

WASHOE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE



Public Health
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Washoe County District Board of Health Videoconference Meeting Minutes

Members

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

Thursday, September 23, 2021
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
Robert Lucey, Vice Chair
Kristopher Dahir
Dr. Reka Danko
Dr. John Novak
Tom Young (present via zoom at 1:01 p.m.)

Members absent:

Michael Brown

Mrs. Valdespin verified a quorum was present.

Staff present:

Kevin Dick, District Health Officer
Chaz Lehman, Deputy District Attorney
Michael Touhey
Laurie Griffey
Dr. Nancy Diao
Francisco Vega
Erin Dixon
Lisa Lottritz

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. John Novak led the pledge to the flag.

3. Public Comment

Vice-Chair Lucey opened the public comment period.

Ms. Valdespin informed the Board, Ms. Janet Butcher's email would be placed on the record.

Ms. Joy Trushenski was called to make public comment. Ms. Trushenski opined there is no

scientific basis to continue to demand students and adults to wear masks or be vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccines. She expressed that survival rates from COVID-19 are high. Ms. Trushenski also opined cures for this disease exist as well as risks resulting from the vaccine and mask wearing.

Ms. Julie Ideker was called but was not present.

Mr. James Benthin provided an article by Dr. Joseph Mercola to all Board members and continued to quote lines from said article in relating to transparency, honesty, and ethics. Mr. Benthin's article was added to the records.

Mr. Roger Edwards opined the Governor is outside of his legal authority by extending this emergency operation. Mr. Edward asked the Board to demask Washoe County. Mr. Edwards opined that people should be allowed to build natural immunity by attaining the virus and not be forced to wear a mask.

Ms. Cindy Martinez presented the Board with a video of an elderly woman who was refused service in Canada because she did not have her vaccine documents. Ms. Martinez summarized an article regarding digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates.

Ms. Katherine Snediger stated this Board does not tell her what to do as she is not a statutory citizen. She continued to opine the vaccine is an experiment and it cannot be forced on people. Ms. Snediger opined there is no shortage of beds rather shortage of staff due to refusing the vaccine.

Mr. Wayne Gordon opined fear allows for a person to be controlled easily. He offered an apology for those that were told the spread would be prevented if they stayed home for two weeks. Mr. Gordon further opined the directives are not law and violate the freedoms listed in the Constitution.

Mr. Bruce Foster related several events of people that had contracted COVID-19 as well as an event of a friend that contracted COVID-19 and was never offered therapeutics.

Dr. Fred Simon provided a brief introduction of his medical background. Dr. Simon made a reference to a Dr. Chatterjee who is against the booster due to no scientific safety. He opined the vaccine is making resistance.

Ms. Tracey Thomas read her letter onto the record where she opined the vaccine should be a choice and requested more information be included in the COVID-19 reports.

Ms. Victoria Myer began her comment by comparing the State of Nevada with the State of Florida. Ms. Myer spoke of vaccine passports in Israel, San Francisco, and New York City and opined these passports could affect everyone. She further invited the Board to stand as citizens and not as Board members.

Ms. Bev Stenjem opined addressing the Board in this form is ineffective, as it does not allow for the Board to respond to the information that is provided. She further opined masks do not protect against disease or infection, as per the warning on the box.

Ms. Hope Backman opined that for every hour you wear a mask you incubate bacteria spores, which compares to feces. Ms. Backman asked if the Board was aware of the consequences if a lawsuit is filed for violation the Nuremberg Code.

Ms. Valdespin informed Vice-Chair Lucey of Ms. Bev Stenjem's request for additional time. Vice-Chair allowed Ms. Stenjem an additional 10 seconds to finish her comment.

Ms. Stenjem opined the mandates were given for a virus that is survivable.

Ms. Erin Massengale asked the Board agendaize and pass a resolution to end the Public Health Emergency. Additionally, Ms. Massengale asked the Board to ban vaccine passports in the county.

Ms. Ingrid Lentz responded to Dr. Danko's comment for last month's meeting by stating Dr. Danko's opinion only presented one point of view. Ms. Lentz referred to 3 different examples of people who have been censored against misinformation.

Ms. Kathy Enking, a nurse and functional medicine practitioner, addressed mask enforcement and exclusions within public schools. Ms. Enking opined vaccinations are creating segregation within children and communities as well as causing friction amongst parents.

