



MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

September 24, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

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

Meeting Hosted via Webex Event

MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Black – Chair, Mayor Pro Tempore, City of North Las Vegas
James Adams – Council Member, City of Boulder City
Bobbette Bond - At-Large Member, Regulated Business/Industry
Olivia Diaz – Council Member, City of Las Vegas
Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Vice Chair, Commissioner, Clark County
Brian Knudsen – Council Member, City of Las Vegas
Frank Nemec – At-Large Member, Physician
Scott Nielson – At-Large Member, Gaming
Tick Segerblom – Commissioner, Clark County
Dan Stewart – Council Member, City of Henderson

ABSENT: Brian Wursten – Council Member, City of Mesquite

ALSO PRESENT: None
(In Audience)

LEGAL COUNSEL: Annette Bradley, General Counsel

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, Acting Chief Health Officer

STAFF: Andria Cordovez Mulet, Andrea Green, Amy Hagan, Victoria Harding, JoAnn Ruper, Christopher Saxton, Karen White, Karla Shoup, Leo Vega

I. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL/ SCOTT BLACK, CHAIR

Chair Black 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.

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 Chairman or the Board by majority vote.

Victoria Harding, SNHD and SEIU, speaking as Union Steward, stated that feedback from employees on the District Health Officer position will be provided to the Board of Health shortly.

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

IV. ADOPTION OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 MEETING AGENDA (for possible action)

A motion was made by Member Knudsen seconded by Member Adams and carried unanimously to approve the September 24, 2020 Agenda as presented.

- V. **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:** August 27, 2020 and September 3, 2020 *(for possible action)*
 2. **PETITION #10-21: Approval of Interlocal Contract between Southern Nevada Health District and the City of Las Vegas to provide services to support the Southern Nevada Health District Community Partnership to Promote Health Equity, Year 3 grant awarded to the SNHD by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
 3. **PETITION #11-21: Approval of Interlocal Service Agreement between Southern Nevada Health District and Dignity Health, who provides linkage to care for women who are pregnant and using substances, Year 2 Funding;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
 4. **PETITION #12-21: Approval of Interlocal Service Agreement between Southern Nevada Health District and Impact Exchange, who is a local syringe service organization providing services in the community including linkage to care for those who use substances and are vulnerable to overdose, Year 2 Funding;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
 5. **PETITION #13-21: Approval of Interlocal Service Agreement between Southern Nevada Health District and The Nevada Institute of Children's Research and Policy (NICRP) who conducts evaluation activities and data collection in Clark County, Year 2 Funding;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
 6. **PETITION #14-21: Approval of Interlocal Service Agreement between Southern Nevada Health District and PACT Coalition (Prevention, Advocacy, Choices, Teamwork), who provides training and resources to prevent substance misuse and promote recovery through education, stigma reduction, support, and outreach, Year 2 Funding;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

Member Neilson requested that **Item 1 – APPROVE MINUTES/BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING** be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick seconded by Member Nemec and carried unanimously to approve the September 24, 2020 Consent Agenda as amended.

Discussion – Item V.1. Approve Minutes/Board of Health Meeting: Member Nielson requested revisions to the September 3, 2020 Minutes, specifically Item V.1 (Discussion and Adoption of Nevada Administrative Code 447E, SARS-CoV-2 Regulations at Public Accommodation Facilities in response to Senate Bill 4, as approved by Governor Sisolak and subsequently adopted by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services), he believed expanded on the Board's discussions.

Annette Bradley, General Counsel, suggested the following revisions that addressed Member Nielson's comments.

- 3rd bullet, page 3, to read: *"The sections on cleaning standards and noted that Senate Bill 4 establishes standards for cleaning that are designed to reduce the transmission of SARS-CoV2, allows the guest to decline whether he or she wants in-room housekeeping, and prohibits offering guests incentives to accept or decline in-room housekeeping."*
- 5th bullet, page 3, to read: *"A possible effective date of the Regulations and was advised that Senate Bill 4 became effective upon signing. Following approval of the emergency regulations, the Health*

District will work with industry for 30 days to ensure understanding of the rules/standards with implementation to begin after this 30-day educational period."

