



## MINUTES

### SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

October 22, 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:** Heather Anderson-Fintak, Maria Azzarelli, Todd Bleak, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Andrea Green, Amy Hagan, Michael Johnson, Cortland Lohff, Alfred McGugin, Jeff Quinn, Larry Rogers, JoAnn Rupiper, Christopher Saxton, Karla Shoup, Jennifer Sizemore, Leo Vega, Karen White

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

Chair Black called the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Meeting to order at 9:04 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.

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

**IV. ADOPTION OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2020 MEETING AGENDA (for possible action)**

*A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick seconded by Member Knudsen and carried unanimously to approve the October 22, 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:** September 24, 2020 *(for possible action)*
2. **PETITION #15-21: Approval of Interlocal Contract between the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) and the City of Henderson (COH) 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 (CDC Award # NU58DP006578-03-00). The CDC refers to this grant award as Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH); direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)**
3. **PETITION #16-21: Approval of the Amendment to the Interlocal Contract between the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Protection and the Southern Nevada Health District;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
4. **PETITION #21: Approval of Interlocal Contract between the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) and the City of North Las Vegas (CNLV) 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 (CDC Award #NU58DP006578-03-00). The CDC refers to this grant award as Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH); direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)**

*A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick seconded by Member Knudsen and carried unanimously to approve the October 22, 2020 Consent Agenda as presented.*

- 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, Discuss and Approve 2021 Board of Health Meeting Schedule;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

The Board was advised that the proposed 2021 meeting schedule followed the timeline approved by the Board in previous years.

*A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick seconded by Member Knudsen and carried unanimously to approve the 2021 Board of Health Meeting Schedule, as presented.*

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 40 compliance checks have been completed with no fines issued. Mr. Saxton noted the common violations were not posting (i) the one-page summary of the cleaning standards and (ii) the public health agency contacts. Mr. Saxton advised that staff continue to develop guidelines for Senate Bill 4 to assist industry partners.

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

**3. Receive Report, Discuss and Approve the Financial Update; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)**

Karen White, Acting Chief Financial Officer, provided a financial update. ([Attachment #1](#))

Further to questions, Ms. White advised that reimbursement has not been received from FEMA and there is no date provided for the reimbursement.

Member Kirkpatrick questioned the number of staff vacancies and an updated on the recruitment. Ms. White advised that the vacancies are all over the health district and that Human Resources has been busy doing various recruitments. Ms. Hagan committed to sending the Board of Health members a list of vacancies and advised all the vacancies are in the recruitment process and HR has recruited over 180 staff since the beginning of the year. Member Knudsen requested a presentation on the reason people are leaving and the information provided on their exit interviews. Ms. Hagan advised that SNHD is not experiencing great turnover and that the vacancies are mainly due to adding 150 new positions. Dr. Leguen advised that recruitment has been demanding on HR this year due to COVID-19. In addition to recruiting for regular positions, HR has also been recruitment for contact tracers. The Board of Health members requested a projection of a full complement of SNHD staff and what the cost would be to maintain it. Ms. White advised she will coordinate with Ms. Hagan in mid-November to determine, at a high level, a projection for a budget for a full complement of SNHD staff.

Member Knudsen inquired whether there has been any indication on grant funding processes in the future. Dr. Leguen advised that different groups, such as Big Cities Health Association, has been discussing what may happen, however there is no official position on grant funding for next year. Dr. Leguen further advised that SNHD and other large US metro areas representatives have previously discussed the need for large metropolitan areas to have access to direct funding from the federal government. A suggestion was made to provide the Board of Health members with talking points and concise messaging when advocating for additional funds for SNHD.

The Board of Health complimented staff on the exceptional handle on SNHD's financial situation.

*A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick seconded by Member Knudsen and carried unanimously to receive and accept the financial update, as presented.*

**4. Receive Report, Discuss and Approve the Recommendations from the District Health Officer Succession Committee Meeting on October 14, 2020; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)**

Chair Black provided a summary of the October 14, 2020 District Health Officer Succession Committee meetings and advised that first-round interviews with 11 candidates, where each candidate was given 16 minutes to respond to 4 questions that were published in the meeting agenda and the District Health Officer Succession Committee was recommending five candidates to be interviewed by the full Board of Health. The District Health Officer Succession Committee further recommended not to proceed with the second town hall. After discussion, the following motion was made:

*A motion was made by Member Black and seconded by Member Steward and carried unanimously to interview the top five candidates as the full Board of Health, over a 2-day period, as follows:*

