



Washoe County District Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Members

Oscar Delgado, Chair
Robert Lucey, Vice Chair
Michael D. Brown
Kristopher Dahir
Dr. Reka Danko
Dr. John Novak
Dr. John Klacking

Thursday, July 28, 2022
1:00 p.m.

Washoe County Health District
Commission Chambers, Building A
1001 East Ninth Street
Reno, NV

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.

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

The following members and staff were present:

Members present: Oscar Delgado, Chair
Michael Brown
Kristopher Dahir
Dr. John Novak (via zoom)
Dr. John Klacking

Members absent: Robert Lucey, Vice Chair
Dr. Reka Danko

Mrs. Valdespin verified a quorum was present.

Staff present:

Kevin Dick, District Health Officer
Sabrina Brasuell
Erin Dixon
Francisco Vega
Dr. Nancy Diao
Lisa Lottritz

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Klacking led the pledge to the flag.

3. Approval of Agenda.

July 28, 2022

Michael Brown moved to approve the agenda for the July 28, 2022, District Board of Health regular meeting. Councilman Dahir seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

4. Recognitions.

Years of Service

- i. Daniel Timmons, Sr. Air Quality Specialist, 10 years, hired July 2, 2021 – AQM

- ii. Brendan Schnieder, Air Quality Specialist, 10 years, hired July 16, 2012 – AQM
Health Officer, Kevin Dick acknowledged and thanked Mr. Timmons and Mr. Schnieder for their years of service.

New Hires

- i. Jessie Rosales, hired July 5, 2022, Office Assistant II – CCHS IZ
- ii. Tammy Carpitcher, hired July 18, 2022, Office Assistant II – AHS
Health Officer, Kevin Dick introduced Mr. Rosales and Ms. Carpitcher as new hires. Mr. Dick congratulated and welcomed both new hires.

Promotions

- i. Genine Rosa, promoted from Environmental Engineer II to Sr. Air Quality Specialist, effective June 6, 2022 – AQM
Health Officer, Kevin Dick, recognized Ms. Rosa in her recent promotion.

Reclassifications

- i. Heather Burris from Office Assistant II to Office Assistant III effective July 1, 2022 – EHS
- ii. Narcisa Perez-Zapata, from Office Assistant II to Office Assistant III effective July 1, 2022 – EHS
- iii. Jessie Salim, from Office Assistant II to Office Assistant III effective July 1, 2022 – EHS

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, acknowledges Mr. Burris, Mr. Perez-Zapata, and Ms. Salim on their recent promotion through a reclassification.

Transfers

- i. Kecia Olney, promoted from Account Clerk I to Office Support Specialist in HSA effective July 18, 2022 – AHS
Health Officer, Kevin Dick, acknowledged and congratulated Ms. Olney's transfer out of Administrative Health Services through a promotion into Human Services Agency.

Retirements

- i. Daniel Inouye, Air Quality Supervisor effective July 29, 2022 – AQM
Health Officer, Kevin Dick, acknowledged Mr. Inouye's well-deserved retirement. Chair Delgado presented Mr. Inouye with a token of appreciation for his 24 plus years of service to the Health District.

Washoe County Health Heroes

- i. Mike White – EHS
- ii. Victoria LeGard – EPHP
- iii. Gloriana Alvarez – EPHP
- iv. Rayona LaVoie – ODHO

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, recognized all the employees nominated for the Washoe County Health Heroes award. He briefly highlighted the values that were used to nominate these employees and expressed appreciation for their outstanding performance.

Special Recognition

- i. Heather Kerwin – Women of Achievement, Nevada Women’s fund
Health Officer, Kevin Dick, recognized Ms. Kerwin for her recent Women of Achievement award for her exceptional performance and work on behalf of our community throughout the COVID response.
Chair Delgado concluded this item by congratulating and welcoming all the employees that were recognized.

5. Public Comment.

Chair Delgado opened the public comment period.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar, a non-person, nonresident, and enfranchised natural woman. Ms. Snedigar asked that her comment to be in the public record in accordance with NRS 241.

Ms. Snedigar stated she read the fee schedule regarding burning woodstoves and expressed that she will not be buying a permit from the Health District to state that she is exempt from getting a permit to say she can burn. Mr. Snedigar continued to opine that her property is her private property for her personal use, and it is not open to the public and will keep her home in any way she sees fits without a permit.

