



MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

November 18, 2021 – 11:00 a.m.

Meeting was conducted In-person and via Webex Event

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

Red Rock Trail Rooms A and B

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Scott Black – Chair, Council Member, City of North Las Vegas (*in-person*)
Brian Knudsen – Vice-Chair, Council Member, City of 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*)
Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)
Frank Nemecek – At-Large Member, Physician (*via Webex*)
Scott Nielson – At-Large Member, Gaming (*via Webex*)
- ABSENT:** Karen Dutkowski – Council Member, City of Mesquite
Tick Segerblom – Commissioner, Clark County
Dan Stewart – Secretary, Council Member, City of Henderson
- ALSO PRESENT:** Sheri Burtness, Georgi Collins, Lisa Mayo-Deriso, Kathleen Peterson, Matt
(In Audience) Robinson, Richard Walker, Chase Whittemore, Christian Young
- LEGAL COUNSEL:** Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer
- STAFF:** Elizabeth Adelman, Maria Azzarelli, Haley Blake, Amanda Brown, Cory Burgess,
Nikki Burns-Savage, Donna Buss, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Stephanie Cortes,
Shea Crippen, Aaron DelCotto, Jennifer, Fennema, Jason Frame, Kimberly
Franich, Tania Galvan, Heather Hanoff, Maria Harris, Amineh Harvey, Carmen
Hua, Richard Hazeltine, Brenda Jamison, Jessica Johnson, Michael Johnson,
David Kahananui, Christi Kindel, Theresa Ladd, Cassius Lockett, Cort Lohff,
Cassandra Major, Kyle Parkson, Neleida Pelaez, Michael Polintan, Larry
Rogers, Christopher Saxton, Karla Shoup, Jennifer Sizemore, Jackie Southam,
Ronique Tatum-Penegar, Will Thompson, Randall Ulrich, Leo Vega, Jorge Viote,
Karen White

I. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**

The Chair called the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Andria Cordovez Mulet, Executive Assistant, administered the roll call and confirmed quorum.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*Member Bond joined the meeting at 11:02 a.m.
Member Diaz joined the meeting at 11:02 a.m.*

III. **RECOGNITION**

- SPC Graciela Gomez, 17th Sustainment Battalion, National Guard

The Chair, on behalf of the Board of Health and the Health District, recognized SPC Graciela Gomez who tragically lost her life on October 31, 2021. SPC Gomez was a transportation management operator for the 17th Sustainment Battalion. She worked on Joint Task Force 17 from October 2020 to June 2021 and again worked on task force October 2021 until recently. During her time on task force, she worked in multiple roles and sites. While working at Texas Station, she assisted patients in the registration process. She was hand selected to work on a strike team, mobilizing to many sites around the Las Vegas Valley to assist with efficient construction of these vaccination sites. During her time working on the first MVU mission, her friendly demeanor brought peace to many rural patients as she assisted with administrative duties for over 200 people. Recently, working at the CSN Henderson location, she helped in various roles such as testing, administrative duties, and logistical support. She always had a smile on her face, and delighted people with her sense of humor. The Chair recognized SPC Gomez' contribution to the Health District and the entire Las Vegas community.

- 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 NOVEMBER 18, 2021 MEETING AGENDA (for possible action)**

The Chair advised that the presentation for "Unpermitted Food Vending" under Item X would be postponed and brought back when appropriate.

A motion was made by Member Knudsen, seconded by Member Adams and carried unanimously to approve the November 18, 2021 Agenda, as amended.

- 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:** October 28, 2021 *(for possible action)*
2. **PETITION #18-22: Approval of a contract between the Southern Nevada Health District and Argentum Partners for government affairs consulting services;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
3. **PETITION #19-22: Approval of a Construction Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and SHF International LLC for the expansion of SNPHL Lab;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
4. **PETITION #20-22: Approval of extension of the Interlocal Service Agreement between Southern Nevada Health District and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department to collaborate on training and enhancement related to pre-arrest and pre-trial diversion for**

those with substance use and those vulnerable to overdose; 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 November 18, 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.

VIII. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. Receive, Review, Discuss and Accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Audit Report from Eide Bailly and Recommendations from the Finance Committee meeting on November 15, 2021; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

Richard Walker of Eide Bailly attended the meeting to present the Independent Auditor's Report and the Independent Auditor's Report under Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS Report). Mr. Walker advised that they issued an unmodified audit opinion, which is the highest and best opinion possible. Mr. Walker further advised that the Health District adopted the GASB Statement No. 84, under Fiduciary Activities, which changed the presentation of the Employee Events Fund that led to a small restatement of the net position for this fund. Mr. Walker advised that there were no internal control or compliance matters to report. Mr. Walker stated that there were no significant difficulties encountered during the audit process and no disagreements with Management. Mr. Walker advised that there were misstatements identified during the audit and corrected by management, related to the Special Revenue Funds, receivables and liabilities, along with an immaterial uncorrected misstatement related to inventory and accounts receivable.

