

WASHOE COUNTY DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Members

Kitty Jung, Chair
Julia Ratti, Vice Chair
Oscar Delgado
Dr. George Hess
David Silverman
Dr. John Novak
Michael D. Brown

Thursday, January 28, 2016
1:00 p.m.

Washoe County Administration Complex
Health District South Conference Room
1001 East Ninth Street
Reno, NV

1. *Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The following members and staff were present:

Members present: Kitty Jung, Chair
Dr. George Hess
Dr. John Novak
David Silverman
Mike Brown
Oscar Delgado

Members absent: Julia Ratti, Vice Chair

Ms. Spinola verified a quorum was present.

Staff present: Kevin Dick, District Health Officer, ODHO
Leslie Admirand, Deputy District Attorney
Anna Heenan, Administrative Health Services Officer, AHS
Charlene Albee, Division Director, AQM
Steve Kutz, Division Director, CCHS
Randall Todd, Division Director, EPHP
Bob Sack, Division Director, EHS
Sara Dinga, Director of Programs and Projects, ODHO
Linda Gabor, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, CCHS
Jim English, Environmental Health Specialist Supervisor, EHS
Joshua Restori, Air Quality Specialist II, AQM
Dawn Spinola, Administrative Secretary/Recording Secretary, ODHO

Chair Jung welcomed Councilmember Delgado.

2. *Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Delgado led the pledge to the flag.

3. *Public Comment

As there was no one wishing to speak, Chair Jung closed the public comment period.

4. Approval of Agenda

January 28, 2016

Dr. Novak moved to approve the agenda for the January 28, 2016, District Board of Health regular meeting. Chief Brown seconded the motion which was approved six in favor and none against.

5. Approval of Draft Minutes

December 17, 2015

Chair Jung thanked Ms. Spinola for always having the minutes prepared on time.

Dr. Novak moved to accept the minutes of the December 17, 2015 District Board of Health regular meeting as written. Dr. Hess seconded the motion which was approved six in favor and none against.

6. Recognitions

A. Transfer

1. Scott Baldwin – From EHS Environmental Health Specialist to AQM Air Quality Specialist II – 1/11/16

Mr. Dick introduced and congratulated Mr. Baldwin on his achievement as being the most qualified candidate for the position.

B. New Hires

1. Sonya Smith – Public Health Nurse I, hired 12/14/15 – CCHS

Mr. Kutz introduced Ms. Smith and reviewed her previous career accomplishments.

2. Maximilian Wegener – Public Health Investigator II, hired 12/28/15 – EPHP

Dr. Todd introduced Mr. Wegener and discussed his background.

3. Ellen Messinger-Patton – Environmental Health Trainee I, hired 1/11/16 – EHS

Mr. Sack introduced Ms. Messinger-Patton and reviewed her background, and noted some of her anticipated Health District tasks.

4. Briana Johnson – Environmental Health Trainee I, hired 1/11/16 – EHS

Mr. Sack introduced Ms. Johnson, discussed her background, and stated they were happy to have her.

C. Promotion

1. Nick Florey – Environmental Health Specialist to Senior Environmental Health Specialist effective January 25, 2016 – EHS

Mr. Dick congratulated Mr. Florey on his achievement for coming out on top through a competitive process.

7. Consent Items

- A. Accept cash donation in the amount of \$3,000 from Arctica Ice Sales to purchase Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs) to help decrease high unintended pregnancy rates; approve amendments totaling an increase of \$3,000 in both revenue and expense to the FY16 Arctica Ice Donation budget, IO-20424.

Staff Representative: Steve Kutz

- B. Appoint Vonnie L. Fundin to the Sewage, Wastewater and Sanitation Hearing Board (SWS Board) for a three-year term beginning January 28, 2016 and ending on January 27, 2019

Staff Representative: Jim English

Councilmember Delgado moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Silverman seconded the motion which was approved six in favor and none against.