Having no additional public comment, Chair Delgado closed the public comment period.

6. COVID-19 Update & Information.

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

Board Representative: Dr. Reka Danko

Health Officer, Kevin Dick opened this item by providing an update on the COVID-19 situation. Mr. Dick reported that as of this meeting the community was at a medium level for COVID-19 impact; however, that information would be updated later that day by the CDC.

Mr. Dick reported that through Monday, hospitalizations were at 9.2 per 100,000 over the last 7-days and new cases at 242; however, the Health District showed new cases were at below 200. Mr. Dick continued to state that on Tuesday, the Nevada Hospital Association reported a 7-day average of confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations standing at 54, test positivity at 40%, and a 7-day average of new cases at 130, which is down from 230. He added that testing continues to happen on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and vaccinations are being provided in the Clinic each weekday as well as in Community PODs.

Mr. Dick continued to share statistics on vaccination including efforts from the homebound program. Additionally, Mr. Dick reported there are efforts focused on senior living centers and assisted living facilities.

Mr. Dick concluded by announcing that the Health District is working on receiving the Novavax vaccine, an announcement will be made to the community when it does become available.

Ms. Valdespin noted Dr. Danko was not available to provide an update on this item.

Councilman Dahir asked if Mr. Dick had heard about the wastewater tracing.

Mr. Dick reported the concentrations in the wastewater are continuing to decline. He also added that the dominant variant currently is BA5.

7. Consent Items.

Matters which the District Board of Health may consider in one motion. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

A. Approval of Draft Minutes

- i. June 23, 2022

B. Budget Amendments/Interlocal Agreements

- i. Approve a Notice of Subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public & Behavioral Health retroactive to July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 in the total amount of \$205,600.00 (no required match) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Youth Vaping Prevention Fund (IO#TBD) and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward and any future amendments.
Staff Representative: Loraine Fernandez
- ii. Approve the Professional Services Agreement with Talent Framework in the approximate amount of \$7,305,862.00 retroactive to July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 to recruit and maintain a team of identified positions and provide administrative support and oversight of employees to assist the Health District's COVID response; and authorize the Board Chair to execute the agreement and authorize the District Health Officer to execute any future amendments.
Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer

C. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for June, Fiscal Year 2022.

Staff Representative: Anna Heenan

Dr. Novak moved to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Klacking seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

8. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority.

A. Review and Acceptance of the REMSA Health Operations Report for June 2022.

Presented by: Dean Dow

Barry Duplantis, Chief Operating and Financial Officer for REMSA Health appeared for Dean Dow, President and CEO of REMSA Health and Care Flight.

Mr. Duplantis began his presentation by providing a summary of the June Operations Report as well as noting that as of June 1 the rate increase, approved by this Board in May, has been implemented. Mr. Duplantis continued to note that the cash benefit of this implementation would not be seen until about 90 days. Additionally, REMSA Health approved a wage adjustment of 3% for staff effective July 3, which is in addition to the employee's normal salary and merit adjustments.

Mr. Duplantis reported REMSA Health continues to focus on meeting its franchise obligations as they continue to recruit and hire additional staff. He continued to report on the number of employees that REMSA Health currently employs.

Mr. Duplantis reported on the number of calls responded to by REMSA Health, adding a brief report on their growth in demand for 9-1-1 EMS services. Mr. Duplantis concluded by reporting the results on their Patient Survey for the month of June with a score of 91.88% from 89.3% in the prior reporting period.

Mr. Duplantis opened this item for questions from the Board.

Councilman Dahir asked for an explanation as the report referred to “willingness to work in the office”. He was interested in staff shortage and wondered if corrective measures are being taken.

Mr. Duplantis reported that although he cannot specifically report on the issues, he did affirm they are a little behind and their resources are being reorganized to focus on meeting the compliance obligations. However, he noted that out of the responses for the month of July REMSA Health received 75 responses back out of 4,819 and of those 75, 17% are people 65 and older.

Councilman Dahir opined that would be one of things to watch as everyone is struggling to find staff. He stated this would be a number to review in the future and ensure that it moves in the right direction.

Michael Brown moved to approve REMSA Health Operations Report for June 2022. Councilman Dahir seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

B. Update of REMSA Health’s Public Relations during June 2022.

Presented by: Alexia Jobson

Barry Duplantis, Chief Operating and Financial Officer for REMSA Health appeared for Alexia. Jobson, Director of Public Relations for REMSA Health.