Karen White, Chief Financial Officer, provided a brief overview of the recent audit, advised that this was the first time in several years that there were no Findings reported and confirmed that the Findings from the previous year have been resolved. ([Attachment #1](#)) Ms. White outlined the following revenue and expense categories:

- Total Expenses Increased by **\$33.1M** (+36.56%)
 - Community Health Expenses Increased by **\$18.7M** (+79.33%)
 - Clinical Services Increase by **\$9.8M** (+27.79%)
 - Administration Expenses Increased by **\$4.1M** (+44.75%)
 - Environmental Health Expenses Increased by **\$0.5M** (+2.28%)
- Offset by Total Revenues which increased by **\$40.9M** (+45.75%)
 - PROGRAM REVENUES – Operating Grants and Contributions Increased by **\$41.2M** (+204.32%)
 - GENERAL REVENUES – Property Tax Allocation Increased by **\$2.3M** (+9.87%)

Ms. White briefly reviewed the Summary Statement of Net Position and noted that even though the net position increased, the Health District remains in a negative of \$39M, from negative \$46M last year. Ms. White advised that the reason for the positive change was due to increased operating grants (mainly COVID-19 related) and contributions. At present, the Health District has the financial resources and capacity to maintain current service levels. Though the Health District has a surplus

of revenue over expenditures, it must be noted that the driver for that is Pandemic Relief funding. At the end of the declared emergency, the Health District's expenditures will greatly exceed revenue, and to ensure operational viability, the Health District must closely monitor revenues and expenditures in addition to making operational adjustments.

Member Kirkpatrick recognized the work of the Finance Department and requested clarification on the contracted employees that are for COVID-19 specific grants. Ms. White advised that several COVID-19 grants are in effect until June 2023. Dr. Leguen clarified that there is a strong interest in the federal grant level to increase funding to local health departments. Member Kirkpatrick raised the need for the lobbyists to reach out to the National Association of County and City Health Officers (NACCHO), as Clark County, or the State of Nevada, do not fund the health district.

Member Nielson provided an overview of the Finance Committee on November 15, 2021.

Member Knudsen requested an update on Medicaid billing. Ms. White advised that Medicaid billing has started to increase with COVID-19 testing and vaccine. Ms. White confirmed that the billing has moved in-house and anticipates that revenue will substantially increase over the next calendar year. Ms. White advised that billing for clinical services will be moved in-house in December 2021 and billing for immunizations will remain outsourced for the near future.

The Board recognized the work and accomplishments of the Finance Department, especially during a pandemic.

A motion was made by Member Nielson, seconded by Member Knudsen and carried unanimously to accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve and accept the Audit Report, as presented.

2. Discuss and Approve the DHO Annual Review Committee composition and mandate; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

Ms. Anderson-Fintak advised that as it will be one year since Dr. Leguen was appointed the District Health Officer, the Board is required to review his performance, on an annual basis. It is required that the DHO Annual Review Committee be constituted so that Committee may meet prior to the Board of Health meeting in February 2022.

The following members volunteering for the DHO Annual Review Committee: Scott Black, Olivia Diaz, Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Brian Knudsen, and Frank Nemeec.

A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick, seconded by Member Knudsen and carried unanimously to establish the DHO Annual Review Committee with the following members: Scott Black, Olivia Diaz, Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Brian Knudsen, and Frank Nemeec.

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 Adams recognized David Kahananui and Merylyn Yegon for providing an overview and information on the Ryan White program at the Health District.

Member Knudsen recognized the clinical staff for their efforts when he visited with his child for the COVID-19 vaccine.

X. HEALTH OFFICER & STAFF REPORTS (Information Only)

- DHO Comments

In addition to the DHO Monthly Report, Dr. Leguen advised that, earlier today, an opening ceremony was held at the new East Las Vegas health center location and recognized the positive partnership with the City of Las Vegas and City Manager in locating and securing this new location.

- Accreditation, Quality Improvement & Performance Management Update

Richard Hazeltine, Organizational Development and Strategy Officer, provided a brief background and update on the Accreditation application with the Public Health Accreditation Board, wherein the final documentation will be submitted on January 4, 2022. Ms. Hazeltine further provided an update on Strategic Planning, wherein Senior Leadership underwent a strategic planning session in May of 2021 to develop a one-year plan. The main outcomes from that session were Branding, Health Equity and Funding. Related to Branding, an off-site workshop will be held with directors, managers and supervisors on emotional intelligence and leadership competencies. Mr. Hazeltine advised that a survey will be sent to the Board of Health members for input on leadership competencies.