A motion was made by Member Knudsen seconded by Member Neilson and carried unanimously to approve the August 27, 2020 Minutes, as presented, and the September 3, 2020 Minutes, as amended.

- VI. 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.

There were no items to be heard.

VII. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

- 1. Receive Report regarding the District Health Officer Recruitment Town Hall, Discuss and Approve Recommendations from the District Health Officer Succession Committee Meeting on September 17, 2020;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary **(for possible action)**

Amy Hagan, Director of Human Resources and Organizational Performance, provided an update on the town hall and employee survey regarding the recruitment of the District Health Officer. Ms. Hagan advised that District Health Officer Succession Committee was next scheduled to meet on September 25, 2020 to approve the interview questions for the first-round candidates.

A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick seconded by Member Knudsen and carried unanimously to approve the report and recommendations for next steps with the recruitment process.

- 2. Receive Report, Discuss and Approve Implementation of Senate Bill 4;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary **(for possible action)**

Christopher Saxton, Director of Environmental Health, provided an update on the implementation of Senate Bill 4 and advised that the Environmental Health Division has been assisting industry representatives in preparing for implementation, scheduled to commence on October 5, 2020.

A motion was made by Member Knudsen seconded by Member Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously to approve the implementation of Senate Bill 4, as presented.

- VIII. 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)**

Member Kirkpatrick inquired as to the flu immunization campaign for seniors in the community that will not leave their homes and whether there was an opportunity to have a mobile clinic available to them. Dr. Leguen advised that JoAnn Rupiper, Director of Clinical Services, would provide an update at this meeting on the flu immunization campaign. Dr. Leguen advised that the idea was to offer COVID-19 testing at SNHD facilities and use the mobile clinics to go out into the community. He advised that SNHD is expecting two additional mobile units, that were smaller in size and more accessible for community facilities with limited parking space.

Member Segerblom inquired whether COVID-19 testing and flu immunization could be done at the same location/facility. Dr. Leguen advised that the recommendation was that the flu immunization and COVID-19 testing should not be offered at the same time at a given location. However, he advised of ongoing discussions in our Clinical Services Division about providing flu immunization in the morning and COVID-19 testing, or vice versa, at the same location, which doesn't violate CDC's recommendations. However, there were many factors to consider since every location was different. Dr. Leguen advised that the priority was to provide the community with the services they require.

Member Bond requested a conversation on the continued funding of COVID-19 testing and the process to advocate for additional federal or state funding. Dr. Leguen advised that testing was currently federally funded and that the current CDC grant supports surveillance and lab activities that includes testing was for 18 months, and any future additional funding was unknown.

Member Knudsen requested a discussion, at a future meeting, regarding federal funding and how it relates in comparing SNHD to other regions. Dr. Leguen advised that there was no clear comparison as not all cities/regions have to go through their state to request for funding and there are different variables to be considered. However, Dr. Leguen agreed to obtain some information for a future discussion. Member Knudsen understood that it could take months to obtain the information. Member Kirkpatrick advised that she could provide SNHD a copy of the County report on the CARES funding.

There were no items reported.

IX. HEALTH OFFICER & STAFF REPORTS (Information Only)

- **CHO COMMENTS**

In addition to this written report, Dr. Leguen advised that the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) recently released their awards in public health. He congratulated Merylyn Yegon, Community Health Nurse Supervisor, for being recognized as a 2020 Public Health Hero and the Office of Epidemiology and Disease (OEDS)/Informatics Team for being recognized as the 2020 Public Health Program of the Year.

Dr. Leguen further advised that he had been assisting the Clark County School District (CCSD) in discussions with the status of COVID-19, progress of trends and a timeline for the re-opening of schools.

