



MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

September 25, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was conducted In-person and via Microsoft Teams

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

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Scott Black, Chair – Mayor Pro Tem, City of North Las Vegas (*in-person*)
Frank Nemec, Vice-Chair – At-Large Member, Physician (*in-person*)
Joseph Hardy, Secretary – Mayor, City of Boulder City (*in-person*)
April Becker – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)
Bobbette Bond – At-Large Member, Regulated Business/Industry (*in-person*)
Nancy Brune – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*in-person*)
Pattie Gallo – Mayor Pro Tem, City of Mesquite (*via Teams*)
Scott Nielson – At-Large Member, Gaming (*in-person*)
Shondra Summers-Armstrong – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*in-person*)
- ABSENT:** Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Commissioner, Clark County
Monica Larson – Council Member, City of Henderson
- ALSO PRESENT:** Christopher Boyd, Ann Casey, Chaunsey Chau-Duong, Dawn Christensen,
(In Audience) Sean Connell, Pam Droessler, Shelley Essex, Isabelle Frenette, Max Guerrero,
Cade Grogan, Jill Hart, Diane Henry, Larry Ish, Joanna Jacob, Joyne Kotnik,
Donna Laffey, Bradley Mayer, Laura McSwain, Christopher Price, Jennifer
Quihuis, B-J Rogers, Christian Salmon, ChanceLyn Sisson, David Tabaczynski,
Will Yepez
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer
- LEGAL COUNSEL:** Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel
- STAFF:** Kevin Abbott, Adriana Alvarez, Emily Anelli, Larry Armstrong, Maria Azzarelli,
Tawana Bellamy, Amanda Brown, Cory Burgess, Nikki Burns-Savage, Victoria
Burris, Donna Buss, Joe Cabanban, Nicole Charlton, Andria Cordovez Mulet,
Carol Cottam, Gerard Custodio, Christian DeHaan, Rayleen Earney, Lisa
Falkner, Kimberly Franich, Sarah George, Xavier Gonzales, Jacques Graham,
Heather Hanoff, Maria Harris, Amineh Harvey, Richard Hazeltine, Semilla
Neal, Valerie Herzog, Raychel Holbert, Carmen Hua, Dan Isler, Danielle
Jamerson, Jessica Johnson, Theresa Ladd, Annie Lin, Josie Llorico, Anil
Mangla, Blanca Martinez, Geoff Melly, Marco Mendez, Kimberly Monahan,
Samantha Morales, Todd Nicolson, Brian Northam, Kyle Parkson, Luann
Province, Devin Raman, Vivek Raman, Emma Rodriguez, Kim Saner, Aivelhyn
Santos, Chris Saxton, Dave Sheehan, Karla Shoup, Jennifer Sizemore,
Cameron Smelcer, Randy Smith, Ronique Tatum-Penegar, Candyce Taylor,
Will Thompson, Renee Trujillo, Donnie Whitaker, Edward Wynder, Lourdes
Yapjoco, Merylyn Yegon, Lei 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 and confirmed quorum. Ms. Cordovez Mulet provided clear and complete instructions for members of the general public to call in to the meeting to provide public comment, including a telephone number and access code.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECOGNITIONS

1. Dr. Cassius Lockett, Dr. Anil Mangla, and Lei Zhang

- Co-authored the published article “*Application of joinpoint regression to SARS-CoV-2 wastewater-based epidemiology in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA*” in Open Access in Epidemiology and Infection of the Cambridge University Press

The Chair recognized Dr. Cassius Lockett, Dr. Anil Mangla, and Lei Zhang for co-authoring the published article “Application of joinpoint regression to SARS-CoV-2 wastewater-based epidemiology in Las Vegas, Nevada” in the Open Access of Epidemiology and Infection of the Cambridge University Press. This study explored the use of piecewise linear trend analysis to identify significant trends and trend turning points in SARS-CoV-2 RNA wastewater concentrations and corresponding COVID-19 case rates in the greater Las Vegas area from mid-2020 to April 2023. These findings guide future applications of advanced statistical methodologies and support the continued integration of wastewater-based epidemiology as a complementary approach to traditional COVID-19 surveillance systems. On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District and the Board of Health, the Chair congratulated staff on this publication.