Ms. Melanie Sutton stated they will continue to work with the community and try to replace the members of the District Board of Health.

Mr. Troy Bhaer opined that the Board is aware that studies show alternative treatments for COVID-19 exist. He continued to opine that disregarding these facts is either political expediency, laziness, or malevolence.

Ms. Darla Lee related a story of a friend that passed away within 2 weeks of having symptoms. She wondered if something could have been done for her. She opined that the vaccine is not about the health of the people.

Mr. Joey Gilbert began his comment by stating mandates are not the law. He opined Governor Sisolak has no power to set mandates. Mr. Gilbert stated people have the right to refuse the vaccination under the mandate if they're not an FDA approved vaccine is not offered. Mr. Gilbert opined the only vaccine approved by the FDA is Comirnaty. Mr. Gilbert referred to the Vaccine Recipient Fact Sheet to speak against the mandates and everyone's right to refuse the EUA (Emergency Use Authorization) vaccine. Mr. Gilbert concluded by informing the Board he will be filing a lawsuit on behalf of Reno Fire Department and Reno Police Department to protect them from this protocol.

4. **Approval of Agenda.**

September 23, 2021

Health Officer, Kevin Dick reported there was a request to remove Items #5.E.i., 5.E.ii, 6.D.iii, and 6.D.iv from the consent agenda. Mr. Dick informed these items will be coming back to the Board in next month's meeting.

Dr. Novak moved to approve the agenda for the September 23, 2021, District Board of Health regular meeting with the stated modifications. Councilman Dahir seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

5. **Recognitions.**

A. New Hires

- i. Adam Vazquez, August 30, 2021, Epidemiologist – EPHP
- ii. Olivia Alexander-Leeder, August 30, 2021, Environmental Health Specialist Trainee – EHS
- iii. Kellisa Shirane, August 30, 2021, Public Health Nurse I – CCHS
- iv. Joseph Dibble, August 30, 2021, Health Educator II – CCHS

Health Officer, Kevin Dick invited Dr. Nancy Diao to introduce her division's new

staff members.

Dr. Diao introduced Mr. Vazquez as the new Epidemiologist for the Epidemiology Program. Dr. Diao shared Mr. Vazquez's education and experience. Dr. Diao welcomed Mr. Vazquez.

Mr. Dick invited Erin Dixon to introduce Ms. Olivia Alexander-Leeder.

Ms. Dixon introduced Ms. Alexander-Leeder as the new Environmental Health Specialist Trainee. Ms. Dixon briefly shared Ms. Alexander-Leeder's experience and background and welcomed her to her team.

Mr. Dick invited Lisa Lottritz to introduce Ms. Kellisa Shirane and Mr. Joseph Dibble.

Ms. Lottritz introduced Ms. Shirane as the new Public Health Nurse I and Mr. Dibble as the new Health Educator II for CCHS. Ms. Lottritz shared Ms. Shirane's and Mr. Dibble's experience and background and expressed her gratitude for having them on board.

Vice-Chair Lucey welcomed all new hires aboard.

B. Promotions

- i. Erick Lamun, Environmental Health Trainee to Environmental Health Specialist, effective August 16, 2021 - EHS
- ii. Raquel DePuy-Grafton, Program Coordinator to Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator, effective August 12, 2021 – EPHP
- iii. Gaylon Erickson, Administrative Assistant I to Program Coordinator, effective August 12, 2021

Health Officer, Kevin Dick congratulated all the employees that have been promoted within the Health District.

Mr. Dick invited Jim English to make remarks on Ms. Erickson's promotion.

Mr. English shared Ms. Erickson's qualifications and experience and provided a brief explanation behind the decision to promote Ms. Erickson to Program Coordinator, so that she can continue to take over the COVID-19 Response.

Vice-chair Lucey commended all those that have been promoted.

C. Years of Service

- i. Craig Peterson, Sr. Air Quality Specialist, 20 years, hired September 17, 2001

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, recognized Mr. Peterson on his 20 years of service to the Health District. He further commended his positive attitude.

D. Resignations

- i. Windi Altemeyer, Public Health Nurse, effective September 3, 2021 – CCHS

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, announced Ms. Altemeyer's resignation and recognized her work with testing and vaccination efforts for COVID-19.

E. Special Recognitions

- i. Kathleen Doyle, Homebound COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Efforts -tabled to October.