- a) The three out-of-town candidates on one day and the two local candidates another day, or vice versa;*
- b) Travel expense and 1-night accommodations, either the night before or after, to be reimbursed for the three out-of-town candidates;*
- c) Each interview will be no more than two hours, consisting of 1.5 hours of questions, not to be published in advance, from the Board of Health members, 15 minutes for an in-basket exercise where the topics and situations will be determined by staff, and 15 minutes for the candidates to ask questions of the Board of Health members;*
- d) To be held within the next four weeks, depending on scheduling and availability;*
- e) Not to proceed with a second town hall; and*
- f) At the conclusion of the five in-person interviews, select two final candidates.*

Amy Hagan, Director of Human Resources and Organizational Performance, advised that the resumes and profiles for the five candidates will be sent to the Board of Health member and requested that each Board of Health member prepare two questions for the in-person interviews.

- 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 Knudsen requested a discussion regarding SNHD and the legislative agenda at the state and federal level and the role of the Board of Health members in advocating for additional funding for SNHD.

Member Kirkpatrick requested an update on the HRSA approvals.

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

- **CHO COMMENTS**

In addition to this written report, Dr. Leguen provided the following updates:

Flu Immunization Campaign – The team is working with community partners to offer the flu vaccine at multiple locations. We are increasing communication with the public through multiple messages to educate the community that this year it is more important due to the concerns with COVID-19. We want to encourage as much of the community to be protected with the flu immunization.

COVID-19 – The team is working in preparation for the vaccine. Currently there is no vaccine approved by the FDA. As it is expected to happen before the end of the year or the beginning of 2021, we are working with the State of Nevada to identify the logistics necessary to implement the vaccine once it has been approved.

CDC definition of 'close contact' – There was a report in the media regarding the CDC announcing a new definition of 'close contact'. We reviewed the new definition and confirmed that it is the same definition approach that we have been using from the beginning of the pandemic; 15 minutes or more and not all at once, but within a 24-hour period. As this is the same definition we have been using, staff has not changed its approach on how surveillance is done.

- **COVID Update ([Attachment #2](#))**

Dr. Michael Johnson, Director Community Health, provided an update on the response to COVID-19.

Dr. Johnson advised that staff is working on additional messaging to promote the COVID Trace App and there has been an increase in downloads.

Member Diaz requested information regarding whether any contact tracers were bilingual. Dr. Johnson advised that approximately half of the contact tracers are bilingual in a range of languages, with the majority being bilingual in Spanish.

Member Diaz requested clarification on whether positive cases listed were Clark County locals or tourists. Dr. Johnson further confirmed that the number of positive cases was for Clark County locals and if a tourist was a resident of another state, they would be counted in their resident state.

Member Knudsen requested clarification on how the positivity rate of cases affects the reopening of schools. Dr. Leguen advised that his initial recommendation to the Clark County School District (CCSD), over a month ago, was to follow the numeric indicator from the CDC Guidelines. At that time, the positivity rate was decreasing, however the positivity rate has been increasing over the last few weeks. There are various areas that need to be considered; social issues, increased disparity in learning possibilities, mental and behavioral health, frontline worker parents, learning limitations or disabilities, etc. If a decision on reopening is based on the numeric indicator from the CDC, that could mean that students wouldn't be attending in-person school for this school year. Dr. Leguen advised that he met with the CEO of UMC to confirm their assistance in testing students and teachers. The final decision on whether schools with reopen for in-person classes is with the CCSD Board and school management. Dr. Leguen confirmed that he has been meeting with representatives from CCSD often and will continue to provide resources to assist them in this process. The Board of Health members advised of their support in the decision-making process and recognized that any decision would be difficult.

- Isolation & Recovery Site and COVID Clinic Update ([Attachment #3](#))

Dr. Cort Lohff, Acting Chief Medical Officer, provided an update on the Isolation & Recovery Site (IRS).

Member Knudsen advised that he has been advised of some issues and challenges in the protocols for homeless individuals that have tested positive. Dr. Lohff advised that there are some concerns with homeless clients being tested and then referred to the IRS facility. Staff is working on outreach to the shelters to encourage staff and clients to be tested and if any clients are positive, they can be accepted directly into the IRS facility. Dr. Lohff has advised that some shelters do not have the capability to isolate clients that are symptomatic and waiting for test results. Member Kirkpatrick reiterated that shelters must ensure that public health is their top priority and will request that the Clark County homeless coordinator contact Dr. Lohff to assist. Member Knudsen suggested a meeting with representatives from the City of Las Vegas, Clark County, SNHD and homeless service providers to discuss services for the homeless population during the pandemic.

#### **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

- 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.

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

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

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

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