2. Southern Nevada Health District – September Employees of the Month

- Marites Navarro and Vanessa Ortiz-Rivera

The Chair recognized the September Employees of the Month; Magali Cano, Community Health Nurse II in the FQHC, and Myles Holland, Environmental Health Specialist. The Health District, and the Board of Health, recognized the employees went above and beyond for the Health District and our community and best represented the Health District’s C.A.R.E.S. Values. On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District and District Board of Health, the Chair congratulated the employees on this recognition.

Member Summers-Armstrong joined the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

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 period.

V. ADOPTION OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2025 MEETING AGENDA *(for possible action)*

A motion was made by Member Nielson, seconded by Member Bond, and carried unanimously to approve the September 25, 2025 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:** August 28, 2025 *(for possible action)*
2. **PETITION #05-26: Approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) to collaborate on training and enhancement activities related to prearrest and pretrial diversion for those with substance use disorder and those vulnerable to overdose;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
3. **PETITION #06-26: Approval of the Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the Clark County School District (CCSD) for the allowance of CCSD nurses to assist the Health District during outbreak investigations;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
4. **PETITION #07-26: Approval of the Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the City of North Las Vegas for the acquisition and relocation of modular structures;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
5. **PETITION #08-26: Approval of the Amended 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)*
6. **PETITION #09-26: Approval of the Contract Renewal with Info-Tech Research Group Inc. to provide strategy, governance, security, policy and operational consulting and related activities;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

Chair Black disclosed that he had an existing contractual relationship with Argentum Partners and confirmed that use of their services did not affect his judgment regarding the Health District also utilizing their services. Chair Black stated that he could participate fairly and impartially in voting, however, was disclosing the contractual relationship to maintain transparency to the Board and the general public.

A motion was made by Member Nielson, seconded by Member Hardy, and carried unanimously to approve the September 25, 2025 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.

1. MEMORANDUM #02-26: Review and Approve the Environmental Health Business Impact Statement (BIS) for the Proposed 2025 Public Accommodation Facilities Regulations;

direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

- a. Attachment A: Business Impact Statement (BIS)
- b. Attachment B: BIS Surveys/Written Correspondence
- c. Attachment C: Proposed 2025 PA Regulations
- d. Attachment D: Summary of Major Changes
- e. Attachment E: Proposed 2025 PA Regulations – Red Line
- f. Attachment F: BIS Notifications
- g. Attachment G: Posting Verifications
- h. Attachment H: Workshop
- i. Attachment I: BOH Presentation

Vivek Raman, Environmental Health Supervisor, and Christian DeHaan, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, presented the Business Impact Statement on the Proposed 2025 Public Accommodation Facilities Regulations.

Member Brune joined the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

Mr. Raman explained that the regulations were first established in 2006 and there have been no updates since they were established. Mr. Raman advised that the review and proposed revisions make the requirements clear and more concise for public accommodation operators and address areas with high frequency of violations to ultimately reduce room closures and associated fees. Mr. Raman outlined the business impact survey process and results.

Mr. DeHaan proceeded to highlight the major proposed changes.

The Chair opened for Public Comment. Seeing no one, the Chair closed the period for Public Comment.

Further to an inquiry from Member Summers-Armstrong, Mr. Raman advised that currently there were no requirements regarding mattress protectors on pull-out and sofa beds, aside from guestroom attendants removing soiled mattresses. Member Summers-Armstrong inquired regarding signage on ice dispensers and the requirement for a food handler card. Mr. Raman advised that staff dispensing large buckets of ice in a kitchen were required to have a food handler card.

Further to an inquiry from Member Hardy, Mr. Raman addressed the environmental cleaning of surfaces and confirmed that the proposed regulations did not apply to short-term rentals.

Member Nielson confirmed that the Nevada Resort Association responded to the Business Impact Survey on behalf of their members. The Nevada Resort Association collected information from their members and submitted a single response to the Health District, including the cost impacts of changes, the hose bib, and mattress covers.

Member Nielson inquired regarding the regulatory oversight of short-term rentals. Mr. Raman advised that staff have undertaken significant research and advised that Code Enforcement for the various jurisdictions had oversight of short-term rentals.

Member Nielson further inquired on the next steps in the process. Mr. Raman advised, if the Board approved the Business Impact Statement, notification would be sent to all industry partners and public workshops would be held. Health District staff would collect the feedback, undertake any adjustments to the proposed regulations, and present the final proposed regulations to the Board of Health at a future meeting.