Member Kirkpatrick left the meeting at 11:45 a.m. and did not return

- Public Health Vending Machine Update

Jessica Johnson, Senior Health Educator, provided an update on harm reductions strategies/supplies to prevent drug overdose, HIV, and hepatitis C and the Health District's implementation plan for a Public Health Vending Machine at the Health District's Main Facility.

Member Bond congratulated the Health District staff on the implementation of the Public Health Vending Machine and recognized its importance to the Clark County community.

- COVID-19 Surveillance and Contact Tracing Update ([Attachment #2](#))

Dr. Cassius Lockett, Director Disease Surveillance & Control, advised that, from November 1st to 14th, the 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases declined by 18%, from 387.6 to 318 cases. However, there was a minor increase after Halloween. Dr. Lockett noted that the Southern Nevada Water Authority recently released a report that noted an all-time high of COVID-19 in the wastewater. Most cases continue to remain unvaccinated at 77%, meaning that 22.3% being vaccinated of which 17% were over the age of 65. The 7-day moving average of hospitalizations has declined by 21%, from 20.6 to 16.3. Over the 30 days preceding November 14th, 82% of hospitalizations were unvaccinated; of the fully vaccinated hospitalizations, 57.5% were over the age of 65. The 7-day moving average of deaths increased by 12%, from 5.1 to 5.7. Over the 30 days preceding November 14th, 83% deaths were unvaccinated and 57% of the fully vaccinated deaths were over the age of 65. The positivity rate has declined by 7%, from 8.1 to 7.7%. Dr. Lockett advised that his team was currently looking at expanding mobile testing sites and other testing strategies, including home testing kits available via vending machines. Mr. Lockett reiterated that this remains a pandemic of the unvaccinated, that as of November 13th, county-side the unvaccinated were infected at a rate of 3.7 times higher than the vaccinated. Dr. Lockett encouraged everyone to remain vigilant leading in the holiday season.

Further to an inquiry from Member Nemeck, Dr. Lockett advised that current cases remain to be the Delta variant.

- Vaccination Campaign Update ([Attachment #3](#))

Dr. Cortland Lohff, Chief Medical Officer & Director of Primary and Preventive Care, provided an update on the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Further to the FDA authorization of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for 5–11-year-olds and the endorsement of the CDC, Dr. Lohff advised that on November 10th, the Health District began offering the COVID-19 vaccine to children in that age group. Dr. Lohff further advised the FDA was expected soon to approve the expansion for the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 booster vaccines. Dr. Lohff confirmed that the National Guard is scheduled to demobilize mid-December, however confirmed that the Health District continues to have adequate staffing. Dr. Lohff advised that, to date, 2.8 million vaccine doses have been administered and approximately 5,000 doses are administered weekly throughout Clark County.

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.

Lisa Maya-Deriso advised of her concern of AB287 from the past legislative session, which was a bill that started to address the licenses and regulations of free-standing birthing standards that provided more and better information and guidance to birthing options. On April 19, 2021, AB287 was amended to include revisions of certain terminology for pregnancy and birth, being "mother" and "father". Ms. Maya-Deriso stated that "mother" was to be replaced with "the person who birthed" and "father" was to be replaced with "the person who did not birth". Ms. Maya-Deriso stated that the non-gendered language was not favored by various groups that spoke in opposition to the legislation, but the bill was passed and signed into law. Ms. Maya-Deriso stated that she tried to find a solution and spoke to several hospitals and board members and was surprised that many people were not aware of the bill, which was frightening as starting January 1st it would pass and the public was not fully aware. Ms. Maya-Deriso advised that the Legislative Counsel Bureau determined that the bill contained a flaw in that it did not amend NRS 440.290, which outlines the certificate of birth form and contents, and states:

"The form of the birth certificate to be used under this chapter shall include as a minimum the items required by the standard certificate of live birth as recommended by the United States Public Health Service, but no certificate to be used under this chapter shall include any notation of legitimacy or illegitimacy. The entry of the name of the father of a child or of the surname of the father as the surname of the child on the certificate of birth pursuant to NRS 440.280 shall not be considered a notation of legitimacy or illegitimacy within the meaning of this section."

Ms. Maya-Deriso stated that she wanted to enter into the public record that hospitals and the Health District, as the keepers of birth certificates, in fact, cannot alter the terms "mother" and "father" on any of the documents relating to the birth of a child. The terms "mother" and "father" should remain on the birth certificates until 2023 if someone, at that time, wants to sponsor a bill to alter the terms "mother" and "father". ([Attachment #4](#))

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

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

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