Washoe County District Board of Health
Videoconference Meeting Minutes

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

Thursday, January 28, 2021
1:00 p.m.

Washoe County Administration Complex
Commission Chambers, Building A
1001 East Ninth Street
Reno, NV

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
Chair Novak called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. due to technical difficulties
The following members and staff were present:
Members present:
   Dr. John Novak, Chair
   Michael Brown, Vice-Chair
   Oscar Delgado
   Kristopher Dahir (via zoom)
   Dr. Reka Danko (present telephonically)
   Tom Young (via zoom)
   Robert Lucey (via zoom but disconnected due to technical difficulties)

   Mrs. Valdespin verified a quorum was present.

   Staff present:
   Kevin Dick, District Health Officer
   Dania Reid, Deputy District Attorney (via zoom)
   Kat Olson (via zoom)
   Kelli Goatley-Seals (telephonically)
   Vicky Olson (via zoom)
   Dan Inouye (via zoom)
   Erin Dixon (via zoom)
   Lisa Lottritz
   James English
   Charlene Albee
   Andrea Esp (via zoom)

2. Pledge of Allegiance
Charlene Albee led the pledge to the flag.

3. Public Comment
Chair Novak opened the public comment period.
Having no registered comment, Chair Novak closed the public comment period.
4. **Election of Chair of the District Board of Health.**

Vice-Chair Brown nominated Councilman Oscar Delgado as Chair of the District Board of Health. Dr. Danko seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Dr. Novak took a moment to thank everyone for the honor of being Chair of the District Board of Health, specifically Health District staff, Kitty Jung, Julia Ratti, Kevin Dick, and County Manager Eric Brown and special thanks to Mike Brown for his support.

Dr. Danko thanked Dr. Novak for his work and expressed he is honored to be part of this Board.

Councilman Dahir also commented regarding Dr. Novak’s work and dedication to the Board and expressed his appreciation for all the sacrifices made.

Councilman Delgado expressed how honored he is to be nominated Chair. He also expressed his appreciation for Dr. Novak’s leadership.

5. **Election of Vice-Chair of the District Board of Health.**

Councilman Dahir nominated Commissioner Lucey as Vice-Chair of the District Board of Health. Mike Brown seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Lucey expressed his appreciation for the opportunity. He continued to express his desire to be dedicated to this role.

Councilman Delgado expressed his appreciation for Mike Brown’s leadership and his availability during Mr. Brown’s term.

Chief Mike Brown echoed Dr. Novak’s appreciation for staff and the District Board of Health.

Councilman Dahir expressed his gratitude for Mike Brown’s expertise, background, and demeanor.

Commissioner Lucey thanked both Dr. Novak and Mike Brown for their service to serve the community.

6. **State the term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board.**

Kevin Dick made note of the terms of office, which allows for the new officers to serve a two-year term. Mr. Dick welcomed and congratulated the new Chair and Vice-Chair.

7. **Approval of Agenda**

   January 28, 2021

Mike Brown moved to approve the agenda for the January 28, 2021, District Board of Health regular meeting. Dr. Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

8. **Recognitions**

A. **District Board of Health Members**

   i. Introduction – Commissioner Robert Lucey, Commission member of the District Board of Health

   ii. DBOH member - Reappointment – Sparks Councilman Kristopher Dahir
iii. DBOH Service – Marsha Berkbigler
iv. Past Board Chair, Dr. John Novak, DMD
v. Past Board Vice-Chair, Michael D. Brown

Kevin Dick took a moment to welcome Commissioner Lucey as the new appointed Commission member to serve on the District Board of Health.
Additionally, Mr. Dick recognized Councilman Dahir for being re-appointed as the Board of Health elected appointee from the City of Sparks.
Councilman Dahir expressed how honored he is to continue to serve on the District Board of Health.
Mr. Dick also thanked Commissioner Berkbigler for her service to this Board as the appointed elected official from Washoe County. Mr. Dick continued to recognize the dedication of past Chair and Vice-Chair. Additionally, he expressed his appreciation for the time and the support Dr. Novak and Mike Brown provided to him as the Health Officer.

B. Years of Service
   i. Briana Johnson, 5 years, hired January 11, 2016 – EHS
   ii. Ellen Messinger-Patton, 5 years, hired January 11, 2016 – EHS

Kevin Dick congratulated and thanked both Brianna Johnson and Ellen Messinger-Patton for their service.

