

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

MONDAY

8:30 A.M.

FEBRUARY 11, 2013

PRESENT:

Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairperson  
Marsha Berkbigler, Commissioner  
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner  
Kitty Jung, Commissioner

Stacy Gonzales, Deputy Clerk  
Katy Simon, County Manager  
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

David Humke, Chairman

The Commission convened at 8:34 a.m. in concurrent session in the Reno City Council Chamber, One East First Street, Reno, Nevada, with Mayor Cashell presiding. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerks called the roll, and the Boards and Councils conducted the following business:

**13-79        AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Agenda Subject:** “Recognition of other public bodies that may be meeting concurrently.”

Reno Mayor Cashell acknowledged that the Reno City Council, the Sparks City Council and the District Board of Health were present.

**13-80        AGENDA ITEM 5 – PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Agenda Subject:** “Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.”

Dennis Jacobson spoke on Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the service delivery models in the region. He stated his opinion on the TriData EMS Analysis Final Report.

**Agenda Subject:** “Presentation, discussion and potential direction to staff regarding the August 2012 TriData Emergency Medical Systems Analysis Final Report and recommendations contained within the Final Report.”

Dr. Harold Cohen conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk. The presentation included: an Executive Summary; an overview of Washoe County; a review of the State of Nevada Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System; a review of current response times and the deployment of fire and EMS resources; EMS stakeholder evaluations; an overview and discussion of the role of the Washoe County District Board of Health; a proposed system for EMS in Washoe County; and, an evaluation of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Agency (REMSA) contract. The presentation also highlighted the County EMS System, EMS Dispatch – the Atlas and the Axis, information and data systems, first responder system, REMSA Franchise Contract, EMS finances, conclusions, future directions for Washoe County, system design, EMS care delivery, system priorities and final thoughts. Dr. Cohen reviewed the following major challenges:

- Lack of a comprehensive, coordinated, and integrated EMS system.
- No clear lead EMS agency.
- Lack of a centralized, transparent data and information system.
- Varying degrees of medical oversight.
- EMS Franchise Agreement contributing to a lack of oversight.

Sparks City Councilmember Smith remarked that the TriData Report indicated there had been approximately 55,000 REMSA calls in 2012, but he disputed that number because the City of Sparks or the City of Reno were first responders many times before REMSA arrived. Dr. Cohen clarified that was the total number of responses in REMSA’s territory, not who arrived first on-scene. He said approximately 60 to 70 percent of the time fire services were the first responders.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Smith, Reno Fire Chief Michael Hernandez replied that the Reno Fire Department had responded to just over 30,000 calls for service last year, with about 80 percent being EMS calls. He added, within the core of the City, the response time was less than six minutes. In regard to EMS, Sparks Fire Chief Andy Flock replied that the City of Sparks ran about 7,300 calls for service last year.

District Board of Health (DBOH) Member Dr. Hess asked if those numbers included non-emergency transfers. Dr. Cohen stated that those calls were not measured since that was medical transportation and directed between the provider and the medical facilities requesting the transfer.

Commissioner Hartung commented that a report noted that County fire services, as first responders, were costly and made little clinical difference in patient

outcome. He asked, as first responders, if fire services were taken out of the picture would that make a difference in the patient outcome. Dr. Cohen explained that the information being referred to was based on a 12-year old study and only focused on pulmonary cardiac arrest patients. He said there were many other issues that had not been considered. First responder agencies were also responsible for the care of their citizens who expected a rapid, quick response and those citizens felt that the emergency would be over when a trained provider arrived. Dr. Cohen indicated that every part of the system needed every part of that system. With the use of medical priority dispatch, he said it could be honed in when a first response was needed. In other calls, where local departments had chosen to make a presence at every medical emergency, there was no argument and noted those cities should have that privilege.

Commissioner Hartung stated there was a fair amount of suburban and rural areas in the County. He asked if there would be a benefit for first responders to carry Advanced Life Support (ALS) since the response time by REMSA decreased the further the call came from the core of the City. Dr. Cohen did not know that answer and would prefer to give the elected bodies an evidence-based answer; however, that data was not available. If that extra data was gathered, it would ensure that agencies were performing to the level that their licenses and certifications allowed.

