



# MINUTES

## SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 25, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was conducted In-person and via Webex Webinar

Southern Nevada Health District, 280 S. Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89107  
Red Rock Trail Rooms A and B

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)  
Scott Nielson, Vice-Chair – At-Large Member, Gaming (*in-person*)  
Frank Nemeec, Secretary – At-Large Member, Physician (*in-person*)  
Bobbette Bond – At-Large Member, Regulated Business/Industry (*in-person*)  
Nancy Brune – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*Call-in User 2*)  
Pattie Gallo – Council Member, City of Mesquite (*via WebEx*)  
Joseph Hardy – Council Member, City of Boulder City (*in-person*)  
Brian Knudsen – Mayor Pro Tem, City of Las Vegas (*in-person*)
- ABSENT:** Scott Black – Mayor Pro Tem, City of North Las Vegas  
Michelle Romero – Mayor, City of Henderson  
Tick Segerblom – Commissioner, Clark County
- ALSO PRESENT:** Linda Anderson, Mateo Beers, Jordan Bunker, Harold Collins, Maya Holmes,  
(In Audience) Bradley Mayer, Javier Rivera-Rojas, Stacie Sasso, Cassidy Wilson
- LEGAL COUNSEL:** Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer
- STAFF:** Adriana Alvarez, Jonna Arqueros, Maria Azzarelli, Tawana Bellamy, Haley Blake, Amanda Brown, Nicole Bungum, Cory Burgess, Victoria Burris, Erika Bustinza, Joe Cabanban, Kyle Carmen, Nicole Charlton, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Corey Cunningham, Aaron DelCotto, Brandon Delise, Regena Ellis, Emily Elzeftawy, Brian Felgar, Jason Frame, Kimberly Franich, Joe Ginty, Cheri Gould, David Greer, John Hammond, Heather Hanoff, Victoria Harding, Richard Hazeltine, Carmen Hua, Jessica Johnson, Michael Johnson, Stacy Johnson, Theresa Ladd, Fernando Lara, John Mileo, Brandi Miller, Kim Monahan, Semilla Neal, Todd Nicolson, Brian Northam, Veralynn Orewyler, Mike Palmer, Kyle Parkson, Luann Province, Yin Jie Qin, Larry Rogers, Alexis Romero, Kim Saner, Aivelhyn Santos, Christopher Saxton, Jennifer Sizemore, Margo Slater, Ronique Tatum-Penegar, Will Thompson, Greg Tordjman, Robert Urzi, Shylo Urzi, Dan Vuksanovic, Donnie Whitaker, Edward Wynder, Lourdes Yapjoco, Merylyn Yegon, Christian Young

### 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 and confirmed quorum.

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

*Member Bond joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.*

### III. RECOGNITION

#### 1. Chris Elaine Mariano (Community Health Nurse Supervisor)

- Rising Rebel Award – UNLV Alumni School of Nursing
- The Carolyn E. Sabo Outstanding DNP Student Award – UNLV School of Nursing

Ms. Mariano was nominated, and received, the Rising Rebel Award for making a difference in the community by volunteering and creating a project that services the needs of the community. Ms. Mariano was instrumental in helping with the COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Further, Ms. Mariano was nominated, and received, the Carolyn E. Sabo Outstanding DNP Student Award, for demonstrating exemplary leadership on an interdisciplinary team through her DNP project. Using her expertise in childhood vaccinations, she worked with multiple departments to create a strategic plan to improve the rate of vaccination completion for 2-year-olds. She further identified a source of Nevada's long-standing low rate of vaccine completion and identified both a clinical and policy strategy to increase the rate of vaccine completion. The Board of Health congratulated Ms. Mariano on these awards and thanked her for her commitment to the Health District and to our 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.

Regena Ellis commented on the movement of the Sexual Health Clinic into the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), specifically that staff and providers came to work in public health and not for an FQHC. Ms. Ellis advised that public health was the science of improving the wellbeing of communities, research, health programs, policies, and education, and for protecting entire populations. Ms. Ellis advised that community members with a Sexual Transmitted Infection go to the Sexual Health Clinic to be treated, and if community members have pain or high-blood pressure, they would go to an FQHC. Ms. Ellis recommended that the FQHC function on its own and not take on public health services. Ms. Ellis stated that there was a congenital syphilis program due to the very high rate in Clark County, inquired why funding was not found to fund the public health of the Sexual Health Clinic and why the Sexual Health Clinic had to become part of the FQHC. Ms. Ellis expressed concerns regarding the transition of the Sexual Health Clinic into the FQHC and indicated that the FQHC should continue to provide services as a separate entity, with separate funding. Ms. Ellis stated that providers were concerned that they had to be re-credentialed to work in the FQHC, somewhere that they did not want to work. Ms. Ellis stated that individuals come to the Health District that are uninsured, homeless or as a last resort. Ms. Ellis concluded by reiterating that the FQHC should be separate and operate on its own funding.