Mr. Duplantis opened this item by highlighting a few of the public facing events in the month of June. He reported that in mid-June REMSA Health hosted a press conference to share a variety of hot weather and water safety messages which included signs of heat related illness and the importance of designating a water watcher when children are present. Additionally, Adam Heinz provided four live interviews about life saving equipment availability for non-profit and community-based organization in Washoe County. Mr. Duplantis concluded by sharing the names of the REMSA Women of Achievement, Christine Barton and Alma Marin.

Mr. Duplantis opened the item for questions from the Board.

C. Update, Discussion and Possible Direction regarding Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) discussions of potential modification of the Amended and Restated Franchise Agreement for Ambulance Service Section 2.3 Level of Care and Section 1.1 Definitions.

Staff Representative: Sabrina Brasuell

Sabrina Brasuell, EMS Oversight Program Coordinator began her item by providing a brief update on the progress of this item. She reported the Joint Advisory Committee has decided to set a timeline for completion in the August District Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Brasuell continued to report that all agencies either by email or verbally have mutually agreed to language that will adhere to the original objective that allows REMSA Health to continue the response plan that was initiated during COVID-19, specifically to the levels of care and associated metrics. Ms. Brasuell expressed appreciation

Ms. Brasuell open her item for questions from the Board.

Councilman Dahir asked about the agreed level of care.

Ms. Brasuell noted the language was provided at the last District Board of Health meeting and made note that the language is not finalized. She continued to paraphrase the language

referencing the levels of care, to include branching out to include ALS, ILS, and BLS response. The BLS provision would only include interfacility transports.

Councilman Dahir reiterated he was looking to ensure everyone is aware of what was agreed upon.

Ms. Brasuell affirmed the agreement is not finalized until August.

Dr. Novak commended Ms. Brasuell for the extra work she has dedicated to this process and asked if the Board can get the agreed language.

Ms. Brasuell asked if Dr. Novak was asking for finalized language before August.

Dr. Novak affirmed.

Dr. Novak moved to approve to allow Joint Advisory Committee discussions of potential modification of the Amended and Restated Franchise Agreement for Ambulance Service Section 2.3 Level of Care. Councilman Dahir seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

- D. Update, Discussion, and Possible Action regarding REMSA Health's FY 2021-2022 compliance with the Amended and Restated Franchise Agreement for Ambulance Service with a recommendation to delay corrective action by REMSA Health to address Section 2.3 while progress is being made with the JAC 2.3 workgroup to propose an amendment to the Franchise Agreement, and in accordance with Section 13.2 of the Franchise Agreement to direct the District Health Officer to notify REMSA Health in writing of REMSA's failure to comply with Section 7.1 and to require REMSA Health to provide a written corrective action plan to be presented at the August 25, 2022 District Board of Health (DBOH) meeting and report monthly to DBOH on actions taken to meet the Section 7.1 compliance requirements for ambulance response times.**

Staff Representative: Sabrina Brasuell

Sabrina Brasuell, EMS Oversight Program Coordinator, began by highlighting the purpose of the item to include Section 2.3 and Section 7.1. She continued to report that the request is to hold off on the need for corrective and/or notification of non-compliance for Section 2.3 while the discussions continue to bring a proposed amendment to DBOH and to authorize the Health Officer to send a letter of non-compliance regarding Section 7.1 as outlined in Section 13.2 of the franchise agreement.

Ms. Brasuell directed the Board to the table included in her staff report and noted that the status information was request by Chair Delgado and attained by Aaron Abbot with REMSA Health.

Chair Delgado thanked Ms. Brasuell and stated he was looking for the formalities that includes a paper trail as to how things will be executed.

Michael Brown moved to delay corrective action by REMSA Health to address Section 2.3 and directed District Health Officer to notify REMSA Health in writing of their failure to comply with Section 7.1 and require REMSA Health to provide a written corrective action plan by August 25, 2022. Dr. Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

9. Review, approve and adopt a proposed revision to the Health District Refund Policy for Environmental Health Services and Air Quality Management, to increase customer eligibility period for full refunds, add additional eligibility start date, allow for refunds when wrong permit was selected, and allow Washoe County Health District leadership to offer refunds in specific situations.

