometimes the public is not seen as the priority. Finances become the priority, for instance when patients are seen on a daily basis, there are patients who are homeless, who don't have enough food, patients with mental health issues; they have addictions. From a public health aspect, where are these things being addressing? Syphilis is a very high here. Do we see a public health initiative to reduce the number of people who have syphilis, whether they can pay or not? Is there public health drive to bring those numbers down? Staff wants to see the patients taken care of but the Health District wants to be accredited. The AB can be helpful and productive and recommending those things to the Board. We don't always see the things that are important addressed. That's a positive thing but from staff perspective, looking for something very different

Member McDowell thanked Ms. Ellis for voicing her concerns. He agreed resources are a factor in determining activities. He added he will continue to work on behalf of the constituents.

Member Coker remarked grants are not long terms solutions. She inquired if the program did not make the top priorities of the Health District and if the program was evaluated. Chair Collins added many programs at the Health District are grant funded. During his tenure on the Board of Health, the program was going to be defunded and it's symptomatic of what's going on across the country.

Dr. Leguen advised the program was funded through a federal grant by HRSA, and it had been in place at the Health District for the last five years. However, the Health District didn't receive the award. He noted it is a priority for the Health District but how sustainable is the program. More than 30-40% of what is done at the Health District is funded through federal or pass through grants by the State. He added the Health District asked for assistance from the County and local government to help with program. The question of funding it or not is a larger question. Where will the money come from going forward to sustain the program?

Ms. Ellis commented there are issues with billing insurance and patients paying on a sliding scale. She inquired what is being done with those funds? What are the public health priorities? What is being done in the front, which is a big focus to help the public?

Member Collins remarked the Health District is poorly funded from the State. These are competitive grants which are becoming increasingly competitive. He added perhaps there can be discussion in the Health District about shuffling funds around to support the program or reaching out to the County to obtain more money.

Dr. Leguen remarked Dr. Iser is working with the Board of Health and Clark County on this issue. Member Collins noted the HIV epidemic in the 1980's initially didn't receive funding in support of programs, so he will address a letter to the Member of the Board of Health.

Seeing no one further, the Chair closed this portion of the meeting.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

Fermin Leguen, MD, DrPH, MSc  
Chief Health Officer/Executive Secretary

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