8. *Update on Quality Improvement (QI) Processes for Health District Services

Staff Representative: Sara Dinga

Ms. Dinga provided a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment A) and introduced the members of the QI Team. Ms. Gabor, Mr. English and Mr. Restori provided brief overviews of QI projects that their respective divisions had completed.

Chair Jung congratulated Ms. Dinga on her work and opined there had been a complete and positive culture change at the Health District under Mr. Dick's leadership and with the initiation of QI.

9. *Introduction of New REMSA President and Comments from REMSA Board Chair

Presented by Jim Begbie

Mr. Begbie reviewed REMSA's recent accomplishments, to include a recognized shift towards transparency and cooperation. They are developing a strategic plan, a part of which is a Unified Public Affairs plan, focused on open and cooperative communication with all of their partners. He noted Tim Nelson, appointed last year to the Board, has strengthened the Finance Committee.

Mr. Begbie explained Dean Dow had been appointed as Interim President and CEO and acknowledged the numerous efforts that Mr. Dow had taken in his short time on the job to meet and engage with the EMS community. Mr. Begbie thanked Chief Brown for meeting with Mr. Dow and introducing him to the EMS partners.

Mr. Dow introduced himself and spoke about REMSA's services and credentials. He explained his vision of how the EMS community health care system should work. He reiterated Mr. Begbie's comments regarding openness, and indicated he would be working to bring in new ideas and make REMSA an even more sound organization. Mr. Dow provided an overview of his 40-year background, which encompassed both direct service and administrative capacities in EMS, Fire, Ambulance, and Healthcare.

Chair Jung welcomed Mr. Dow to the community. Councilmember Delgado thanked him for his remarks and stated he was looking forward to working within an atmosphere of more openness and transparency.

10. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority

Presented by Don Vonarx

- A. Review and Acceptance of the REMSA Operations Reports for November and December, 2015

Mr. Vonarx stated REMSA understood the importance of customer satisfaction surveys. He explained there had originally been some confusion as to the number of surveys distributed and noted some challenges with the vendor, to include slow response. By next week, another vendor will be selected or REMSA will choose to handle that service in-house. He noted results would likely be seen starting with the March report.

Chair Jung noted a comment had been submitted suggesting that two women not be paired in an ambulance, requiring assistance from Fire to load patients. She requested a report explaining what the policy and procedure is for those circumstances.

Chief Brown moved to accept the report as presented. Dr. Novak seconded the motion which was approved six in favor and none against.

*B. Update of REMSA's Community Activities during November and December, 2015

Kevin Romero reviewed some of the New Year's Eve preparations and activities, emphasizing they were designed to limit the impact of additional calls on normal operations. He noted that February was Heart Awareness month and REMSA would be sponsoring a benefit for the American Heart Association as well as supporting other heart awareness activities.

Mr. Romero stated they would address the question regarding lifting patients and is working with an equipment company to help them develop a new gurney.

11. *Regional Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board January Meeting Summary
Staff Representative: Christina Conti

Ms. Conti offered to answer any questions.

12. Discussion and possible approval of the draft REMSA response zones map within the Washoe County REMSA ambulance franchise service area.
Staff Representative: Christina Conti

Ms. Conti explained the updated map had been an important priority for some time, and the process had involved significant regional collaboration. She provided a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment B) to demonstrate key points, as well as the current and proposed maps. A single methodology had been utilized to prepare the new map. All decisions about response time were now population census-driven, and each area was to be designated to fall into one of five categories.

Ms. Conti further explained that call data information had been integrated, to verify that special-needs areas were being addressed. Response zone islands had been identified. She acknowledged the assistance of Gary Zaepfel from Washoe County Geographic Information systems, noting he had broken call volume and population density down in a number of different ways for analysis. Additionally, an outside contractor had provided guidance. Google Earth had been utilized to create a heat map showing where the calls were coming from.