Vice Chairperson Weber asked Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore to comment on the number of responses for the TMFPD. Chief Moore replied it was approximately 3,000 calls for the first six months of their operation.

Vice Chairperson Weber questioned what was considered a first responder, and was law enforcement part of that equation. Dr. Cohen replied a first responder was anyone who chose to respond to an emergency whether it was a school nurse, an industrial plant brigade team of employees, the police department or the fire service. In most communities, he said the fire services had committed to that obligation, but having any trained care arriving was a first response.

There was no action taken or public comment on this item.

**13-82            AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Agenda Subject: “Presentation, discussion and potential direction to staff regarding an update and status report of the EMS Working Group, including progress on previous direction related to recommendations from the 2012 TriData Emergency Medical Systems Analysis Final Report.”**

Sheriff Mike Haley reviewed the actions of the Dispatch Working Group, key dates, the mission of the group, actions taken and recommendations on computer-aided dispatch. He requested the collective Boards and Councils continue to enable the Working Group to address future challenges within the communications arena. The Working Group was a multi-stakeholder task force, which included representatives from the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), law enforcement, fire

agencies, dispatch, Information Technology (IT), legal, medical and Human Resources. The diversity of the Working Group allowed considerable cooperation and coordination across all necessary functional and political boundaries.

Sheriff Haley said the initial mission of the Working Group was to identify all the challenges associated with consolidation of the City of Reno EComm (EComm) and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Dispatch Center located in Incline Village. Then report those findings to the Shared Services Committee for recommended actions by the affected Cities and County. He said the following actions were discussed and included the Working Group developing a strategic plan for a single communications center that included a mission statement, vision statement and long-term goals. An action plan was developed that included lead and secondary response abilities, due dates, timelines and status reports. He said a comprehensive, emergency communications director's job description was also developed. A detailed legal review was completed including the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), and review of governance models such as joint powers agreements and interlocal agreements that may be necessary to operate a future communications center. The initial review had continued to guide the Working Group in the overall process to date.

Sheriff Haley explained that three staffing plans were developed and contained associated operational budgets, cost allocation formulas for principal agencies, and costs and user fees for non-participating agencies. As the work continued, it became clear to the Working Group that the political and economic climates were not conducive to a full consolidation of the EComm and the WCSO Dispatch Center. As that reality became evident, he said the Shared Services Committee was updated and work continued toward co-location rather than consolidation. The Working Group then began the co-location process with the approval of the governing bodies.

On May 14, 2012, Sheriff Haley said the Incline Village Communication Center closed and the co-location agency opened on Spectrum Boulevard and was known as the Regional Emergency Operational Center (REOC). He stated the efficiencies due to the co-location included: reducing the number of transferred calls between agencies; a reduction in dropped calls; improvement for response times; an increased collaboration and coordination among responding agencies; enhanced the safety of emergency responders through shared communication; consolidated policies; dispatched procedures and protocols; consolidated some training and certification processes; avoided higher IT connectivity by lowering equipment and maintenance costs; and, increased dispatch resources available during major events and critical incidents. Also developed were furniture and equipment specification packages that resulted in a combined agency competitive bidding, upgraded connectivity to include fiber optic technology, upgraded next generation 9-1-1, and consolidated phone systems. All furniture, equipment and technology replacements and/or upgrades were completed on time and on budget. He indicated that the ground work had been established for future consolidation in areas such as recruitment, background investigations, training, automated emergency medical dispatch, dispatch life support protocols and a revenue-generated business model should other communication centers engage with the co-located center.

As related to Cad-to-Cad links, Sheriff Haley commented that the Communications Center, including the EComm and Washoe County Dispatch, performed many other functions other than EMS. Because communication centers perform many other dispatch functions, the business model, policies, procedures, protocols and software must be aligned, understood and universally applied within the communication centers. A best practice would be to pull EMS functions into a combined communication center such as REMSA moving their EMS Dispatch Center into the REOC; however, if that could not be achieved, the alternative would be to create a Cad-to-Cad link between EMS ambulance service providers and the REOC. Sheriff Haley said if that occurred the REOC must be the point of contact for all originating calls and must retain the call until that call was completed, regardless if it was a police, fire or EMS call. In doing so, the REOC and REMSA could see the call, add data as updates were received and allow for a seamless collection of response data, which was currently unavailable.

