



MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

September 23, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was conducted via Webex Event

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Scott Black – Chair, Mayor Pro Tempore, City of North Las Vegas (*in-person*)
James Adams – Council Member, City of Boulder City (*in-person*)
Bobbette Bond – At-Large Member, Regulated Business/Industry (*via Webex*)
Olivia Diaz – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*via Webex*)
Karen Dutkowski – Council Member, City of Mesquite (*via Webex*)
Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Vice Chair, Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)
Brian Knudsen – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*in-person*)
Frank Nemec – At-Large Member, Physician (*via Webex*)
Scott Nielson – At-Large Member, Gaming (*via Webex*)
Tick Segerblom – Commissioner, Clark County (*via Webex*)
Dan Stewart – Council Member, City of Henderson (*via Webex*)
- ABSENT:** None
- ALSO PRESENT:** Dawn Christensen, Georgi Collins, Jeff Gillan, Maya Holmes, Bradley Mayer,
(In Audience) Nikole Robinson Carroll, Jonathan Rodriguez, Cassidy Wilson
- LEGAL COUNSEL:** Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer
- STAFF:** Maria Azzarelli, Stephanie Bethel, Amanda Brown, Nicole Bungum, Cory Burgess, Nikki Burns-Savage, Victoria Burris, Donna Buss, Erika Bustinza, Steve Calmy, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Aaron DelCotto, Brandon Delise, Rayleen Earney, Emily Elzeftawy, Jason Frame, Kimberly Franich, Tania Galvan, Tina Gilliam, Joe Ginty, Andrea Green, John Hammond, Heather Hanoff, Jennifer Harmon, Maria Harris, Richard Hazeltine, Brenda Jamison, Jessica Johnson, Michael Johnson, David Kahananui, Homg-Yuan Kan, Christi Kindel, Theresa Ladd, Cassius Lockett, Cort Lohff, Sandy Lockett, Deborah Moran, Elika Nematian, Veralynn Orewyler, Vanessa Ortiz-Rivera, Kyle Parkson, Luann Province, Jeff Quinn, Vivek Raman, Devin Raman, Larry Rogers, JoAnn Rupiper, Christopher Saxton, Karla Shoup, Jennifer Sizemore, Margo Slater, Christine Sylvis, Ronique Tatum-Penegar, Will Thompson, Leo Vega, Jorge Viote, Karen White, Christian Young, Susan Zannis, Ying Zhang

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.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECOGNITION

- Vivek Raman, Environmental Health Supervisor – Coauthored the *Mosquito distribution and West Nile virus surveillance results on the Nevada National Security Site in south-central Nevada* article which has been published in the *Western North American Naturalist*

Chair Black, on behalf of the Board of Health, recognized Vivek Raman, Environmental Health Supervisor for coauthoring the *Mosquito distribution and West Nile virus surveillance results on the Nevada National Security Site in south-central Nevada* article which has been published in the *Western North American Naturalist*. This is the fourth paper that the mosquito surveillance program has been a part of over the past few years. Congratulations!

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

- Victoria Hughes, Contact Tracer Supervisor – Subaru of Las Vegas' Hometown Hero of the Month

Chair Black, on behalf of the Board of Health, recognized Victoria Hughes, Contact Tracer Supervisor, for being named Subaru of Las Vegas' Hometown Hero of the Month. Each month, Subaru of Las Vegas expresses gratitude to firefighters, peace officers and health care workers through their Hometown Hero of the Month program. Ms. Hughes has been involved in the pandemic response from the beginning and oversees the COVID-19 contact tracers. She provides training for all contact tracers and assists the community and community partners with inquiries. Congratulations!

- 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.

Seeing no one, the Chair closed the First Public Comment portion.