C. New Hires
   i. Benjamin McMullen, Air Quality Trainee, 01/4/2021 – AQM

Mr. Dick recognized and congratulated Benjamin McMullen as a new employee of the Air Quality Division within the Health District.

D. Retirements
   i. Charlene Albee, effective 01/14/2021, Division Director – EHS

Kevin Dick recognized Ms. Albee on her retirement. Mr. Dick made note of her 25 years of service to the Health District and the excellence in which she performed her duties.
Ms. Albee addressed the Board and thanked everyone for the support and experience. Ms. Albee expressed her confidence in staff being able to continue the great work even after her departure.
Councilman Dahir expressed his appreciation for Ms. Albee’s extensive contribution in the form of knowledge and experience and thanked her for her service.
Tom Young recognized Ms. Albee for her invaluable contribution to the Health District.

E. Promotions
   i. Erin Dixon, Division Director – EHS

Mr. Dick congratulated Ms. Dixon on her promotion as Division Director for Environmental Health Services and recognized her proven track record of leadership and administrative management in addition to her fiscal experience.

F. Transfer
   i. Julie Hunter, from Sr. Air Quality Specialist, AQM to EMS Coordinator – EPHP
Kevin Dick recognized Ms. Hunter’s transfer to the Environmental Health Services as EMS Coordinator.

G. Excellence in Food Safety Award
   i. BJ’s Nevada Barbeque Company
      Staff Representative: Kat Olson
      Ms. Olson informed the Board about the Excellence in Food Safety Awards Program that focuses on recognizing food facilities that go above and beyond to demonstrate a long-term commitment to food safety.
      Ms. Olson continued to recognize BJ’s Nevada Barbeque Company for incorporating food safety in all operations. Ms. Olson described the benefits of this award which includes but is not limited to digital logo to be displayed on the company’s website and recognition on the WashoeEats app as the winner.
      Mr. Jay Rathmann expressed his excitement about receiving the Excellence in Food Safety Award.
      Chair Delgado asked Mr. Rathmann to share his congratulatory message with staff.
      Tom Young congratulated Mr. Rathmann on his achievement. Mr. Young continued to opine that this type of program gives positive reinforcement to restaurants, which encourages improvement.
      Councilman Dahir shared in the congratulatory expressions.

H. Extra Mile Award
   i. The Gold N’Silver Inn Restaurant
      Staff Representative: Claudia Garcia-Aguilar and Kelli Goatley-Seals
      Ms. Goatley-Seals appeared telephonically to speak about the Extra Mile Award, which honors businesses that have gone above and beyond the requirements of the Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act making the conscious decision to go smoke-free when the law does not require them to do so.
      Ms. Goatley-Seals reports that this award has been given out since 2008 and this year Gold N’Silver Inn Restaurant is the recipient.
      Ms. Goatley-Seals thanked the Gold N’Silver for providing a smoke-free environment for the community.
      Chair Delgado thanked Gold N’Silver for their efforts and example.

I. Special Recognition
   i. Dianna Karlicek, Organizer of the Health District Adopt a Family Campaign.
      Kevin Dick recognized Ms. Karlicek’s lead on the Adopt a Family Campaign. Mr. Dick reports that Ms. Karlicek’s efforts resulted in donations to 2 families in the form of 106 hygiene items and cleaning supplies, 63 food items, a total of 116 presents and $2,085 in cash donations, all from employees’ contributions. Mr. Dick thanked Ms. Karlicek for her efforts and staff for their generosity.
      Chair Delgado expressed his gratitude to staff for giving back to the community.

9. Presentation – Washoe County District Board of Health Scholarship Recipients.
   Presented by: Jillian Szewczak and Dr. Trudy Larson
   Ms. Jillian Szewczak began her presentation by introducing one of the scholarship
recipients, Rachel Kiser. Ms. Kiser briefly introduced herself to the Board and expressed how honored and thankful she was to have been selected as the recipient of this scholarship.

Ms. Szewczak continued to speak about the scholarship endowment for the current year, informing that due to the downturn in the spring the value for the last fiscal year decreased. She continued to introduce Dr. Trudy Larson.

Dr. Larson began by thanking the District Board of Health for their support of UNR students through this scholarship. As the Dean of the School of Community Health Sciences, Dr. Larson is very familiar with the Health District. Dr. Larson complimented the Health District and the Board for a brilliant job during this difficult time.

Dr. Larson reports that the School of Community Health Sciences completed a self-study to become an accredited school of Public Health, which is tentatively to happen in June 2021. Dr. Larson continued to report the goals and achievements of the School of Community Health Sciences.