At the present time, Sheriff Haley said the REOC was funded through a grant to the City of Reno to upgrade the Tiburon System, a computer-aided dispatch system. As part of that upgrade, Tiburon would provide a true Cad-to-Cad link and integrate all response data. He indicated that REMSA had offered to create a temporary Cad link, as a test product, and would work with dispatch personnel to improve that Cad link functionality. He remarked that the offer was appreciated, but may add additional duties to dispatch personnel, add more screens for personnel to view and require staff to test a Cad link system when funding was already in place to upgrade to a full Cad-to-Cad link. As part of REMSA's offer to the Working Group, their Cad link was reviewed. It was believed to be somewhat cumbersome, based on the above reasons, and would produce a non-integrated, non-organized weak data recoverable alternative to a true Cad-to-Cad link that would be part of the Tiburon upgrade. However, if that upgrade was not completed in a timely manner, the offer from REMSA may be prudent. Sheriff Haley proposed to accomplish the task of a permanent system to upgrade to a Cad-to-Cad link as part of Tiburon's upgrade. He said any provider of a Cad-to-Cad link was invited to respond to a Request for Proposal (RFP). Collecting data, dispatching valuable resources, monitoring responding units and recovering data in a timely manner required an integrated system that must integrate EMS calls along with all the other functionality of a dispatch center. Sheriff Haley stated there could not be an EMS Dispatch Center that was not integrated into the City/County Dispatch Center and must have a physical or virtual EMS presence using fully-integrated Cad technology that populated all data fields.

Sheriff Haley requested that the Working Group continue since they were on a unified path to create a seamless delivery of police, fire and EMS dispatch services, whether the EMS service provider was physically present in the communications center or virtually present. He stated that REMSA was an important part of the process, provided necessary and valuable services, were part of the Working Group and, in moving forward, should remain part of that group. He said direction and milestones were sought so the Working Group could continue their work as evidenced by the work already completed. He asked that a true Cad-To-Cad link be supported and noted that REMSA concurred with the need for that link.

In conclusion, Sheriff Haley said the Working Group was a collection of the finest, most skilled and professional individuals he had the pleasure to work with. He implored the elected bodies to listen to that group since they were the experts in the room and the region should be very proud of their efforts to date.

Reno Councilmember Jardon inquired on the costs for a Cad-to-Cad link and the expected time line for implementation. Robert Chisel, City of Reno Finance Director, replied there was an upcoming agenda item for the City Council to accept a \$796,000 grant toward the upgrade for the Tiburon System, which was jointly used by the County and would allow the City of Sparks to use the same system. Councilmember Jardon asked if the grant would cover the total cost. Mr. Chisel stated that was correct. He commented that upgrading or changing a dispatch system was not a quick process and had to be done thoughtfully. He estimated that it could take approximately one year to accomplish the full upgrade of the system.

Commissioner Jung asked if the Cad-to-Cad link would be needed if dispatch was co-located. In that instance, Mr. Chisel replied that link would not be needed. He said if all the entities used the same system there would be no need for a Cad link. Commissioner Jung inquired who issued the grant. Mr. Chisel replied the grant came from the federal Department of Homeland Security through the State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management. Commissioner Jung questioned the resistance for co-location. Sheriff Haley explained there was not a resistance to co-locate and explained that originally consolidation was sought. Because consolidation was not achievable, the group was authorized to co-locate the centers that wanted to co-locate at the present time.

Jim Gubbels, REMSA President, remarked that this discussion had been on-going and noted that dispatch did not have to be in the same building in order to share information. He said there were two computer systems, Tiburon and TriTech, which merged virtually in other communities and, now that Tiburon was being updated, the opportunity allowed for a true Cad-to-Cad link of the two systems. The link went beyond EComm, Shared Services or REMSA, and had the ability to link with the City of Sparks Dispatch Center. He indicated there was infrastructure that was built-out to run the operations, and REMSA had an extensive infrastructure in running their Medical Dispatch Center. Commissioner Jung questioned why REMSA would not want to move their staff to the REOC. Mr. Gubbels replied it was felt that was not necessary with the virtual Cad link and REMSA still maintained the Medical Dispatch component for the services at REMSA. If they were in the same building there would still be two Cad systems, and those two systems had to be connected. Commissioner Jung asked who owned the Cad-to-Cad link for REMSA's Dispatch Center. Mr. Gubbels confirmed that the dispatch center was owned and operated by REMSA. According to the Franchise Agreement, Commissioner Jung said if REMSA decided to leave the community, EMS would revert back to the DBOH who would then be responsible for REMSA's capital. According to Section 30 of the Agreement, Mr. Gubbels explained that the DBOH would not be responsible for all the capital. If the DBOH chose to take REMSA over, then there would be a responsibility, but as of now that debt went to REMSA.