Staff Representatives: Erin Dixon and Francisco Vega

Erin Dixon began her presentation by stating Francisco Vega was present and available to answer questions. She continued to provide a brief description of the item and stated the goal in revising the policy was to be more flexible for the Environmental Health Services and Air Quality Management customers.

Ms. Dixon continued to provide a brief description of all the revisions that were proposed including additional eligibility start date and refund on erroneous permit selection.

Ms. Dixon continued to highlight the processes that will remain the same in reference to refunds.

Ms. Dixon open this item for questions from the Board.

Councilman Dahir asked how often refunds are requested.

Ms. Dixon affirmed a lot of refunds are processed, significantly more in Environmental Health Services than Air Quality Management.

Councilman Dahir moved to approve the proposed revision to the Health District Refund Policy for Environmental Health Services and Air Quality Management. Dr. Klacking seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

10. Staff Reports and Program Updates

A. Air Quality Management – Air Quality Management - AQMD Holds Dust Control Workshop, Supreme Court Decision Limits EPA’s Power to Regulate GHG’s under CAA, Children and Babies Uniquely Vulnerable to Climate Change and Air Pollution, Buildings Can Help Fight Climate Change, Divisional Update, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

Mr. Vega opened his item by highlighting the Dust Control Workshop was held to discuss some of the recent non-compliant issues. He reported it was well attended and stated that anyone that could not attend can always reach out the division to received education and information.

Mr. Vega opened his item for questions from the Board.

B. Community and Clinical Health Services - 2022 Client Satisfaction Survey Results; Data & Metrics; Sexual Health (HIV and Disease Investigation), Immunizations, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, Reproductive and Sexual Health Services, Chronic Disease Injury Prevention Program, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health, Women Infants and Children, and Community Health Workers.

Staff Representative: Lisa Lottritz

Ms. Lottritz began her presentation by announcing Novavax has arrived. However, she noted it will take a small amount of time for her team to build the procedures and train staff on that vaccine. Mr. Lottritz reported that they received a small allocation of the monkeypox

vaccine, and it's being used for confirmed contacts to a case and lab personnel that are handling specimens. She concluded by highlighting the back-to-school vaccination events.

Ms. Lottritz opened her item for questions from the Board.

C. Environmental Health Services – Program Activities; Consumer Protection (Food/Food Safety, Commercial Development, Permitted Facilities); Environmental Protection (Land Development, Safe Drinking Water, Vector-Borne Diseases, Waste Management); and Inspections.

Staff Representative: Erin Dixon

Ms. Dixon opened her item by highlighting the Food Team was invited to be exhibitors, speakers, and serve as panelists at a retail program standards symposium hosted by National Environmental Health Association. She continued to report the team assisted the FDA and CDC investigation with a Salmonella outbreak.

Ms. Dixon concluded by reporting on the partnership with the City of Reno that was previously approved by this Board. She stated it has proven to be effective and has increased the helicopter treatment time rather than helicopter travel time for the Vector Program.

Ms. Dixon opened her item for questions from the Board.

D. Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness - Communicable Disease, Public Health Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services, Vital Statistics.

Dr. Diao opened her item by reporting that flu activity has been going down consistently since week 24 toward the end of June and RSV has remained low since week 19 around mid-May.

Dr. Diao stated the first probable monkeypox case was confirmed on July 20. She continued to report the case was recovering and the contacts continue to be monitored. She concluded by reporting on monkeypox treatment access through the State.

Dr. Diao opened her item for questions from the Board.

E. Office of the District Health Officer - District Health Officer Report - COVID-19 Response, COVID-19 Joint Information Center, Health District Communications Update, Concurrent Meeting, Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan, Health Equity, Workforce Capacity Assessment, Interim Health Care Committee, State ARPA Funding Request, NACCHO Conference, Interim Health Care Committee Recommendations, and Public Communications and Outreach.

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, opened his item by providing updates to his report. He reported on the Concurrent Meeting that was held July 22, where the name change for the Health District was approved to be Northern Nevada Public Health, Serving Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County. He continued to report the next steps on the process, including an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement and an effective date of January 1, 2023. Mr. Dick continued to report on the action taken during the Concurrent Meeting to establish a workgroup to address regionalization of Dispatch Fire EMS response, to have a system operating together across the region which he opined was a positive step forward.