Ms. Conti noted the proposed map had achieved immediate regional consensus, with the exception of three areas. The first two were in Spanish Springs and Cold Springs. Alterations to the map in those areas had been proposed and accepted. The third was to South Reno, which required some additional analysis from the contractor for options. The final area to review was the Mt. Rose Corridor boundary. The two affected agencies agreed to adopt the boundary established by a 1982 special election in which the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District took over jurisdiction within the geographic boundaries of the existing franchise area of the ambulance company that was disbanding.

Ms. Conti explained the final consideration for the Board was to consider the revision methodology presented.

Mr. Dick noted the proposed map had been presented to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board and they had approved it and recommended it be presented to the District Board of Health (DBOH) for approval.

Debbie Sheltra stated she had been a resident of an area that was designated for higher response times. She pointed out a map and correspondence that she had provided to the Chair (Attachment C). She explained the people of that area had voluntarily paid higher taxes so that there would be Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in their area, then they were absorbed into the Sierra Fire District, and were now in the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. She requested the ambulance parked at Bower's Mansion be covered under an aid agreement that is more fluid and provides better service for the area. She pointed out there was a current aid agreement with Carson City for the lower portion of the valley.

At Chair Jung's request, Ms. Conti explained the Priority 1 response times for each of the zones were as follows: A) 8:59, B) 15:59, C) 20:59, D) 30:59, and E) Wilderness/Frontier, no time associated. Dr. Hess asked if it were correct that the ambulance at the fire station could not transport. Ms. Conti stated that was correct, because the exclusive right to transport belongs to REMSA under the franchise agreement. A mutual aid agreement must be signed before the ambulance can be utilized.

Chair Jung pointed out that issue was outside of the scope of the current item, although it could be discussed and brought back. Dr. Hess asked if Washoe Valley could be changed to a designation with quicker response time and Chair Jung stated she would not support that, as the map was driven by data and one change would necessarily lead to others.

Chair Jung opined the problem at hand would be overcome with the use of the ambulance located at Bower's Mansion. She pointed out another reason it should be deployed was due to the number of accidents along 395 through the valley. She stated she wanted the item regarding the ambulance deployment and mutual aid to appear on the February DBOH agenda.

Councilmember Delgado noted growth would be occurring in some areas and asked if that would be taken into consideration during the annual reviews. Ms. Conti explained the populations would not be reviewed annually, staff would look at the call data, which would potentially reflect in those pockets of developed areas. At the five-year mark, the population would be taken into consideration because the State Demographer's statistics regarding population growth would then be available.

Ms. Conti went on to explain that if a newly-constructed neighborhood reflected a substantial number of calls, that would be reflected in the annual reviews. Councilmember Delgado summarized, stating that annually calls would be reviewed, every five years population density would be addressed, and at 10 years the map would be completely revised. Ms. Conti stated that was correct, in theory.

Councilmember Delgado asked, if there were a large overall population growth, was there a balancer or a metric that will trigger an update of the map prior to the 10-year schedule. Ms. Conti stated that every review has the opportunity to have a revision attached to it. If, for example, at the three-year mark there is an area with a substantial amount of activity that needs to be upgraded, the map could be upgraded at that point and brought back to the Board for approval.

Councilmember Delgado moved to accept the REMSA response zone map within the Washoe County REMSA ambulance franchise service area. Dr. Novak seconded the motion which was approved six in favor and none against.

Chair Jung reiterated her request for the agenda item regarding mutual aid for ambulance service in Washoe Valley.

13. Acknowledge receipt of the Health District Fund Financial Review for December Fiscal Year 2016

Staff Representative: Anna Heenan

Ms. Heenan reviewed the highlights of the report.

Chief Brown moved to accept the report as presented. Mr. Silverman seconded the motion which was approved six in favor and none against.

14. Discussion and possible approval of the Washoe County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), 2016-2018

Staff Representative: Sara Dinga

Ms. Dinga reviewed a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment D) that provided the background, development and implementation information for the CHIP. She emphasized that although the Health District is coordinating the efforts, the plan was driven by the community. Ms. Dinga acknowledged the members of the CHIP Steering Committee and the numerous agencies in the community that had participated in the efforts to create the CHIP.