Leslie Admirand, Legal Counsel, explained pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement, if the DBOH took over REMSA, they would be responsible for all the debt.

However, the Agreement specified that it was the “successor in interest,” which may not be the DBOH. Commissioner Jung questioned if REMSA left and ceased to exist, who would be responsible for the debt of the capital. Ms. Admirand replied that would be the “successor in interest” and, if that became the DBOH, then they would be the responsible entity. In the interim, before another contract could be formed, Commissioner Jung asked who would service the debt. Ms. Admirand replied the DBOH.

Reno Councilmember Schieve asked what would occur if the Cad link went down and would it be beneficial for all the entities to be located in the same building. Mr. Gubbels replied it would not matter if they were located in the same building since it was two distinct computer systems.

Sparks Councilmember Ratti said a report was previously received which was highly critical of EComm’s ability to handle EMS calls. She asked what the assessment was for EComm to handle those calls. Sheriff Haley replied that data being referred to did not emerge from the TriData Report and reflected a pre co-location analysis. He was comfortable with EComm’s ability to handle dispatch functionality across the broad spectrum, but unless and until a unified software package that allowed all the entities to see the data, then it could only be guessed how the EMS side was being handled regarding the dispatch function.

In terms of co-location, Councilmember Ratti said if a major emergency took out the center, would an offsite provider with a good Cad-to-Cad link provide redundancy in the system. Sheriff Haley indicated that REMSA would not be the fall back for that redundancy, that redundancy would be the City of Sparks, if they chose to use the same EMS platform. Councilmember Ratti said the grant allowed the opportunity for the City of Sparks to join the same platform and be that redundant system. Sheriff Haley stated that was correct. Councilmember Ratti remarked that her main issue with this topic had always been governance and the ability to govern. She agreed with many of the recommendations and felt that the main barrier to good governance being transparent was unified reporting of data. She asked if there was a path moving forward allowing for that transparent and unified reporting of data, and also allows all the entities the needed information to compare one system against another for better patient outcomes. Sheriff Haley stated he did not want to comment on the delivery of EMS service from a patient’s perspective. If the Working Group was allowed to continue and move toward a regionalized Cad system, he said that would include a regionalized EMS capability with the data necessary for the collective bodies to make decisions and be available in one place. Councilmember Ratti recommended the Working Group be allowed to continue and arrive at a place where there was shared data.

Mayor Cashell stated there was no action planned for today’s meeting so the recommendations would need to be brought back to their own entities for direction.

Reno City Manager Andrew Clinger clarified that the City of Reno did not post agenda items for possible action, but the County, the City of Sparks and the DBOH had posted items for possible action.

Matt Smith, DBOH Chairman, asked if the information went both ways once the Cad-to-Cad was enabled. Sheriff Haley stated that the system collectively reviewed at REMSA was a Cad link and was a one-way portal that provided some functionality where the data could be seen, the status could be seen, decisions made based on what was shown, and could respond back to view what REMSA was doing and where they were surrounding the EMS process, but was not a true Cad-to-Cad link. Chairman Smith asked if all the information would be received once there was a Cad-to-Cad link. Sheriff Haley replied once that link occurred, Crystal Reports could be written to extract the data from the Cad system to answer virtually any question. Chairman Smith supported the Sheriff's request for the Working Group to continue. Sheriff Haley added that the County and the City of Reno had been on Tiburon for many years. That information gathering system was used to run the WCSO and to understand everything that occurred around the performance levels.

Sparks City Councilmember Schmitt said the Working Group was formed through the Shared Services Committee, and asked if that was the proper place to continue the work and discussions. Sheriff Haley believed that the Working Group was the place for the work to be completed. Then that work would go through the Shared Services Committee, which was made up of members of the elected bodies, to advise their Boards or Councils.