Member Bond inquired as to the complaint process of a short-term rental. Mr. Raman advised that the Health District had only received eight complaints regarding short-term rentals, which were directed to that jurisdiction's code enforcement or business license departments.

A motion was made by Member Summers-Armstrong, seconded by Member Hardy, and carried unanimously to approve the Business Impact Statement on the Proposed 2025 Public Accommodation Facilities Regulations, as presented.

2. Variance Request for an existing septic system, SNHD Permit #ON0010273, located at 2625 Barbaradale Cir., Las Vegas, NV 89146 to allow existing trees to encroach on the septic system; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)

Daniel Isler, Environmental Health Engineer Supervisor, presented the variance request for an existing septic system located at 2625 Barbaradale Cir., Las Vegas, NV 89146 to allow existing trees to encroach on the septic system. Mr. Isler advised that the variance stemmed from a tenant improvement request, that determined trees encroaching on the leach field. Mr. Isler advised that the trees could potentially cause root intrusion into the septic system, which could lead to hydraulic failure and sewage back-up. Mr. Isler confirmed that staff was recommending denial of the variance. However, if the Board approved the variance, staff recommended approval with conditions.

Sean Connell, the applicant, provided context for his variance request, noting that a detailed letter had already been submitted. He explained that the trees in question are several decades old and provide the only shade in his backyard; removing them would significantly impact the usability of his outdoor space. Mr. Connell stated that his septic system had been inspected and pumped multiple times over the past ten years, with no indication of malfunction. He acknowledged the potential for future issues, but emphasized that no current problems existed. He expressed concern that the presence of the trees and septic system was being used to prevent a bathroom renovation, specifically, re-tiling a shower, which he finds disproportionate. Mr. Connell offered to refrain from planting additional trees and committed to maintaining the existing system. Mr. Connell argued that any future damage would primarily affect his property and finances, not public health. He also referenced tree-planting initiatives by the water district, questioning the rationale behind requiring the removal of healthy, longstanding trees.

The Chair opened for Public Comment.

Laura McSwain, representing the Water Fairness Coalition, referenced a prior application involving a similar issue where a property owner incurred approximately \$8,000 in legal fees due to complications caused by a tree affecting their project. Ms. McSwain expressed hope that the current arguments presented support preserving the tree in question. Ms. McSwain indicated she would address related matters during the public comment period. She also noted, based on observations from a recent meeting regarding rule changes, that individuals who choose to manage their own sewer systems tend to be independent-minded. Accordingly, she expressed support for deferring to the property owner's judgment in this case.

Diane Henry encouraged approval of the variance. Ms. Henry believed the requirement to connect to a sewer main within 400 feet imposed an excessive financial burden, potentially exceeding \$40,000, based on an estimated cost of \$200 per linear foot, and unreasonable.

Christian Salmon expressed support for the homeowner's request, aligning with previous comments advocating for approval. He emphasized that the issue at hand, tiling a bathroom, should not require escalation to a public hearing, suggesting that such matters consume unnecessary time and resources. Mr. Salmon questioned the efficiency of government processes in this context. He concluded by urging approval of the homeowner's request.

Seeing no one further, the Chair closed the period for Public Comment.

Further to an inquiry from Member Hardy regarding references to the Colorado River, Mr. Isler advised that the reference was in line with the recent local goal to remove septic systems from receiving Colorado River water.

Member Hardy requested clarification on how the tree roots were involved with septic system. Mr. Isler advised that tree roots could enter the piping and break through the septic system.

Member Becker agreed that the application by the homeowner was very thorough, and she did not see an issue with the trees. Member Becker stated her support of the variance request.

Further to an inquiry from Member Brune, Mr. Isler advised there was no current requirement for homeowners to perform regular maintenance on the septic system, and believed that a single tree was to be removed. Mr. Connell advised that it had not been confirmed to him how many trees had to be removed. Mr. Connell advised that he routinely has the septic system pumped and inspected.

Further to an inquiry from the Chair regarding the suggested conditions, Mr. Connell agreed in part to the conditions, however, was concerned with the first condition regarding the requirement to connect to community sewage when available within 400 feet of the property line and can be made by gravity flow, and requested that it not be imposed at this time. Mr. Isler confirmed that the first condition was usually included in every variance application and was a requirement in the regulations.