- ii. Aulene Schmitz, Homebound COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Efforts-tabled to October.
- iii. Heather Kerwin, de Beaumont Foundation 40 under 40 Award
 Health Officer, Kevin Dick, congratulated and thanked Ms. Kerwin for her work in disease investigations and COVID-19 response. Mr. Dick briefly described the award Ms. Kerwin has received and shared that this award is an honor.
 Ms. Kerwin expressed how honored she was to represent the Health District through this award.
 Vice-chair Lucey commended Ms. Kerwin for her commitment and diligence. Additionally, he expressed this honor was well deserved.
 James English presented Ms. Kerwin with a challenge coin for her ongoing efforts.
 Councilman Dahir shared that Ms. Kerwin is respected throughout the community as a professional.

6. 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. August 26, 2021

B. Budget Amendments/Interlocal Agreements

- i. Approve a Notice of Subaward from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, for the period August 1, 2021, through July 31, 2022, in the total amount of \$169,591.00 in support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Program and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Subaward.
 Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer
- ii. Approve a Notice of Subaward from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, for the period upon approval through May 31, 2023 in the total amount of \$1,500,000.00 in support of the Office of the District Health Officer (ODHO) COVID-19 Health Disparities, which includes the creation of 7.0 FTE, fully benefitted, full-time positions (3- Community Health Workers, 1- Health Equity Coordinator, 2- Community Organizer, 1- Media and Communications Specialist); and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Subaward and any future amendments.
 Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer
- iii. Approve the Grant Agreement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the amount of \$200,000.00 for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2024 for the Air Quality Management, EPA EN Grant and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Agreement and any future amendments.
 Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer
- iv. Approve a Subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public & Behavioral Health retroactive to July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the total amount of \$224,171.00 (no match required) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Immunization Program IO# 11851 and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward and any future amendments.

Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer and Kathy Sobrio

- v. Approve a Notice of Subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public & Behavioral Health retroactive to September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in the total amount of \$400,000.00 (no required match) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Control Program IO#11891 and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward and any future amendments.

Staff Representative: Kim Graham and Sonya Smith

- C. Review, approve and adopt the proposed Washoe County Health District Employee Policy Manual Updates for Fiscal Year 2022.

Staff Representative: Laurie Griffey

- D. Recommendation to Uphold Citations Appealed to the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board.

- i. Bluth Development, LLC – Case No. 1254, NOV AQMV21-0034
- ii. Artisan Mystic Mountain LLC – Case No. 1269, NOV AQMV21-0032
- iii. McCarthy Building Companies, LLC – Case No 1308, NOV AQMV21-0037
- iv. McCarthy Building Companies, LLC – Case No. 1316, NOV AQMV21-0042

Staff Representative: Joshua Restori

- E. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for August, Fiscal Year 2021.

Staff Representative: Anna Heenan

Dr. John Novak moved to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Reka Danko seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

7. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority

A. Review and Acceptance of the REMSA Health Operations Report for August 2021.

Presented by: Dean Dow

Mr. Dean Dow opened this item for questions the Board may have regarding the report that was submitted by REMSA Health.

Additionally, Mr. Dow informed the Board that he would like to diverge from his report to provide information and a PowerPoint, as previously requested.

Mr. Dow spoke of the need to remodel REMSA Health. Mr. Dow stated the purpose of this information is to seek execution of improving how the hospitals, co-responders, public support agencies, and REMSA Health move forward.

Mr. Dow presented his PowerPoint detailing justification for the request. He further asked that a working group, to include members of the District Board of Health, governmental managers, elected officials, hospital leadership, representatives from FEMA, fire leadership, be put together to work collectively to find solutions to the community health challenge.

Mr. Dow explained that REMSA Health's needs including hospital wait times, ILS responses and transports, Emergency Room department utilization, and staffing status.

Mr. Dow opined it's necessary to work collectively and come up with future plans.

Vice-chair Lucey commented on the frustration with the staggering numbers Mr. Dow reported.

Councilman Dahir expressed appreciation for the presentation. He additionally opined that everything is interconnected and coming together and having the requested conversations would be a benefit. He additionally opined that what is being done currently is not sustainable and feels that these wait times are not good for the community. Councilman Dahir stated this problem is not local, as it is happening globally.

Chair Delgado thanked Councilman Dahir for his questions as well as Mr. Dean Dow and his team. However, Chair Delgado expressed concern about the delay in the delivery of the current information, as the District Board of Health did not receive this information last month despite Mr. Dow's statement that several talks and conversations have occurred. Chair also suggested the agenda item in front of the Board today, per open meeting law, cannot be discussed at this meeting and hopes it can be brought forth publicly soon, so that a sound plan can be created and presented to the community.