Sparks City Councilmember Smith commented that the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) had been advocating for EMS. He asked if the Sheriff was advocating for a new building or was the current building acceptable. Sheriff Haley explained that he was advocating for NDOT to place a building on the property of the current EComm for the purposes of creating a "fast center" that allowed the data-side to move forward. Councilmember Smith said that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) denied NDOT's request for support due to the cost of the building. He inquired on the cost for the building and the funding source. Sheriff Haley did not want to speak for NDOT since they were currently going through the Interim Finance Committee process. He believed planning funds were available to plan the project, but that decision would be made through the State's process.

Reno City Councilmember Dortch asked if there had been any conversations to make REMSA the primary EMS Dispatch. Sheriff Haley replied those discussions had occurred and it was the opinion of the Working Group that cities and counties owned the calls, and had the liability for those calls, regardless of what may be a counter opinion. Councilmember Dortch said if the Cad-to-Cad link was in place, would that primary function make more sense. Sheriff Haley felt it would not because the data needed to be integrated in one spot. Councilmember Dortch stated the call would come into the center for police, fire or medical and, if it was medical, it would go directly to REMSA. He asked why that was not happening. Sheriff Haley replied dispatch was the collector of the data and needed to respond to all types of questions relative to on scene times, upgrades or downgrades of a call.

Dr. Harold Cohen agreed, but the whole system needed to be reviewed since the ambulance companies were vendors. When it came to critical public safety there was no way to place risk if the vendor did not show up on scene. He said the Cad-to-Cad

link would assign the calls quicker. Chairman Smith asked if it was being suggested to reduce fire services responding to every medical call or if a protocol needed to be in place for the fire services to go on a call. Dr. Cohen replied that would be the Medical Priority Dispatch Program, which would choose the most serious calls.

Chief Hernandez said there was currently a bifurcated system. He said some calls went directly to REMSA and some went to the City of Reno's public safety access point. On average, that call took about one minute from the time the call was answered until it was transferred to REMSA, and during that minute, critical pieces of information were collected and transferred to the REMSA system where the separation of data and information began. He said the goal of the Reno Fire Department was to give all citizens the highest level of first response care and to complement and enhance the existing EMS system.

Sparks Councilmember Ratti inquired if there was still a presentation from the Managers for all the recommendations.

Reno Councilmember Jardon said a pie chart was recently in the *Reno Gazette Journal* that described the volume and the percentage of calls fire responded to with a significant percentage being EMS calls. She asked how many calls were cancelled before arriving and who cancelled a call. Chief Hernandez replied that 20 percent of all calls were fire-based and 80 percent were EMS calls. It was a mutually, beneficial activity when Reno Fire arrived and had the capability to either cancel or downgrade the call to REMSA, via a report that the patient was not critical and/or stable. Likewise, REMSA had the capability to arrive on scene and also make that EMS determination. He stated that cancellation was a mutually shared responsibility on who could cancel a call depending on which agency arrived first.

Commissioner Jung inquired on the age of the software being used for dispatch. Dan Johnson, Reno Emergency Communications Manager, replied that the current Tiburon system had been in place since 2001 and had gone through a series of upgrades. He said the current version was Unix-based with an end of life occurring in 2015. He said the proposed grant would upgrade that system to the current version of the Tiburon Public Safety System and would no longer be on a Legacy System.

Commissioner Jung inquired about the software and licensing for REMSA. Mr. Gubbels indicated that their latest upgrade was within the last year and noted that the life expectancy for that program was on-going as long as upgrades were kept in place, which occurred about every two years. Commissioner Jung asked if the two entities could work together and pick a platform that could be agreed upon. At this point, Mr. Gubbels said the decision was to stay with Tiburon at EComm and the WCSO. He said the compatibility between Tiburon and TriTech was there with a virtual capacity. As long as the upgrades continued, the compatibility was there to work together.

Commissioner Jung inquired on REMSA's debt and capital levels. Mr. Gubbels explained that he just became President of REMSA three weeks ago and was not up to speed on their financial situation, but could return with that information.

Commissioner Jung requested that information be presented during the next DBOH meeting.