A motion was made by Member Becker, seconded by Member Nielson, and carried unanimously to approve the Variance Request for an existing septic system, SNHD Permit #ON0010273, located at 2625 Barbaradale Cir., Las Vegas, NV 89146 to allow existing trees to encroach on the septic system, with the following conditions:

- 1. Petitioners and their successor(s) in interest shall abide by all local government regulations requiring connection to community sewage systems. Use of the ISDS shall be discontinued and the structure it serves shall be connected to any community sewage system constructed in the future to within four hundred (400) feet of the applicant's property line when connection can be made by gravity flow and the owner(s) are notified and legally required to do so.*
- 2. Petitioners and their successor(s) will abide by the operation and maintenance requirements of the most current SNHD regulations governing individual sewage disposal systems.*
- 3. No additional trees are allowed within ten feet (10') of the existing septic system.*
- 4. The variance will be in effect until the existing residential septic system is inactivated, removed, or if the property changes land use. Conversion of the existing septic system for commercial use will result in the variance becoming null and void.*
- 5. Petitioners and their successor(s) must provide a copy of the variance to potential buyers as part of the disclosure process per NRS 113.*

[NOTE: Before the Second Public Comment, Member Bond stated her intention to rescind her initial opposition vote. Member Bond confirmed that she supported the variance request and wished to reflect her vote in approval.]

3. Variance Request for an existing septic system, SNHD #ON0024214, located at 5965 N. Grand Canyon Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89149 to remain underneath the existing shed; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)

Mr. Isler presented the variance request for an existing septic system located at 5965 N. Grand Canyon Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89149 to remain underneath the existing shed. Mr. Isler advised that the variance stemmed from a tenant improvement request, wherein the homeowner, constructed a shed over the leach field. Mr. Isler noted that the shed was 400 square feet, which requires a building permit process. Through the permitting process the Health District is notified and would have directed the shed be built in another location. Mr. Isler confirmed that there was no building permit associated with the shed. Mr. Isler confirmed that staff was recommending denial of the variance, as sewer was available less than 400 feet from the property. However, if the Board approved the variance, staff recommended approval with conditions.

Matthew Vance, the homeowner, was not in attendance.

The Chair opened for Public Comment.

Diane Henry indicated that if the Board were to approve and impose the conditions, the homeowner was already within 400 feet. Ms. Henry inquired whether the intention was for the homeowner to connect to sewer right now.

Christian Salmon requested that the Board vote in favor of the homeowner and stated this was punitive.

Seeing no one further, the Chair closed the period for Public Comment.

Mr. Isler addressed the first condition regarding connection to sewer within 400 feet and confirmed that the Health District was not notifying the homeowner that they were required to connect to sewer.

Member Summers-Armstrong inquired whether removing the floor would render the shed unusable. Mr. Isler was unable to answer, but confirmed that the shed was built without a permit.

Further to an inquiry from the Chair, Mr. Isler advised that the property was a residential, private farm with animals and the shed was used by cats and to store feed for the farm animals. Mr. Isler noted that the application indicated that moving or removing the shed would make it impossible to care for the animals.

Further to inquiries from Member Becker and Member Gallo regarding the shed only covering 20% of the leach field, Mr. Isler advised that the leach field could not be covered by any impermeable surface, regardless of certain percentage of coverage.

Further to an inquiry from the Chair, Mr. Isler advised that the recommendation would be to remove the entire floor of the shed.

Member Summers-Armstrong inquired whether the property was zoned for farm animals, and if it was not, then making an accommodation for use that is not allowed would place the Board in conflict. Member Hardy noted that the homeowner's cats use the shed, and cats kill rodents, which is a health issue not to be ignored.

The Chair noted that the homeowner was not present to address many of the Board's questions and suggested that the variance request be moved to a future meeting to allow Mr. Vance to attend.

A motion was made by Chair Black, seconded by Member Hardy, and carried unanimously that the Variance Request for an existing septic system, SNHD #ON0024214, located at 5965 N. Grand Canyon Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89149 to remain underneath the existing shed, be continued until a future Board of Health meeting.

4. Variance Request for an existing septic system, SNHD #ON0015884, located at 3107 Ramrod Street, Las Vegas, NV 89108 to remain underneath the existing driveway; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)

Mr. Isler presented the variance request for an existing septic system located at 3107 Ramrod Street, Las Vegas, NV 89108 to remain underneath the existing driveway. Mr. Isler noted the septic system dated back to 1974 and that the circular driveway covered approximately 60% of the leach field. Mr. Isler further noted that the property was a Las Vegas Valley Water District customer, with a production well within a mile of property. Mr. Isler confirmed that staff was recommending denial of the variance. However, if the Board approved the variance, staff recommended approval with conditions.