Vice-chair Lucey shared the discussions he had this week regarding this subject and would also like to bring this item back to the Board and have a more robust discussion; however, he felt that action needed to be taken at this meeting. He continued to share that meetings between the hospitals, Incident Commander, County Manager, and Mr. Dean Dow have happened to discuss some of the community challenges in an effort to identify the presented problems. Additionally, Vice-chair asked Mr. Dow about the unavailability of staff beds in hospitals.

Mr. Dow expressed everyone is focused on what is best for patients, but in life threatening and emergent situations they have experienced very little process of transference of patients. However, Mr. Dow added that further discussion needs to happen to understand the process from pre-hospital care over to the hospital. He continued to share that in meetings with hospital CEOs, they have discussed the management of low acuity or no acuity subset of the population using the 9-1-1 systems as well as the emergency department systems. Mr. Dow further requested for the authority to work with EMS Oversight group, medical directors, and co-responders to develop safe and effective protocols that can be used to assess and refer that subset of patient population. He concluded by stating that enhancing and enlarging those current protocols for a monitored period and report the effectiveness back to the District Board of Health and to the hospitals would be a lever to help relieve some of the stress on the 9-1-1 system as well as the emergency departments.

Vice-chair Lucey opined that this presentation is a part of REMSA Health's operations report and there was potential for action or direction from the Board to allow to move forward with changes in operations. Vice-chair Lucey continued to recommend that the Board allow REMSA Health to convene meetings with the EMSAB and come up with immediate options to relieve the strain until the COVID-19 spike can be best addressed.

Councilman Dahir asked if after going to EMSAB this item would come back to this Board. Vice-chair Lucey affirmed he would ask for it to move forward as waiting would delay the delivery of resources for a month. Additionally, Vice-chair asked Health Officer to be involved in the conversations with EMSAB and provide immediate solutions for the hospitals.

Chair Delgado asked Mr. Dow to explain the liability that comes with this item.

Mr. Dow explained that from the legal perspective the liability falls on their two medical directors.

Chair Delgado asked Vice-chair to provide a letter of support from the authorities requesting for said support, as he feels side conversations get lost. Chair affirmed he would feel more comfortable moving forward knowing there's written documentation asking for support. Additionally, Chair Delgado asked Mr. Dow to provide written protocols to this Board.

Vice-Chair spoke of an email conversation between COVID-19 Incident Commander and some of the CEOs, and a request that a meeting be held next Wednesday to identify the protocols.

Mr. Dow stated that in this instance he can represent the three health systems by affirming there is no doubt the three health systems would sign any documents necessary and post anything in writing requesting the support.

Chair Delgado reiterated that for purposes of transparency any changes in policy should be in written form before moving forward.

Dr. Reka Danko commented that a letter was written that spoke of the hospitals being overwhelmed. Dr. Danko further expressed she feels it is this Board's due diligence in public health to provide the best care for the individual.

Deputy District Attorney, Chaz Lehman, expressed that he understands there is a level of expediency; however, he advised the agenda just discussed acceptance of the Operations Reports. He advised the Board to stay within the agenda and if further discussion is needed, that item should be agendaized.

Vice-chair Lucey affirmed that as he was running the meeting, he felt this request was within the scope of the operations report and discussion of operations of REMSA Health, so he opined the action is within the report.

Dr. John Novak agreed with the presented concept. Dr. Novak felt this action is crucial and continued to ask for a status report back as well as written documentation supporting the action.

Councilman Dahir requested a robust communication style regarding this subject to the community in an effort to prevent confusion.

Vice-chair agreed with Councilman Dahir; however, he opined they are still under Governor's directives and the one thing that was not given to the counties for local authority was mass directive and crisis standards of care. He opined the crisis standards of care can be changed at any time, as they see fit at the governor level. Additionally, in an effort to unclog the emergency departments, Vice-chair Lucey suggested working with the urgent cares to make sure that patients are aware they have alternative places to seek care separate from the emergency departments. Vice-Chair clarified the motion he proposed was to allow the EMSAB to meet with Health Officer, Dean Dow, and the three hospitals to find path forward for operations in the interim, a memo be brought back about the process, and acceptance of REMSA Health's operations report.