Mr. Dick provided an update on the Workforce Capacity Assessment and reported they have been working with the National Public Health Foundation on this priority. The

National Public Health Foundation will be doing a site visit with the Health District in August.

Mr. Dick stated he included an attachment to his report in response to the Interim Health Care Committee request for recommendations of Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) for them to consider and provided some details of the defined priorities including non-categorical funds that can be used for priority health needs. Mr. Dick reported on a priority to authorize health authorities to provide reproductive health care to minors without parental consent. He continued to speak about the BDR to protect and strengthen the authority of Health Officer during Public Health Emergencies.

Mr. Dick stated ARPA (America Rescue Plan Act) funding is being sought for a satellite building for the Health District, as they are constraint with space. He explained this request comes with a separate clinical area with negative pressure room to respond to outbreaks of viral respiratory diseases such as COVID-19.

Mr. Dick opened his item for questions from the Board.

Councilman Dahir asked what extended authority would look like for Health Officers.

Mr. Dick stated they do not have BDR language, but he can certainly keep the Board informed as it develops further.

11. Board Comment.

Councilman Dahir invited the community to a free family event at the Sparks Marina at 5:00 p.m.

Having no further comments from the Board, Chair Delgado closed this item.

Adjournment.

Chair Delgado adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Possible Changes to Agenda Order and Timing: Items on the agenda may be taken out of order, combined with other items, withdrawn from the agenda, moved to the agenda of another later meeting; moved to or from the Consent section, or they may be voted on in a block. Items with a specific time designation will not be heard prior to the stated time, but may be heard later. Items listed in the Consent section of the agenda are voted on as a block and will not be read or considered separately unless withdrawn from the Consent agenda.

Special Accommodations: The District Board of Health Meetings are accessible to the disabled. Disabled members of the public who require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify Administrative Health Services in writing at the Washoe County Health District, 1001 E. 9th Street, Building B, Reno, NV 89512, or by calling 775.328.2416, 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Public Comment: *Members of the public may make public comment by submitting an email comment to svaldespin@washoecounty.gov before the scheduled meeting, which includes the name of the commenter and the agenda item number for which the comment is submitted.* Reasonable efforts will be made to hear all public comment during the meeting. During the "Public Comment" items, emails may be submitted pertaining to any matter either on or off the agenda, to include items to be heard on consent. For the remainder of the agenda, public comment emails will only be heard during items that are not marked FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. All public comment should be addressed to the Board of Health and not an individual member. The Board asks that your comments are expressed in a courteous manner. All public comment is limited to three minutes per person. Unused time may not be reserved by the speaker nor allocated to another speaker.

Response to Public Comment: The Board of Health can deliberate or take action only if a matter has been listed on an agenda properly posted prior to the meeting. During the public comment period, speakers may address matters listed or not listed on the published agenda. The *Open Meeting Law* does not expressly prohibit responses to public comments by the Board of Health. However, responses from the Board members to unlisted public comment topics could become deliberation on a matter without notice to the public. On the advice of legal counsel and to ensure the public has notice of all matters the Board of Health will consider, Board members may choose not to respond to public comments, except to correct factual inaccuracies, ask for Health District staff action or to ask that a matter be listed on a future agenda. The Board of Health may do this either during the public comment item or during the following item: "Board

Comments – District Board of Health Member’s announcements, reports and updates, request for information or topics for future agendas. (No discussion among Board Members will take place on the item)”

Posting of Agenda; Location of Website:

Pursuant to NRS 241.020, Notice of this meeting was posted electronically at the following locations:

Washoe County Health District Website <https://www.washoecounty.gov/health>

State of Nevada Website: <https://notice.nv.gov>

Under an emergency directive issued by Governor Sisolak on March 22, 2020, and extended by a subsequent directive issued on July 31, 2020, the physical location requirement has been suspended.

How to Get Copies of Agenda and Support Materials: Supporting materials are available to the public at the Washoe County Health District located at 1001 E. 9th Street, in Reno, Nevada. Ms. Susy Valdespin, Administrative Secretary to the District Board of Health is the person designated by the Washoe County District Board of Health to respond to requests for supporting materials. Ms. Valdespin is located at the Washoe County Health District and may be reached by telephone at (775) 328-2415 or by email at svaldespin@washoecounty.gov. Supporting materials are also available at the Washoe County Health District Website <https://www.washoecounty.gov/health> pursuant to the requirements of NRS 241.020.