David Tabaczynski, the homeowner, provided background on his property, purchased five years ago and originally built in 1978. He emphasized that the septic system, including the tank and leach field, was approved by the Clark County Health District and the building department at the time of construction. Prior to purchase, the system was professionally inspected and found to be fully functional. The tank is regularly maintained and pumped every three years. Mr. Tabaczynski noted that the leach field is partially located beneath a circular driveway, but there have been no signs of system failure or public health concerns; no odors, surface issues, or drainage problems. He also confirmed that the proximity of a newly anticipated pool complies with recommended distances from both the tank and leach field. He stated that the system has operated without issue for over 45 years and cited research indicating that properly maintained septic systems can last up to 100 years. He requested removal of a stipulation preventing closure of the building permit for the pool, citing continued functionality, proper maintenance, and lack of any environmental or public safety impact. He also noted that removing the driveway would cost approximately \$15,000, despite no evidence of system compromise.

The Chair opened for Public Comment.

Christian Salmon raised questions regarding impact of a property with a leach field located beneath a driveway. He noted that the homeowner had conducted inspections and taken steps to identify any issues. Mr. Salmon questioned who would be harmed if the system failed, suggesting the homeowner would bear the consequences. He requested clarification on how the septic system failures could pose broader public health risks, including surfacing wastewater and groundwater contamination. Mr. Salmon emphasized that leach fields are designed to allow wastewater to percolate and be naturally filtered before reaching the water table. He noted that septic systems have been used safely for decades and that any failure would force the homeowner to take corrective action due to immediate impacts like sewage backup. He also pointed out that water used in the valley is partially reclaimed, suggesting minimal long-term loss and reinforcing that the homeowner would be the primary party affected.

Seeing no one further, the Chair closed the period for Public Comment.

Member Summers-Armstrong commended the homeowner on following the proper process and being well informed of the requirements. Member Summers-Armstrong stated her support of the variance request.

Member Brune noted that the property did not have many trees and inquired whether a condition could be imposed to not plant any additional trees on the property near the septic system. Mr. Isler advised that the Board had the authority to include an additional condition regarding no trees within ten feet of the existing septic system.

Further to an inquiry from the Chair, Mr. Tabaczynski was agreeable to the conditions noted in the materials, and with the additional condition regarding no trees within ten feet (10') of the existing septic system.

A motion was made by Member Summers-Armstrong, seconded by Member Brune, and carried by a vote of 8-1 to approve the Variance Request for an existing septic system, SNHD #ON0015884, located at 3107 Ramrod Street, Las Vegas, NV 89108 to remain underneath the existing driveway, with the following conditions:

1. *Petitioner and their successor(s) in interest shall abide by all local government regulations requiring connection to community sewage systems. Use of the ISDS shall be discontinued and the structure it serves shall be connected to any community sewage system constructed in the future to within four hundred (400) feet of the Petitioner's property line when connection can be made by gravity flow and the owner(s) are notified and legally required to do so.*
2. *Petitioner and their successor(s) will abide by the operation and maintenance requirements of the most current SNHD regulations governing individual sewage disposal systems.*
3. *The variance will be in effect until the existing residential septic system is inactivated, removed, or if the property changes land use. Conversion of the existing septic system for commercial use will result in the variance becoming null and void.*
4. *Petitioners and their successor(s) must provide a copy of the variance to potential buyers as part of the disclosure process per NRS 113.*
5. *No trees are allowed within ten feet (10') of the existing septic system.*

AYES

1. Becker
2. Black
3. Bond
4. Brune
5. Gallo
6. Hardy
7. Nemec
8. Summers-Armstrong

NAYS

1. Nielson

VIII. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

There were no items heard.

- 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 Nemec raised the topic of the West Coast Health Alliance, which the Nevada State Board of Health was currently considering joining. This alliance comprises several western states, including California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii, and aims to address recent leadership changes within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that have, according to the alliance, impacted the independence of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and introduced increased partisanship into scientific decision-making. Member Nemec expressed hope that the State of Nevada would formally join the alliance.