Vice-Chair Lucey moved to approve REMSA Health's August 2021 Report and a meeting between the Health Officer, EMSAB, REMSA Health and all three hospitals to discuss change in protocols. Councilman Dahir seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

B. Update of REMSA's Public Relations during August 2021.

Presented by: Alexia Jobson

Alexia Jobson presented the Public Relations report for August 2021.

Ms. Jobson provided updates since the writing of her report. Ms. Jobson reported Adam Heinz and Ms. Jobson were guests on the Dispatch in Depth podcast produced by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch to discuss Public Relations and communication opportunities for dispatch centers.

Ms. Jobson continued to report Adam Heinz and Dr. Jenny Wilson were featured on Nevada Newsmakers for an in-depth segment about the critical importance of matching the right emergency and out-of-hospital health care resource with the call for service.

Additionally, Adam Heinz interviewed with KTVN about the impact of REMSA Health's ability to offload patients at hospitals.

Mr. Jobson concluded by reporting REMSA Health received an appreciation from the City of Reno.

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

8. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board Update.

Presented by: Manager Neil Krutz, Chairman

Manager Neil Krutz began by reporting the highlights of the last EMSAB meeting, which included three substantial items: REMSA exception guidelines, CAD-to-CAD system, and the Agency Update on services provided.

Regarding the REMSA exception guidelines, Manager Krutz reported two items needed further discussion regarding road construction and possible exemptions during declared emergencies.

Manager Krutz reported regarding the CAD-to-CAD update that was received from the City of Reno and the discussion that happened regarding liability and procedural burden. He further recognized that CAD-to-CAD is one key to providing faster service to the community.

Manager Krutz opened his items for questions from the Board.

Dr. Novak, temporarily chairing, asked for thoughts from the Board.

Councilman Dahir asked if EMSAB was asking for thoughts on the road construction and emergency.

Manager Krutz affirmed they were not asking for feedback.

Dr. Novak wished Manager Krutz good luck on the CAD-to-CAD.

9. Presentation and discussion regarding the process to complete a name change for the Washoe County Health District, including the estimated timeline, associated costs, available resources, anticipated challenges, and other issues related thereto.

Staff Representative: Scott Oxarart

Scott Oxarart provided the Board an outline regarding what a name change would look like for the Washoe County Health District, reporting that he has spoken to several subject matter experts in the area.

Mr. Oxarart explained he was seeking direction on how to move forward in terms of a name change or a name modification. He continued to define the difference between those two options.

Mr. Oxarart informed that moving forward would include hiring a firm to provide recommendations regarding the process as well as provide feedback from the public. He concluded by informing the deadline for this project is September 2022.

Health Officer reiterated the deadline is important as it would be the time period where the Interlocal Agreement would need to be amended with a name change/modification. Mr. Dick continued to explain this item's purpose was to open the discussion about the possible name change/modification and allow the team to come back and present the options to the Board.

Councilman Dahir expressed his concern that modification may not reach far enough. He further requested that both the name change and modification suggestions be brought back to the Board to allow the Board and not the selected firm to make the decision.

Dr. John Novak stated he would like to move forward on getting a firm involved to begin making suggestions.

Mr. Tom Young agreed that they should move forward with this change; however, he was concerned about the budget. Mr. Young reiterated he would not want to extract too many dollars from public health to accomplish a name change and opined the public should be involved.

Vice-chair Lucey expressed this is a prudent change to maintain individuality. He added that employing a firm is the most efficient way of achieving this process.

- 10. Review, discussion and possible adoption of the Business Impact Statement regarding Proposed Amendments to the Regulations of the Washoe County District Board of Health Governing Food Establishments for the addition of provisions from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Model Food Code. In addition, a new chapter was added to provide more transparency on the requirements for catering operations. Minor edits and formatting corrections to mobile food operations and temporary food establishments were added. These additions were made with a finding that the revised regulations do not impose a direct and significant economic burden on a business; nor do the revised regulations directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business; and set a public hearing for possible adoption of the proposed revisions to the Regulations for October 28, 2021 at 1:00 pm.**

Staff Representative: Michael Touhey

Michael Touhey presented the Business Impact Statement for the proposed amendments to the regulations governing food establishments. Mr. Touhey explained within the packet is the PowerPoint presentation from the public workshops, the business impact statement, and a summary of changes document. This can also be found online on the agenda packet for September 23, 2021.