- **COVID Update**

Dr. Michael Johnson, Director Community Health, provided an update on the response to COVID-19. **(Attachment #1)**

Dr. Johnson advised that a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued for a Seroprevalence Study of Hispanic and African Americans to provide a better understanding of the positivity and anti-body rates in the community. Once completed, an update would be provided to the Board of Health. Overall, Dr. Johnson advised that there was a continued decline in trends, mainly mortality and positivity percentage. There previously was a slight increase in positive cases that could be tied to community events. However, Dr. Johnson advised that there was a decline in individuals being tested. Dr. Johnson further advised that on September 16th there were 0 cases in backlog. Health Card services would be reassuming on September 28, 2020.

Member Kirkpatrick advised that the community believed there was a long turn-around time to receive results and inquired on what more could be done to clarify this perception in the community. Dr. Johnson confirmed that SNHD would continue to encourage everyone to get tested and would continue to advise the community that the turn-around for results was 48-hours.

Dr. Leguen advised that a new challenge across the country was rapid testing. There are many different tools used for rapid testing by different providers. Dr. Leguen further advised that providers continue to send reports on positive test results, however do not always send reports on the negative test results. Dr. Leguen advised that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently issued new guidelines with recommendations for reopening schools that was grouped by indicators and a color coding based on different indicators, including a 14-day cumulative rate. SNHD started to produce reports using these indicators and would continue to monitor trends generated by these reports.

Kimberly Hertin provided an update on the COVID-19 Contact Tracing App, which had been developed by a company in partnership with the State of Nevada. Ms. Hertin clarified that the app supports, and does not replace, the current efforts in contact tracing. Ms. Hertin advised that SNHD staff are currently awaiting training by the State to fully implement usage of the app. Dr. Leguen confirmed that once the app was fully implemented, SNHD would ensure that its usage was encouraged by community members and visitors. **(Attachment #2)**

- Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS) Facility Update

Dr. Cort Lohff, Acting Chief Medical Officer, advised that the South NCS, recently renamed Isolation and Recovery Site, consists of 29 beds and opened on September 15, 2020. The final permit was pending. Since opening, the facility had received two admissions, with one already discharged. Dr. Lohff further advised that the North NCS had been renamed Medical Evaluation and Testing Site.

- Flu Immunization Update

JoAnn Rupiper, Director of Clinical Services, provided an update on flu immunization. Ms. Rupiper advised that Immunize Nevada will have a calendar on their website with all flu immunization clinics in Nevada. **(Attachment #3)**

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Administration Monthly Activity Report
2. Clinical Services Monthly Activity Report
3. Community Health Monthly Activity Report
4. Environmental Health Monthly Activity Report
5. FQHC Monthly Activity Report

Chair Black advised that he and Councilwoman Diaz will be hosting a lunch for SNHD staff on September 30, 2020 to acknowledge the hard work of staff.

XI. 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 Chairman or the Board by majority vote.

Lorraine Oliver, former employee of SNHD, reflected on the comments from today. She appreciated that staff was surveyed, and input was provided but pointed out that not everyone responded. Ms. Oliver requested that the Board of Health members understand the finance aspects and how SNHD is funded. She indicated that if someone doesn't know SNHD was funded then they would not know how to get more money. Ms. Oliver advised that grant writing was 'unstoppable'. Ms. Oliver liked the information presented regarding the District Health Officer recruitment and successful candidate be a doctor with an MPH. Ms. Oliver commended on racial disparities and indicated the need to keep it in focus as it relates to people with secondary conditions. She inquired whether the chronic diseases area could look at an opportunity to obtain funding for COVID-19. She reiterated the need to write grants. Ms. Oliver understood that it is federal funding. Ms. Oliver reiterated the need to understand where the money is coming from; that some comes from property taxes. People are losing money and their homes. She

understands that everyone has been working so hard. Ms. Oliver closed by commending her recent coworkers and everyone needs to know about funding since it could cause people to lose their jobs.

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH
Acting Chief Health Officer/Executive Secretary

/acm