Dr. Larson expressed her appreciation for the support the school has received from the District Board of Health, especially considering the current circumstances.

Dr. Novak congratulated Dr. Larson on their accreditation and the benefits these accomplishments bring to the Health District.

Chair Delgado congratulated Ms. Szewczak, Dr. Larson, and the scholarship recipients. He welcomed the innovation and creativity.

10. 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. December 17, 2020

B. Acceptance of the Agreement for Delegation of the Federal PSD Program by the U.S. EPA, Region 9 to the Washoe County Health District.
Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

Staff Representative: Anna Heenan

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

11. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority
Presented by: Dean Dow and Alexia Jobson

A. Review and Acceptance of the REMSA Operations Report for December 2020
Mr. Aaron Abbott for Mr. Dean Dow opened this item for questions the Board may have regarding the report that was submitted by REMSA.

Mike Brown moved to approve REMSA’s December Report. Dr. Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

B. Update of REMSA’s Public Relations during December 2020
Alexia Jobson presented the Public Relations report for December 2020. Ms. Jobson reported that through January, REMSA was focused on receiving and distributing the COVID vaccine and further reported that half of REMSA’s workforce was inoculated within a week of receiving the vaccine and REMSA is now working on distributing the second dose. These vaccination efforts were covered by all three local television stations.

Ms. Jobson continued to report that Jenny Wilson, one of REMSA’s directors, provided an interview to KRNV regarding children staying safe while sledding.

Additionally, Ms. Jobson reports Nevada Donor Network named REMSA medical dispatchers and ground ambulance providers as First Responder of the Year. The details of this recognition can be found at [www.remsahealth.com](http://www.remsahealth.com)

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

12. **Presentation, Discussion and Possible Approval of REMSA's request for a blanket exemption to response times retroactive to the month of July 2020 and lasting for 90 days from the date of approval.**

Staff Representative: Vicky Olson

Presented by: Aaron Abbott

Kevin Dick noted this item is not set for action, however, the item would be presented to the Board and continued to the February meeting.

Councilman Dahir asked if discussing would be appropriate, in an effort to provide the presenters with feedback as to the information that will be provided at the next meeting.

Chair Delgado agreed it would be of benefit to provide feedback.

Aaron Abbot stated an EMS COVID-19 Impact report was submitted for the Board’s review and was ready to go through the main aspects of the report and answer questions the Board may have.

Ms. Olson reported that the EMS Oversight Program is in support of the REMSA request presented in this item.

Councilman Dahir asked for clarification on the purpose of this request.

Mr. Abbot reports the issue is multifactorial, hospital wait times are an impact as well as staff hours lost due to exposure and illness. Mr. Abbot listed the number of staff hours lost as well as medical provider fatigue and geographical demands as part of the impacts that the current pandemic has had on response times.

In response to Councilman Dahir’s question, Mr. Abbott confirmed that wait times in hospitals due to lack of room for patients is a factor that affects response times.

Mr. Abbott inform that his request is made under the language of the approved exemption reasons for an emergency declaration.

Councilman Dahir approves of setting a specific period of time for the exemption. Additionally, he requested a monthly impact report.

**This item is continued to February 25, 2021.**
13. Presentation, discussion and possible approval of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) Franchise Compliance Report and find REMSA in compliance with the Franchise Agreement for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Staff Representative: Vicky Olson

Vicky Olson began her presentation by stating she has found REMSA to be in compliance with the Franchise for the previous fiscal year. Ms. Olson opened her item to answer questions from the Board.

Mike Brown moved to approve the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) Franchise Compliance Report and find REMSA in compliance with the Franchise Agreement. Dr. Danko seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.


Staff Representatives: Lisa Lottritz and Jim English

Ms. Lisa Lottritz began her presentation by informing the Board of minor corrections and additions to her current PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Lottritz provided information regarding COVID-19 vaccine and explained the specifics for administering the vaccine, including age limits and dosage requirements. Ms. Lottritz continued to expand on the initial distribution approach, which began with a prioritization approach.

Ms. Lottritz provided details regarding the criteria that is used for prioritizing the administration of the vaccine, which is currently represented by lanes. Ms. Lottritz concluded her portion of the presentation by introducing Mr. Jim English.