- V. ADOPTION OF THE AUGUST 26, 2021 MEETING AGENDA (for possible action)**

A motion was made by Member Knudsen seconded by Member Adams and carried unanimously to approve the August 26, 2021 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:** August 26, 2021 *(for possible action)*
2. **PETITION #07-22: Approval of a Contract between the Southern Nevada Health District and ImageTrend, Inc. for the web-based software platform to facilitate EMS personnel applications, certifications, endorsements, and licensures;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
3. **PETITION #08-22: Approval of an Interlocal Agreement amendments with the SNHD and Clark County to provide Non-Essential County personnel to assist the Health District in response to or following public health emergencies and local disasters. Agreement also includes provision for the use of County personnel volunteers necessary to support planning, training, and exercise activities to prepare workforce to assist the Health District in Public Health responses to "All Hazard" threats;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
4. **PETITION #09-22: Approval of a Lease Agreement with the City of Mesquite for space at the Jimmie Hughes Campus as a temporary location of SNHD services while a permanent location is remodeled;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

5. **PETITION #15-22: Approval of Interlocal Contract between the Southern Nevada Health District and the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) 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 Knudsen seconded by Member Kirkpatrick and carried unanimously to approve the September 23, 2021 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.

There were no items heard.

Member Stewart joined the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

VIII. **REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION**

1. **Receive Report and Discuss the Restaurant Risk Factor Study Report 2021**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

Christine Sylvis, Environmental Health Supervisor, presented the 2021 Restaurant Risk Factor Study Report.

Member Kirkpatrick inquired as to where were any thoughts to long-term permanent interventions of handwashing and hand-sanitizing stations. Ms. Sylvis advised that handwashing was always encouraged, and the pandemic played a role in the increased occurrence of handwashing.

Dr. Leguen expressed his thanks and appreciation to Ms. Sylvis and all the Environmental Health inspectors for their hard-work and dedication, especially the ones who work with restaurants.

2. **Receive Report and Discuss Trauma Step 4 Transport Protocol**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

Further to a request from Member Bond, John Hammond, EMS & Trauma Systems Manager, presented a Trauma Systems Overview.

Member Bond inquired whether the ACS recommends/requires that step 4 patients be transported to trauma centers. Mr. Hammond advised that the ACS outlines that step 4 patients fall into special consideration and is at the discretion of the provider at the scene, however patients can request to go to another facility and direct their own care.

Further to questions, Mr. Hammond outlined the process for the Board of Health to participate in meetings of the technical entities reviewing the protocols. Mr. Hammond advised that the Board of Health members are invited to attend the Regional Trauma Advisory Board (RTAB) and Medical Advisory Board (MAB) meetings and can contact members of those committees to request for items

to be placed on their agendas. Mr. Hammond advised that MAB next meets on October 6, 2021 and RTAB next meets the third week of October. Mr. Hammond further advised that RTAB reviews the protocols on a quarterly basis. Mr. Hammond confirmed that revisions to the protocols are presented to the Board of Health for final approval.

Dr. Leguen stated that individuals can direct the EMS providers to where they prefer to go for further treatment and this opportunity for decision-making of individuals should be prominent in the protocol.

A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick seconded by Member Segerblom and carried unanimously for staff to review/discuss the Step 4 Protocols with the Regional Trauma Advisory Board (RTAB) to determine whether there are any revisions required and provide a report back to the Board of Health.

- 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)***

Member Kirkpatrick left the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Member Knudsen advised that he attended several overviews and ride-a-longs with various departments within the Health District and encouraged other Board members to do the same. Member Knudsen recognized Jacob Billings, Nikki Burns-Savage, Rebeca Reyes and Brian Cunningham for their work.

Member Segerblom recognized the Health District for its participation in the successful vaccination event held at the El Dorado High School.

Chair Black recognized the Veggie Buck Truck event organized by the Health District and local community partners.

X. HEALTH OFFICER & STAFF REPORTS (Information Only)

- DHO Comments

In addition to the DHO monthly report, Dr. Leguen advised that it is anticipated that this week we will reach 70% of Clark County eligible residents that have initiated the vaccination process. This is a great achievement we are very proud of the staff and the community. Further, more than 50% of Clark County eligible residents are fully vaccinated.

Dr. Leguen advised that the Environmental Health team have been conducting mosquito surveillance and have identified a pool of mosquitos with West Nile Virus in 89014 and 89052. So far, this season has been mild and there have been no human cases identified. In comparison, last year there was one case of West Nile Virus and two years ago there were 30 cases.

Further, the flu season has already started and the Immunization team, in addition to providing the COVID-19 vaccine, are providing the flu vaccination, at the Health District's Main Facility (280 S. Decatur) and at the East Las Vegas location.