Dr. Hess stated he was disappointed that obesity had not been targeted. He noted he understood the need to keep a narrow focus, and opined the issue overlapped with Food Security. Ms. Dinga explained how wellness components were integrated into all of the health topic issues.

Dr. Hess asked if the CHIP was only addressing 89502, and Ms. Dinga explained the CHIP was separate from, but affiliated with Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities (TMHC). Pilot projects were occurring in 89502, but the CHIP was intended to work for all of Washoe County.

Chair Jung pointed out this was the first CHIP and health assessment. She noted that the National Association of Local Boards of Health had consistently sent the message of the importance of the assessment, as it provides a baseline by which to measure improvement. She thanked Councilmember Delgado and Commissioner Bob Lucey, who had both provided funding for different aspects of the projects.

Chair Jung expressed that she was pleased that Mental/Behavioral Health had been selected as a top priority, as it was an underlying factor in all of the health challenges that had been identified. Ms. Dinga agreed, noting it addresses root causes. If it is not addressed, other challenges cannot be either.

Dr. Novak thanked Ms. Dinga for her efforts. He supported Dr. Hess' disappointment with obesity not being included, but stated it was a good place to start. Ms. Dinga noted more obesity components could and would be integrated.

Mr. Dick acknowledged Ms. Dinga's work in engaging the community and pulling the plan together. He pointed out the next challenge was to continue the effort and support all of the organizations that were working together to implement the plan and make progress under the objectives. He also acknowledged that the Steering Committee had committed to continue to work with them through the implementation phase. He reiterated the plan was developed by the community and they are engaged in implementing it together, but that did not preclude the Health District from continuing to pursue other initiatives.

Councilmember Delgado told Ms. Dinga she had done a great job. He noted the information was extremely valuable and was an opportunity to get people to start discussing health conditions and what needs to be done about them. He supported Chair Jung's statement about the importance of having a benchmark, and opined it was important for leaders to have discussions with colleagues regarding overall policy.

Dr. Novak moved to accept the CHIP. Councilmember Delgado seconded the motion which was approved six in favor and none against.

[Councilmember Delgado left the meeting at 2:39 p.m.]

15. *Staff Reports and Program Updates

A. Air Quality Management, Charlene Albee, Director
Program Update, Divisional Update, Program Reports

Ms. Albee opined air quality was critical for a healthy community. She noted staff was focusing quite a bit of effort on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program called Ozone Advance. The EPA had indicated they were pleased to hear of Washoe County's commitment to the program. Part of the County's responsibility under that plan is to report community efforts that will contribute towards the reduction of emissions.

Ms. Albee explained the first meeting of the Idle Reduction campaign had been held with numerous community organizations and had a very positive response. Additionally, she noted that the City of Reno had approved Green Building codes. Sustainable measures such as those contribute to emission reduction.

Ms. Albee noted a resolution would be presented to the Board in February to commit to supporting the Ozone Advance program. The resolution will then be taken to the other elected bodies.

Dr. Novak asked if the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) would be taking action to synchronize traffic lights. Ms. Albee noted the Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) had the authority for that and are working on it. Her staff participates on technical advisory committees and encourages study on that topic whenever possible. The Ozone Advance resolution will be presented to RTC and the synchronization will be suggested again.

Chair Jung suggested that she and Ms. Albee meet with RTC board members to provide feedback about what is working to be achieved and what consequences the County is trying to avoid. Ms. Albee noted the resolution will include anti-idling and reducing emissions. Dr. Novak offered his support for their efforts.

B. Community and Clinical Health Services, Steve Kutz, Director
Divisional Update, Program Reports

Mr. Kutz stated he was very proud of the work his staff has done over the course of the last year. Additionally he noted he was happy to hear that one of the priority areas of the CHIP was Access to Health Care, as his division provides care to a substantial number of citizens. He noted CCHS had utilized ideas that came from QI projects to provide better and more accessible care.