Reno Councilmember Berkhus asked if additional staffing in IT would be needed in terms of the grant in order to bring the process forward. Mr. Chisel replied that internal staff would be utilized for the upgrade along with IT staff from the County. He indicated that part of the upgrade included Tiburon staff assisting and would be a combined effort.

There was no action taken or public comment on this item.

**13-83            AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Agenda Subject: “Report from Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) staff regarding REMSA response to 2012 TriData Emergency Medical Systems Analysis Final Report.”**

Sparks Councilmember Ratti was confused regarding the agenda. She asked if the updates from the Managers on all the TriData recommendations would be presented. Shaun Carey, Sparks City Manager, explained that Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) had come forward and responded to the actions taken during the concurrent meeting held in October 2012. It would be appropriate to hear from Jim Gubbels, REMSA President, and then the Managers may include a wrap-up for a path forward.

Reno Mayor Cashell indicated that all the entities needed to have the same agendas in the future.

Mr. Gubbels explained that the Fitch Report, prepared by Fitch and Associates, LLC, a report by Washko and Associates, LLC, and a letter addressed to the District Board of Health (DBOH) Chairman Matt Smith were submitted to the Boards and Councils for review. Mr. Gubbels said there had been reports completed over the years regarding the EMS System that resulted in common findings and recommendations. To date, Mr. Gubbels reported that only a few of those actions or recommendations had been acted upon. He said there had been many reasons for this including territorial and protective positions taken by both the fire services and REMSA; however, a shift in the top leadership at REMSA had recently occurred resulting in a different philosophy and approach from the REMSA Board of Directors. They were now committed to a renewed spirit of openness, transparency and cooperation with the end goal being to promote new ideas toward excellence in their system for pre-hospital medical care. Mr. Gubbels said it was intended to be transparent in the interactions with their EMS partners and hoped for the same transparency and cooperation in return. They welcomed the opportunity to sit at the table with the County Manager, City Managers and Fire Chiefs to discuss and make genuine efforts to improve the system as a whole.

In reviewing the various consultant reports, Mr. Gubbels indicated three common themes were identified: communications and dispatch; medical direction; and,

regional coordination/operations. He stated that several of the priorities identified to move forward were:

- Creating transfer standards and performance based on NFPA standards.
- Computer Aided Dispatch Cad-to-Cad link.
- Emergency Medical Dispatch.
- Efficient and appropriate utilization of resources.
- Data reporting by all the entities in accordance with developed standards that complied with HIPPA requirements.
- Common field protocols for all fire agencies and REMSA.
- Medical oversight for the entire EMS system.
- Explore legislation for the purpose of adding a fee for moving traffic violations to support EMS providers.
- First responder service levels.
- Automatic Vehicle Locator information sharing across the system.
- Include the fire departments in the national “CARES” database.
- Medical supply exchange policies.
- Adopt NFPA response time standards for first responders.

Mr. Gubbels acknowledged that REMSA was eager to begin working on the issues. He said an achievable, short-term goal was to review an overall authority. He hoped that the letter addressed to Chairman Smith was accepted in the spirit of cooperation it was intended. In moving forward, he asked that REMSA be able to participate and continue to be involved with the EMS Working Group.

Commissioner Hartung appreciated that REMSA committed to a renewed spirit of openness and cooperation. He said when the TriData Report came out, REMSA immediately commissioned two subsequent reports, which included erroneous statements and references. He said cooperation was now being touted; however, when recommendations were made, reports were submitted by REMSA that refuted those changes. When a commissioned report such as TriData came out, the intent was not to speak on how REMSA conducted business, but to bring the groups together and make changes such as a Universal Incident Number. Mr. Gubbels replied Cad North, a system the Sheriff discussed could unite run numbers at the present time. Commissioner Hartung looked forward to that system. However, when there was a suggestion of change, he hoped that additional reports would not be commissioned. Mr. Gubbels indicated those reports began before the final TriData Report came out and was why the cover letter was submitted.

Reno Councilmember Zadra commented that collaboration was the most important strategy in moving forward. She agreed that REMSA needed to be included in the Dispatch Working Group and thought that had been discussed at a prior meeting.