Mr. Touhey continued to report the outcomes of all workshops as well as a summary of all the proposed changes, which included term limits for members serving on the Food Protection Hearing Advisory Board, new sections from the supplement to the 2017 Food Code, a new chapter on Catering Operations, and minor text and edit clean up in format.

Mr. Touhey concluded by thanking the team that assisted him in this project and opened his item for questions from the Board.

Mr. Tom Young commended the group on the updates and their presentation.

Councilman Dahir moved to approve the Business Impact Statement regarding Proposed Amendments to the Regulations of the Washoe County District Board of

Health Governing Food Establishments. Dr. John Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Vice-chair Lucey moved to approve the setting of hearing on October 28, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Reka Danko seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

11. Review and Approval of Annual Performance Evaluation Questions and List of Participants for the District Health Officer’s Annual 360 Evaluation and Direct Staff to Conduct the Evaluation Utilizing an On-line Survey Program.

Presented by: Laurie Griffey

Ms. Laurie Griffey provided history of this process and a list of recommended participants in the Health Officer’s performance evaluation.

Ms. Griffey concluded by asking the Board to approve the commencement of the Health Officer’s evaluation.

Vice-chair Lucey asked to add five names to the list of participants including Chris Lake from Nevada Hospital Association, Dean Dow from REMSA Health, Dr. Tony Slonim from Renown, Dr. Helen Lidholm from Northern Nevada Medical Center, and Tiffany Curry from St. Mary’s Prime Health Care. Additionally, he asked that on each survey a general overall comment box be added.

Councilman Dahir moved to approve the Health Officer Annual Evaluation Question and List of Participants as modified. Vice-chair Lucey seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

12. Recommendation to approve compensation for the District Health Officer at employee’s current hourly rate of \$90.89 for annual leave accrued in excess of 240 hours in a calendar year and approve payment of \$18,196.18, which represents compensation for 200.2 hours of annual leave that cannot be used this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff Representative: Laurie Griffey

Ms. Laurie Griffey asked for the Board to approve the payout of annual leave that cannot be used by the Health Officer due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a heavy workload.

Councilman Dahir asked if this was normal practice outside of the County, as he has not seen this process on any other Boards.

Ms. Griffey informed she is unaware of the processes outside of the County; however, it is County Code, and all county employees are entitled to this provision.

Dr. Novak moved to approve the Annual Leave payout for the Health Officer is excess of 240 hours. Dr. Reka Danko seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

13. Staff Reports and Program Updates

A. Air Quality Management, Francisco Vega, Division Director

Nevada SEC Unanimously Supports Clean Cars Nevada, IPCC Releases Updated Climate Report, NOAA Releases Annual State of The Climate Report, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

Mr. Vega open his item by reporting the terms of many members from the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board will be expiring within the next several months and many efforts have been made to recruit for new members.

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

B. Community and Clinical Health Services, Lisa Lottritz, Division Director

Divisional Update – Data & Metrics; Sexual Health (Outreach and Disease Investigation), Immunizations, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, Reproductive and Sexual Health Services, Chronic Disease Prevention Program, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health, Women Infants and Children, and COVID-19 Immunizations.

Ms. Lisa Lottritz began her report by adding that the clinic will commence flu vaccines on Monday, September 27, 2021. She also added the flu vaccine will be administered twice at the POD location at the Livestock Events Center and five days a week in the clinic.

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

Dr. John Novak asked if the flu POD and the vaccine POD would run concurrently.

Ms. Lottritz confirmed they would run concurrently.

C. Environmental Health Services, Erin Dixon, 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.

Erin Dixon began her report by highlighting the changes in her report format.

Ms. Dixon highlighted some of the responsibilities of the EHS Division listed in her report.

Ms. Dixon thanked the team that assisted with the Hot August Nights and Rib Cookoff events. Additionally, she brought attention to the effort put forth by the Underground Storage Tank Program team to engage the public in the process and seek feedback.

Mr. Tom Young expressed his appreciation for these presentations to bring awareness to the public as to the functions of the Health District.

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

D. Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness, Dr. Nancy Diao, Division Director

Communicable Disease, Public Health Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services, Vital Statistics.

Dr. Nancy Diao began her report by congratulating Ms. Heather Kerwin for her recent recognition, as she felt is well deserved.

Dr. Diao reported weekly flu surveillance reports will be sent out as it's typical for this season. Additionally, her team is working on the production of a COVID-19 surveillance report that can be distributed alongside the flu surveillance report.