- COVID-19 Surveillance and Contact Tracing Update ([Attachment #1](#))

Dr. Cassius Lockett, Director Disease Surveillance & Control, advised that there is a decline in COVID-19 cases; on September 26th the 7-day moving average was 402 cases per day, and as of

September 20th approximately 85% were unvaccinated cases. Dr. Lockett advised that there has been a decline in hospitalizations, with 89% of hospitalizations being unvaccinated. As of September 22nd, there were 674 hospitalizations, 169 ICU admissions and 116 ventilators. The mortality rate has declined by 28%; over the last 30 days 87% of deaths were unvaccinated and 82% of fully vaccinated deaths were over the age of 65. From September 5-18th, the positivity rate has declined by 10%. As of September 19th, the 7-day moving average was 8.2%. Dr. Lockett noted that the Delta variant remains the dominant variant. Dr. Lockett outlined that breakthrough cases are extremely rare and, since the end of September, there have been 9,584 cases among fully vaccinated people (0.88% of fully vaccinated), there were 347 breakthrough hospitalizations (0.013% of fully vaccinated), and there were 143 breakthrough deaths (0.0132% of fully vaccinated). Dr. Lockett concluded that case rates remain high in the African American community. Further, Dr. Lockett reiterated that breakthrough cases, hospitalizations and deaths are rare and mostly affect the 65 years and older population.

Member Knudsen inquired whether the Health District had any guidance on whether, with the impending flu season, vaccinated individuals should get tested for COVID-19 if they have symptoms. Dr. Lockett advised that the Health District continues to recommend individuals, vaccinated and unvaccinated, to be tested for COVID-19 if they have symptoms.

Member Diaz inquired as to the high positivity rates in the Latino community and whether there was anything more that could be done to increase vaccination awareness. Dr. Lockett advised that community testing and mobile testing units have been used in at-risk communities. The seven sites have performed an average of 3300 test in the last two weeks. Dr Lockett further advised that kiosk testing systems have been placed in locations, based on zip codes, with high rate of transmission. The kiosks are doing an average of 3800 tests in those communities. Dr. Lockett indicated that the testing rate remain high however the positivity rate is declining.

Member Diaz further inquired as to the effectiveness of self-testing kits. Dr. Lockett advised that the self-testing kits are more accurate in an individual that is symptomatic. Dr. Lockett noted that it is believe that with the increase in self-testing kits, cases are not being reported to the Health District. Dr. Lockett further advised that if individuals are using the self-testing kits, they follow-up with the Health District, especially if the test is positive to perform a PCR test, to ensure that we can implement the proper isolation procedures and contact tracing.

- Vaccination Campaign Update

JoAnn Rupiper, Chief Administrative Nurse, provided an update on the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Ms. Rupiper confirmed the positive outcome at the recent vaccination event, providing incentives, held at the El Dorado High School with a total of 892 vaccines administered, with approximately 80% being 1st doses, with the majority of individuals from the 89110 zip code. Ms. Rupiper advised that most of the incentives received from Clark County have been dispensed. Ms. Rupiper further advised that the City of Henderson is also holding an event providing gift cards at the CSN Henderson site; prior to the incentive 41 vaccines were administered, and after the incentive 193 vaccines were administered. Ms. Rupiper confirmed that the 15 statis sites continue to be available, with the Galleria and CSN locations being the most utilized.

Ms. Rupiper displayed a new feature to the Health District website that allows individuals to search for vaccine locations by zip code.

Ms. Rupiper advised that the Health District continues to partner with Immunize Nevada and will be taking over portions of their Get Out The Vax campaign.

Ms. Rupiper advised that the Southern Nevada Community Health Center administers vaccines at the Health District's main location and at various pop-up events. Ms. Rupiper further advised that the Community Health Center will be holding evening clinics to provide vaccines for individuals outside of the regular business hours.

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Administration Monthly Activity Report
2. Community Health Monthly Activity Report
3. Disease Surveillance and Control Monthly Activity Report
4. Environmental Health Monthly Activity Report
5. Primary & Preventive Care Monthly Activity Report

- 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.

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

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

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