Member Summers-Armstrong expressed support for the recommendation regarding participation in the West Coast Health Alliance. She noted that similar initiatives were underway in other regions of the country and emphasized the importance of ensuring continued access to critical public health resources, including vaccinations for influenza, COVID-19, and RSV. Member Summers-Armstrong stated that when she was an assembly member her district was significantly

impacted during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. She acknowledged the life-saving role of scientific advancements and voiced concern about the potential challenges in maintaining access to necessary vaccines.

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

- DHO Comments

In addition to the written report, Dr. Lockett confirmed that a vaccination update will be provided at the next Board meeting to include information regarding the Health District's standing order and ongoing efforts to expand COVID-19 vaccine eligibility for clients.

- Presentation on Short-Term Rentals

Mr. Raman and Mr. DeHaan presented on short-term rentals. Mr. Raman advised that in preparation for the presentation, they contacted code enforcement agencies, reviewed municipal codes, county ordinances, and available resources for the different jurisdictions.

There was robust discussion on the current inspection protocols for short-term rentals and the extent to which public health considerations are included.

The Chair proposed that the Health District collaborate with jurisdictions to develop a public health checklist based on existing public accommodation regulations. This checklist could serve as a standard for issuing business licenses and special use permits, ensuring that health concerns such as pest control and pool cleanliness are addressed upfront.

Member Brune cautioned against duplicating existing complaint systems and advocated for working in partnership with jurisdictions to streamline processes. The Chair agreed, emphasizing that each jurisdiction operates differently and that the Health District's role should focus on providing information and guidance to support consistent public health standards. There was consensus on the need for a legal review of the NRS related to short-term rentals, development of a public health inspection framework, and improved coordination between the Health District and local jurisdictions.

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. Public Health & Preventive Care Division Monthly Activity Report

Member Bond stated her intention to rescind her initial vote in opposition to Item VII.2, concerning the variance request for an existing septic system (SNHD Permit #ON0010273), located at 2625 Barbaradale Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89146. Member Bond confirmed that she now supported the variance request and wishes her vote to reflect approval.

- 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.

Laura McSwain expressed appreciation for the community engagement observed during the meeting and shared concerns stemming from a workshop meeting she attended. Representing the Water Fairness Coalition, she emphasized the organization's focus on water policy and government overreach. McSwain cautioned against an overemphasis on Colorado River water issues, noting that residents using septic systems are being overlooked. She raised concerns about Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) approach to acquiring water credits that affect existing residents. McSwain referenced Commissioner Gibson's remarks regarding the proposed waiver process and associated fees and noted that such costs should not be passed on to residents, as fees ranging from \$40,000 to \$100,000. Ms. McSwain also cited Commissioner Kirkpatrick's identification of the issue as a billion-dollar problem. Ms. McSwain asserted that the financial burden should be borne by the government rather than individual homeowners. Ms. McSwain stated that the quality of community life was deteriorating due to the removal of trees. Additionally, she voiced concern over proposed septic rule changes requiring reapplication every five years, questioning the strain this would place on Health District resources. Ms. McSwain praised the thoughtful public input received and encouraged continued direct engagement with affected constituents. She concluded by urging reconsideration of the proposed regulations.

Diane Henry expressed concern regarding the lack of public notice for the recent workshop, noting that over 100 attendees participated despite limited awareness and the meeting being held during a weekday morning. She recommended future workshops be publicly noticed in local media, such as the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, similar to prior meetings regarding business impact statements. Ms. Henry highlighted widespread community concern over proposed changes to septic system regulations, particularly the financial burden on homeowners. She opposed replacing permanent septic permits with five-year revocable permits, citing the potential for forced sewer connections without available funding support. She noted that septic-to-sewer conversions typically cost at least \$40,000, which poses a significant hardship, especially for residents in older neighborhoods like Section 10. Ms. Henry acknowledged SNWA's conversion programs but criticized the limited funding, reimbursement model, and restrictive eligibility. Ms. Henry outlined additional proposed costs, including permit fees, mandatory inspections, appeal fees, and requirements for nitrogen removal systems. She also referenced anticipated annual septic fees and mandated septic pumping and well water testing, all of which could negatively impact property values. Ms. Henry shared the experience of her neighbor who, after a fire, faced over \$100,000 in costs to resolve a septic issue related to a pool built by previous owners. Ms. Henry urged the Board of Health not to implement regulation changes or mandate sewer connections until adequate funding is available to assist affected homeowners.