C. Environmental Health Services, Bob Sack, Director
EHS Division Update, Program Updates - Food, Land Development, Vector-Borne Disease, Waste Management and EHS Inspections / Permits / Plan Review

Mr. Sack stated he had nothing to add.

D. Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness, Dr. Randall Todd, Director
Program Updates for Communicable Disease, Public Health Preparedness, and Emergency Medical Services

Dr. Todd explained another school had experienced a Norovirus outbreak. He stated they had had a meeting with the school district to form a plan to reduce the duration of subsequent

outbreaks. If those initiatives do not proceed well, he will initiate discussion with Chair Jung regarding her offer of support to help encourage progress.

Chief Brown noted that REMSA had proposed utilizing Intermediate Life Support (ILS) services and asked if they were currently in service. Ms. Conti stated some ILS cars had responded to calls. She noted it was sporadic and opined the program had not been implemented. Mr. Romero stated ILS was implemented approximately a year ago for inter-facility transfer only. Other than that, there was one occasion in which an ILS unit was requested to come to a scene to respond to a low-acuity patient.

Chief Brown asked if there was a change that was going to occur wherein ILS units would be used in a different model. Ms. Conti replied that REMSA had requested permission to employ that and had been working with regional partners towards that implementation. If there are regional concerns, the program will not implement until those concerns have been addressed.

E. Office of the District Health Officer, Kevin Dick, District Health Officer

District Health Officer Report – Community Health Improvement Plan, Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities, Strategic Planning, Quality Improvement, Budget, Security, Other Events and Activities and Health District Media Contacts

Mr. Dick explained Phyllis Freyer, Vice President of Marketing for Renown, was stepping down, and she has been the primary contact and partner with Renown on the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). She has chaired the Truckee Meadows Healthy Community (TMHC) Steering Committee, so he wanted to ensure Renown's continued participation in TMHC and the next CHNA. He met with Tony Slonim, CEO of Renown, who indicated he wanted to remain involved in working on the CHNA. Additionally, Mr. Slonim offered to co-chair the TMHC Steering Committee with Mr. Dick.

Mr. Dick explained that the TMHC Steering Committee had recently gained additional influential community organizations as members. He noted another Family Health Festival would be held February 29.

Mr. Dick stated staff was continuing to address security issues. A security assessment had been completed for the Board chambers and he would report the findings to the Chair.

16. *Board Comment

Chair Jung stated for the record she would like to see an item regarding the Bowers Mansion ambulance agreement at the next meeting.

Chair Jung pointed out a severe shortage of physicians in Northern Nevada. She asked if a community-wide assessment could be conducted and a recruitment and retention plan developed.

Chair Jung noted that she, Mr. Dick, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, Commissioner Lucey and staff who were well-versed in food deserts and food insecurity had met and are working to recruit people to build grocery stores in underserved communities. Additionally they are pursuing grant opportunities to support entrepreneurs.

Dr. Hess noted the University had tracked physician population in the State and verified the deficiency. He explained medical school graduates tend to settle where their residency is located, and there are few residency availabilities in Northern Nevada. He opined there may be more of those types of opportunities in the future.

Chief Brown requested an update on the status of the ILS program at the next meeting.

Dr. Novak noted there are programs that utilize food stamps for food grown in local gardens and also incorporates entrepreneurship of local gardens. It is an alternative when no grocery store is available. He opined the problem with the low numbers of physicians is due to the lack of a cohesive medical school system.

17. Emergency Items

None.

18. *Public Comment

Reno Fire Chief David Cochran stated he supported the mutual aid agreement for the ambulance unit at the Bowers Mansion. He opined there was a need and opportunity for similar services throughout the region, and there were many issues that would need to be considered. A meeting had been scheduled with the fire partners and REMSA to further discuss mutual aid. He urged the Board to look at all opportunities and consider what would provide the best service for the region.

19. Adjournment

At 3:02 p.m., Chair Jung adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Dick, District Health Officer
Secretary to the District Board of Health



Dawn Spinola, Administrative Secretary
Recording Secretary

Approved by Board in session on February 25, 2016.