Mr. Carey commented that the City of Sparks was moving forward, which was consistent with the actions taken by the bodies. He said the Health Department, the Cities of Reno, Sparks, Washoe County and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection

District (NLTFPD) had come together for the purpose of reviewing the recommendations and the information. It was not until REMSA responded that they were willing to be part of the discussions on the three issues. The County Manager, the City Managers from Reno and Sparks, and the Health Officer would review the complex issues and then provide options and recommendations to their respective bodies. Councilmember Zadra questioned if the Working Group include REMSA. Mr. Carey stated that was correct.

Reno Councilmember Jardon appreciated the collaboration and efforts toward working together to arrive at an efficient solution. She asked if any studies were conducted related to REMSA having a stronger purchasing power to find materials and supplies that were more cost effective. Mr. Gubbels explained that a Fire-First Response Medical Study was completed in 1994, which implemented a one-on-one exchange based on basic life supplies between REMSA and on-scene firefighters. However, that exchange needed to be updated along with upgrading basic supplies to intermediate supplies. He remarked that a one-on-one exchange did not occur at the ambulance, but after a weekly list was coordinated, the supplies were refilled at REMSA.

Vice Chairperson Weber stated that having Mr. Gubbels as the REMSA President had been a tremendous change for the agency. She applauded the fact that this would be accomplished with all the players at the table.

Sparks Councilmember Ratti remarked that the ability to govern was needed and the thing that prevented her from being able to govern was transparency of data. She wanted to ensure the spirit of cooperation included a willingness to be transparent in every piece of data unless it was specifically precluded. Mr. Gubbels expressed his commitment for transparency. He asked that the same be measured for fractal, which was a mathematical calculation, did not accept Cad-to-Cad, nor was it used currently to measure fire services and REMSA on scene response. Secondly, REMSA may never have a regional fire department, but the area could have a regional EMS first response. Councilmember Ratti commented that was an answer with a caveat. She believed this was the beginning of a process that had many possible solutions and, in the beginning, transparency was needed. Mr. Gubbels concurred.

Commissioner Jung suggested Mr. Gubbels attend a Shared Services Committee meeting to discuss contractual purchasing. Mr. Gubbels agreed and felt a meeting with the Fire Chiefs would ensure the exchange was viewed the same and identify the medical items to be exchanged. Commissioner Jung stated there was an Airport Authority Fire Department that was not present for these discussions and hoped that management would include them in EMS discussions.

Commissioner Berkbigler thanked everyone for working positively together and moving forward.

Mr. Carey commented that the Managers, Health Officer and REMSA were ready to move forward. He said there were actions already in place for the Shared

Services Committee to continue and then a report containing recommendations would be provided during the next concurrent meeting.

Reno Councilmember Jardon stated that the grant listed a specific amount and asked if the RFP's for the Cad link had been collected. Mr. Chisel replied that a quote had been received from Tiburon for the upgrade, which was the amount of the grant, and also received was a sole-source justification from the Department of Homeland Security for the upgrade to be implemented.

Sparks Councilmember Lawson noted that the three priorities were identified. He asked if action items would be presented during the next concurrent meeting and how those actions would be accomplished. Mr. Carey stated that the 38 recommended actions would be prioritized. Councilmember Lawson agreed that it was a breath of fresh air since Mr. Gubbels had taken over REMSA.

Commissioner Berkbigler asked if equipment would be repositioned throughout the County. Mr. Carey stated that topic was not precisely listed in the 38 recommendations, but fell within the work that was continuing within the public safety organization.

There was no public comment on this item.

For Washoe County, on motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke absent, it was ordered that the County Manager and the City Managers for Reno and Sparks continue to work on implementing the 38 recommendations as appropriate.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Ratti, seconded by Councilmember Lawson, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the County Manager and the City Managers for Reno and Sparks continue to work on implementing the 38 recommendations as appropriate.

For the District Board of Health, on motion by Member Zadra, seconded by Member Ratti, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the County Manager and the City Managers for Reno and Sparks continue to work on implementing the 38 recommendations as appropriate.

Due to the City of Reno not having any action items placed on their agenda, they were unable to vote on this item.

#### **13-84            AGENDA ITEM 9 – PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Agenda Subject: “Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during**

**individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.”**

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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**11:00 a.m.** There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke absent, the meeting was adjourned.

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**DAVID E. HUMKE**, Chairman  
Washoe County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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**AMY HARVEY**, County Clerk and  
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:  
Stacy Gonzales, Deputy County Clerk*