Dr. Diao reported that over 300 preparedness bags were handed out during the Balloon Races events to promote awareness, as part of Public Health Preparedness Month. Dr. Diao added COVID-19 vaccines were also administered during the same event.

Dr. Diao made herself available to respond to questions from the Board.

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

District Health Officer Report – COVID-19 Response, Board Member Recruitment, Joint Information Center, Public Health Accreditation, Community Health Improvement Plan, Strategic Planning, Behavioral Health Crisis Response, Health Disparities and COVID-19 Co-Morbidities Funding, American Recovery Plan Act Funding, Staffing and Space, and Public Communications and Outreach.

Health Officer, Kevin Dick opened his item by reporting the COVID-19 numbers are promising this month, as the numbers are fairly stable from September 14, 2021. He continued to report there was a reduction of the positivity rate under the County Tracking System. He opined the County may be plateauing. He continued to report they are seeing a decline in demand of vaccinations. Mr. Dick reported the National Guard is back and their orders extend them out to December 14, 2021.

Mr. Dick reported the FDA has approved a Pfizer booster dose for individuals 65 and older and for people that are higher risk of COVID-19. He continued stating that most likely the Health District will be providing Pfizer boosters, pending the formal recommendation from the CDC.

Mr. Dick spoke regarding Public Health Accreditation, stating approval was received for Section 1 Report and now Section 2 is due at the end of the current month.

Mr. Dick reported recruitment has been opened for the Washoe County Appointee to the District Board of Health; however, the Health District was not notified of the recruitment thus preventing the Health District from posting this recruitment to the public.

14. Board Comment.

Dr. Reka Danko commented on the Health Officer's last statement regarding the new board member recruitment. Dr. Danko quoted an intensive care physician in Idaho stating "in the end what sustain us and what we will remember about having survived this madness are the remarkable people who endured this with us, the best of humanity, all of us, who demonstrated the best of our calling". Dr. Danko emphasized the need to thank those who are working to bring the best to the entire community. Dr. Danko highlighted Tom Young's valiant efforts and her feeling that he brought the best of humanity to the Board. Additionally, she commended his attendance, input, and guidance as a member of the Board as well as his donations of time, effort, and resources. Dr. Danko spoke of all the events Mr. Young has facilitated including but not limited to honoring the National Guard and multiple vaccination clinics. Dr. Danko concluded by stating she honors Mr. Young as someone who brings the best of humanity to this Board.

Councilman Dahir commended Tom Young for his service to the community. Additionally, he asked the Board to consider giving answers to some of the public comment that is presented during these meetings.

Dr. John Novak expressed his disappointment with the County Commission item that is considering two individuals to replace Tom Young. He opined Tom Young has been a pillar on this Board with his knowledge on food and beverage items. Dr. Novak highlighted Mr. Young's time, effort, and monetary contributions to the community and expressed not affording Mr. Young the opportunity to continue on this Board is a huge oversight. Dr. Novak asked for that oversight to be corrected.

Tom Young thanked the Board for their kind works. He shared that those members that are appointed do not have political agendas and offer diverse expertise to help the Board make the best decisions possible. Mr. Young opined that when looking for the best candidate for a job, the process should come with an extensive advertising and networking process as opposed to posting the job on a website that is not visited by many people. Mr. Young appealed to doing the right thing and recruit the right people for the job as it is important to the community.

Health Officer put on the record that Chair Delgado dropped off at 3:15 p.m.

Vice-chair Lucey shared that the non-elected individuals that serve on this Board do not get compensated for their time. He expressed the organization has a very challenging and difficult job to do under very difficult circumstances. He expressed it is an honor to serve next to those who serve voluntarily.

Vice-chair addressed the individuals that spoke during public comment and stated that the Board listens with their ears. However, he asked for more compassion and not be divisive as it only further divides the community. Vice-chair Lucey affirmed no one on the Board has mandated anyone to do anything. He reiterated the Board has to represent the community. He concluded by commending Mr. Young for his continued service as he has brought forth a level of compassion, understanding, commitment and dedication to the District and apologized if Mr. Young and other members felt the system had failed Mr. Young.

15. Public Comment.

Vice-chair Lucey opened the public comment period.

Ms. Valdespin confirmed there was no registered public comment.

Adjournment.

Vice-chair Lucey adjourned the meeting at 4:02 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.us 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.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.