Mr. English began his presentation by reporting the role of Washoe County Health District in the COVID response, which requires working closely with the State of Nevada to determine the priority lanes and ensure that no one is missed. Additionally, the Health District manages the Point of Dispensing (POD) operations. Mr. English continued by expanding on the various PODs throughout the community. Mr. English informs the Health District is participating in vaccinating the community’s home-bound seniors with the assistance of REMSA.

Mr. English also demonstrated the layout of the POD at the Livestock Event Center and the process used to push vaccinations. Mr. English reports each vaccinator staff is administering approximately 22 vaccinations per hour. Mr. English reported about the vaccine allocation and distribution that is determined initially at the federal level, then State level, and then by Washoe County. Mr. English spoke about data entry requirements, which is being done through the Patagonia Health Mass Vaccination App by Health District staff/volunteers.

Mr. English continued by speaking of the website that was created to answer the most frequently asked questions. Mr. English and Ms. Lottritz had a demonstration as to how the website functions including how to determine if you’re eligible to get the vaccine and how to schedule an appointment.

Mr. English informed one of their goals is to create a Dashboard with live data from all
providers as opposed to just Health District data. Mr. English reiterates this dashboard will prove beneficial when demonstrating the need for the vaccine.

Mr. English spoke of the ways to avoid delays on the vaccination clinics and prevent unnecessary cancellations, due to the time limitations. He continued to demonstrate the organizational chart that assists in keeping an organized operation.

Councilman Dahir thanked Ms. Lottritz and Mr. English for an excellent presentation, as it will assist him in educating his constituents.

Tom Young asked if there has been a noticeable amount of people refusing to be vaccinated.

Mr. English informs that employees of certain facilities have been reluctant until they determine their co-workers have been unaffected. He confirms that his experience shows that more people are willing to get vaccinated than was expected.

Tom Young commended the effort of the Health District and thanked staff for their efforts.

Councilman Dahir asked for staff to confirm that the Health District is prepared to administer more vaccines than are being provided to the Health District.

Mr. English confirmed that the Health District is not receiving the expected amounts of the vaccine as their allotment included the vaccines that are provided to private pharmacies. Additionally, Mr. English reports that they continue to provide vaccines to Renown, so that they can utilize their operation for vaccination purposes. As a result of all these occurrences, from the last shipment of 4,400 doses, the Health District kept 2,400 vaccines for essential workers and 2,000 were given to Renown. Additionally, 1,800 vaccines went to private pharmacies.

Chair Delgado asked how the general public receives information about vaccine availability.

Ms. Lottritz explained their process for reaching out to schedule vaccinations. However, her team is also asking residents to sign up for updates and visit the website for further information and sign up options.

Chair Delgado asked about the efforts being made to ensure that everyone is being vaccinated.

Ms. Lottritz spoke about vaccine equity within those administering the vaccine.

Chair Delgado asked if these demographics are being tracked.

Mr. Lottritz confirmed that this information is being collected and tracked.

15. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding of the January 20, 2021 Concurrent Meeting with City of Sparks, City of Reno, and Washoe County.

Presented by: Councilman Kristopher Dahir, City of Sparks Representative
Councilman Oscar Delgado, City of Reno Representative
Commissioner Robert Lucey, Washoe County Commission Representative

Councilman Dahir provided an update on the concurrent meeting that was held on January 20, 2021. Councilman Dahir shared some of the concerns and referenced one of the mayor’s statements about the Health District’s appeals process.
Councilman Dahir comments on the construct of the Board. He believes that the Health District should be under an umbrella that protects the Health District and allows the Board to be aware of the decisions that are being made. He opines that with COVID, staying under this umbrella has posed a challenge.

Councilman Dahir commented that although he does not oppose more political representation on the Board, he believes the professionals on the Board are crucial.

Councilman Dahir concluded by stating that the City of Sparks is looking for ideas to accomplish these goals and is looking forward to bringing the Health District to a future meeting, so that these discussions can happen and hopes that this rare circumstance, due to the pandemic, is addressed early instead of waiting until the pandemic is over and prevent workers from being covered by a District Board of Health Umbrella.

Commissioner Lucey was not present to provide Washoe County’s overview of the concurrent meeting.

Chair Delgado spoke on behalf of City of Reno and opined that the concurrent meeting was successful in terms of the opportunities that were provided for all parties to share ideas and concerns.

Chair Delgado is looking forward to the next meeting, as he believes it will present the opportunity to enhance the communication between businesses, health, gaming, developers, builders, etc.

Chair Delgado opines that addressing the construct of the Board to include more elected official to the District Board of Health does not present a benefit; however, he is open to having an open conversation about the topic.