My name is Christian Salmon, S-A-L-M-O-N. Under NRS 624.331, I invoke the privilege that all my comments be verbatim, word for word. Also, I'd like to give you, because I did not do this yesterday. Can I give the officer these comments? This has a lot of the arguments that were made yesterday. I'd like to give them to each of the Board members so they, so they have them themselves. Thank you so much. So thank you so much. I appreciate your time here, guys. I know it was, it was heated yesterday and Mr. Isler, I appreciate him providing all the information. Um. And we're all here trying to do something. You're here, doing your best to act on our behalf and that's what, that's what we'd like and we have problems in society we want to solve. I think our representative was on the news last night. She was also participatory in the meeting yesterday,

Lisa Cole and she said in the legislature up in up north, there's a common quote, searching for a problem with which to institute a regulation. Or there's another way to put it, when your tool is regulation, everything looks like a problem in need of one. And so some of these things we're looking at, not just here in this room, but other places, it's, it's overbearing, it's too much it's not really looking to solve the particular problem. Some of the questions I have and other neighbors have is what quantity of water, so talking about septic systems and converting over to sewer, what quantity of water will be reclaimed by converting from septic systems to municipality sewers? Also, no, no water is lost if water goes into the septic system, correct? I mean these are, these are basic things that we've, we've heard them if if you listen to a long session like this and there are horrendously ignorant. What they're saying is, and it's not, it's blatantly, blatantly false. The other thing I'm going to say is, and I asked yesterday, you know, is this basically a public health agency or a public water policy agency? This is coming over here and you guys have a purview of what you're supposed to do regarding health. They need to fight their own battles and not dump it in your lap. That's my opinion. Again, regarding the applications here today, who's the victim if the water is not going to hurt anybody and and they can't survive without a septic system, it will fix itself because they have to. I mean, at some point I guess you could come in and do something, but this is all before it happens. This is pre-crime, I guess. It's kind of like that movie that was out with. I forgot his name now, but Minority Report, you know, so we have a system in this country where people are innocent until proven guilty and nothing has happened yet. A lot of times we feel, I'm speaking from my area too I live in the Northwest, Northwest rural preservation neighborhood and our neighbors, we are so sick of having to come to all these meetings and we constantly get talked down to like, we're stupid, not that that was done here, so that's where some of this comes from, I just want to relay that. And and we'd like, like we don't know anything and we constantly have to fight for what we have already bought into. We bought into our home with a septic, with a well, whatever, zoning, all these things should be forever, you know, should not, unless there's a major change that everybody agrees to. But we're we're being forced and and we're bludgeoned to death with government. It's weaponizing government. And that's not what this is supposed to be. I love government. Government should be around to protect, protect from anarchy. We've got to have some rules in place. But when you constantly are barraged by people that are on the public servants, they're not servants anymore. They're coming after us constantly. And that's how it feels. You know, I'd like to ask would the Board members, and I've asked Belanger, who's the head negotiator and lobbyist for the SNWA and Las Vegas Valley Water District, will you meet with me to look at new opportunities to find water? Because I've seen them out there, and he, he, he doesn't return a phone call back. We debated over at AB220 at length and a lot, all of us did and and that's not within their, what they, want you know. So I I I just wanted, I just want to let this one last thing. If we had more back and forth dialogue, then I wouldn't need to go further than 5 minutes. We would love to have this with all public agencies, so we have it, we can find the common ground and agree. I support you guys. Thank you for your time.

Carol Reynolds, a resident of Section 11, shared her personal perspective shaped by her early career as a field worker for the state of Nevada, where she conducted home visits to assess welfare eligibility. Her experiences with vulnerable populations instilled a lifelong concern about financial security in retirement, which she and her husband planned for carefully. Ms. Reynolds expressed deep concern over what she described as an “undeclared war” on longtime local residents, citing recent increases in water-related fees and proposed septic regulations. She believes these changes pose a serious financial threat to homeowners, particularly seniors on fixed incomes who previously installed septic systems when no other options were available. Ms. Reynolds warned that the proposed regulations, such as revocable permits and increased inspections, could leave residents at the mercy of county inspectors, potentially resulting in

financial ruin. Ms. Reynolds characterized this as a form of elder abuse and urged the Board of Health not to move forward with these changes until adequate financial support is available for affected homeowners.

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Cassius Lockett, PhD
District Health Officer/Executive Secretary
/acm

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