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

#### V. ADOPTION OF THE MAY 25, 2023 MEETING AGENDA *(for possible action)*

*A motion was made by Member Nemeec, seconded by Member Nielson, and carried unanimously to approve the May 25, 2023 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:** April 27, 2023 *(for possible action)*
2. **PETITION #31-23: Approval of the Interlocal Contract between the Southern Nevada Health District and the Clark County School District to provide services to support the CCSD's Safe**

**Routes to School Program as well as efforts to collect and report BMI data;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

3. **PETITION #32-23: Approval of the Professional Services Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and GovTemps USA for professional human resources consulting services;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)
4. **PETITION #33-23: Approval of Insurance Coverage Renewal through Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (POOL/PACT) for Southern Nevada Health District's property, general liability, business auto, cyber, security liability and commercial environmental insurance renewal for coverage period 07/01/2023 – 07/01/2024;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

*A motion was made by Member Hardy, seconded by Member Nemec, and carried unanimously to approve the May 25, 2023 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 and Discuss a Legislative Update;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

Bradley Mayer of Argentum Partners provided the Board of Health with an update of the recent legislative session related to the following bills that affect the Health District:

- AB220 – Revises provisions relating to water conservation
- SB92 – Revises provisions relating to sidewalk vendors
- AB53 – Revises provisions relating to sale of tobacco products
- SB441 – Revises provisions relating to public health (repeals SB4)
- SB118 – Revises provisions relating to public health

*Member Brune joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m.*

2. **PETITION #30-23: Receive, Discuss and Approve the Implementation of the E3 and M2 Salary Ranges as recommended by Pontifex Consulting Group;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (*for possible action*)

Joe Cabanban, Human Resources Manager, presented the E3 and M2 salary ranges.

Member Nielson requested that this matter be brought forward to the next Board of Health meeting.

*A motion was made by Member Nielson, seconded by Member Hardy, and carried unanimously to defer the approval of the implementation of the E3 and M2 salary ranges to the June 22, 2023 Board of Health meeting.*

- 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)**

There were no items raised.

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

- DHO Comments

In addition to his written report, Dr. Leguen introduced Dr. Todd Nicolson as the new Workforce Director. As the Workforce Director, Dr. Nicolson would oversee the implementation of the CDC Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Grant (PHI Grant) across all aspects of the organization and will assure the efficacy of grant funded projects. Dr. Nicolson was the Senior Public Health Preparedness Planner at the Health District since 2015. Dr. Nicolson has a Doctorate Degree in Education and Leadership focusing on Healthcare, in addition to extensive public health experience and collaboration with multiple Health District programs and community partners.

- Finance Staffing Update **(heard out of order)**

Donnie (DJ) Whitaker, Chief Financial Officer, provided a Finance Staffing Update. Ms. Whitaker advised that in August 2022, the Finance Department experienced a change in department leadership with the Chief Financial Officer, Controller and Accounting Supervisor positions all being vacant. Ms. Whitaker further advised that to date all the department leadership positions had been filled. Ms. Whitaker then provided an update on the department's recruitment efforts.

Member Nielson advised that the update was further to a request from the Finance Committee following the audit report. Mr. Nielson advised that it became clear that the issues outlined in the audit were due to a lack of staff and supervision. Mr. Nielson stated that the Finance Committee wanted to ensure that staff were in place and that the Finance Department was fully functional.

- Overview of the Home Visiting Programs **(heard out of order)**

Dr. Leguen introduced Lourdes Yapjoco as the new Director of the Primary & Preventive Care Division. Ms. Yapjoco provided an overview of the Home Visiting Programs at the Health District.

Further to an inquiry from Chair Kirkpatrick, Ms. Yapjoco advised that patients are normally referred to the Nurse Family Partnership through community partners. Ms. Yapjoco further advised that the criteria for the program was for first-time pregnant women in a certain trimester. Further to an inquiry from Member Nemece, Ms. Yapjoco advised that there were other programs available to individuals that did not meet the criteria for the Nurse Family Partnership. Ms. Yapjoco committed to providing the Board of Health with information regarding any waiting lists for the Home Visiting Programs.

Further to an inquiry from Member Nemece, Ms. Yapjoco committed to providing the Board of Health with the number of individuals that have graduated from the Nurse Family Partnership program.

Further to an inquiry from Member Gallo, Ms. Yapjoco committed to provide the 17 target zip codes in the Embracing Health Babies program.

Further to an inquiry from Member Bond regarding how pregnant women were referred to the Congenital Syphilis Case Management Program, Ms. Yapjoco advised that pregnant women were referred through the Health District's disease investigators, after they receive a positive laboratory report.

Chair Kirkpatrick requested that Ms. Yapjoco provide her with a wish list of what would be required to ensure that pregnant women are not turned away from any programs.

- Mosquito Disease Surveillance Update (**heard out of order**)

David Greer, Senior Environment Health Specialist, and Chris Saxton, Director of Environmental Health provided a Mosquito Disease Surveillance Update.

Further to a discussion regarding jurisdictional mosquito surveillance and/or activities, Chair Kirkpatrick advised that she would coordinate a meeting with the Health District staff and individuals from the various jurisdictions to discuss a coordinated response to mosquito surveillance and/or activities.

#### **XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Administration Division Monthly Activity Report
2. Community Health Division Monthly Activity Report
3. Community Health Center (FQHC) Division Monthly Report
4. Disease Surveillance and Control Division Monthly Activity Report
5. Environmental Health Division Monthly Activity Report
6. Primary & Preventive Care Division 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.

Regena Ellis commented on separating the FQHC from public health. Ms. Ellis provided an example, by stating that the Refugee Program was housed in the Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic and that patients were being seen in the TB Clinic with statistics and funding being through the FQHC. Ms. Ellis stated that it appeared that staff were working in one place but provided services in another. Ms. Ellis stated that staff felt it was unethical and borderline fraud. Ms. Ellis stated that staff were concerned that the hybrid form was not clear and that staff were being utilized in two different areas but the funding was going towards the FQHC; that the funding does not go to the TB Clinic. Ms. Ellis stated that when the Refugee Program was placed in the TB Clinic, several years ago, staff in the TB Clinic voiced concern that staff wanted to work in the TB Clinic at the Health District and that staff was forced to work with refugees. Ms. Ellis stated that it was concerning to have an FQHC versus public health with no division of funds and finances. Ms. Ellis stated that it was a major concern to staff because they feel the Health District is violating its' core values of being ethical and moral.

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

#### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

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

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