Chair Delgado concluded by stating that he has hopes to meet again within the next 3-4 months, at which time he will be ready to submit comments from the City of Reno.

Councilman Dahir suggested the Board familiarize themselves with the Health District’s Appeals Process. Additionally, he stated that his job is to process what is received from the State to the community.

**16. Presentation, Discussion and Possible Adoption of the draft Washoe County Health District 2021 Legislative Principles and Priorities.**

**Staff Representative:** Joelle Gutman-Dodson

Ms. Joelle Gutman-Dodson began her presentation by stating legislation session begins on Monday, February 1, 2021.

Ms. Joelle informed the Board she is seeking approval on her 2021 Legislative Principles and Priorities. These principles and priorities have been left vague and somewhat general to adapt to the times, as there’s no knowledge as to how many bills will be processed.

Ms. Gutman-Dodson informs she will keep the Board updated via monthly reports at the District Board of Health monthly meetings. Ms. Gutman-Dodson provided an itemized overview of the principles, which have remained closely similar to last year. She continued to report the listed priorities, noting they align with the Community Health Improvement initiative and are open to change.

Ms. Gutman-Dodson open her item for questions from the Board.
Councilman Dahir asked if the Health District is working on keeping the revenue that derives from the smog requirements.

Ms. Gutman-Dodson reports that although separate from the classic vehicle loophole bill, there was a conversation about including an upfront fee that ties to registration as oppose to smog, so the revenue would not be lost.

Councilman Dahir is concerned that if the conversation is not initiated the Health District will be left out of the decision in general.

Ms. Gutman-Dodson assured the Board that she has been involved in this topic and will report to the Board if the conversation is initiated and/or the conversation changes.

**Dr. Novak moved to approve the Washoe County Health District 2021 Legislative Principles and Priorities.** Mike Brown seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

17. **Staff Reports and Program Updates**

   A. **Air Quality Management, Francisco Vega, Division Director**
   
   Program Update, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.
   
   Daniel Inouye filled in for Francisco Vega and opened his item for questions from the Board.

   B. **Community and Clinical Health Services, Lisa Lottritz, Division Director**
   
   Divisional Update – 2020 Year in Review, Data & Metrics; Sexual Health (HIV and Disease Investigation), Immunizations, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, Reproductive and Sexual Health Services, Chronic Disease Prevention Program, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health and Women Infants and Children; COVID-19 Testing.
   
   Ms. Lottritz informed she had no further updates and opened her item for questions from the Board.

   C. **Environmental Health Services, David Kelly, Acting Division Director**
   
   Environmental Health Services (EHS) Division: Program Updates; Consumer Protection (Food/Food Safety, Commercial Plans, Permitted Facilities); Environmental Protection (Land Development, Safe Drinking Water, Vector-Borne Diseases, Waste Management); and Inspections.
   
   Kevin Dick, asked to share a comment from the Gaming Control Board Chairman regarding SB4, before moving to the Environmental Health Services report.
   
   Chair Delgado expressed his appreciation for the comment.
   
   Erin Dixon, current Division Director informed there were no updates to her report and opened her item for questions from the Board.

   D. **Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness, Andrea Esp, Acting Division Director**

   Communicable Disease, Public Health Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services, Vital Statistics. Ms. Esp informed she did not have additional updates for the Board.
   
   Ms. Esp made herself available to respond to questions from the Board.
Councilman Dahir asked about the expectations in reference to the flu.

Ms. Esp stated she would ask staff to provide a thorough report to the Board on what is expected in respect to the flu moving forward.

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

District Health Officer Report – COVID-19 Response, Joint Information Center, January 20 concurrent meeting, Government Affairs Update, Public Health Accreditation, Community Health Improvement Plan, and Public Communications and Outreach.

Mr. Dick began his presentation by acknowledging the hard work of Lisa Lottritz and Jim English.

Mr. Dick reported that the website previously presented is functional, however, the individual’s browser must be updated in order for it to function properly.

Mr. Dick briefly commented on the CHIP kickoff event, which was well attended and thanked Dr. Novak and other members of the Board for their participation.

Mr. Dick opened his item to answer any question the Board may have.

18. **Board Comment.**

There were no Board comments.

19. **Public Comment.**

Chair Delgado opened the public comment period.

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

Adjournment.

Chair Delgado adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.
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.us/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.us. Supporting materials are also available at the Washoe County Health District Website https://www.washoecounty.us/health pursuant to the requirements of NRS 241.020.