Washoe County District Board of Health
Meeting Minutes

Members
Kitty Jung, Chair
Dr. John Novak, Vice Chair
Oscar Delgado
Dr. George Hess
Kristopher Dahir
Michael D. Brown
Tom Young

Thursday, May 24, 2018
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 Jung called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.
The following members and staff were present:
Members present: Kitty Jung, Chair
Dr. John Novak, Vice Chair
Michael Brown
Oscar Delgado
Dr. George Hess
Kristopher Dahir
Tom Young

Members absent: None

Ms. Rogers verified a quorum was present.

Staff present: Kevin Dick, District Health Officer, ODHO
Leslie Admirand, Deputy District Attorney
Charlene Albee
Steve Kutz
Chad Westom
Dr. Randall Todd
Christina Conti

2. *Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Slonim led the pledge to the flag.

3. *Public Comment

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

4. Approval of Agenda

May 24, 2018
It was confirmed that item 5C would be continued to the June 28, 2018 District Board of Health Meeting.

Dr. Novak moved to approve the agenda, with the removal of item 5C, for the May 24, 2018, District Board of Health regular meeting. Mr. Delgado seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

5. Recognitions
   A. Promotions
      i. Jennifer Pierce – Principal Account Clerk to Fiscal Compliance Officer - AHS
      ii. Kelly Verling – Public Health Nurse I to Public Health Nurse II - CCHS
         Ms. Pierce and Ms. Verling were not present at the meeting. Mr. Dick congratulated them both on their promotions.
   B. New Hires
      i. Tyler Henderson, 5/14/18, Environmental Health Trainee – EHS
         Mr. Henderson was not present at the meeting.
   C. Resolution of Appreciation
      i. Michele C. Dennis, P.E. - 10/27/1999 - 10/23/2017, Sewage, Wastewater and Sanitation Hearing Board Member
      ii. Steven H. Brigman, P.E. - 10/27/1999 - 10/23/2017, Sewage, Wastewater and Sanitation Hearing Board Member
         Mr. Dick informed that the Resolution of Appreciation for Ms. Dennis and Mr. Brigman would be presented at the June 28, 2018 District Board of Health Meeting.
         Chair Jung noted that the Resolutions of Appreciation, Item 5C, are continued.
   D. Accomplishments
      i. Kelli Goatley-Seals, Community Partner Collaboration Award from UNR School of Community Health Sciences
      ii. Washoe County Health District, Spread Health Award from UNR School of Community Health Sciences
         Mr. Dick informed that the University of Nevada Reno School of Community Health Sciences had a very nice event last month in which they recognized the partners in the community that had hosted interns for them. Among them, Kelli Goatley-Seals received a Community Partner Collaboration Award from UNR for her work with interns here at the Health District.
         Mr. Dick announced that the Health District received the Spread Health Award from UNR School of Community Health Sciences for being the organization that had the most interns work through a program over the years.
         Chair Jung congratulated both Ms. Goatley-Seals and the Health District and expressed she was glad for these acknowledgements as the UNR School of Community Health Sciences is an important source for the Health District to fill positions requiring advanced healthcare degrees.

6. Proclamations
   A. Emergency Medical Services Week
      Accepted by: Christina Conti
Mr. Dick invited those present involved with Emergency Medical Services to come down and receive the Proclamation. Mr. Dick read the proclamation and Ms. Conti accepted it for the group.

**Mr. Brown moved to adopt the Proclamation for Emergency Medical Services Week. Dr. Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

7. **Consent Items**
   Matters which the District Board of Health may consider in one motion. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.
   
   A. Approval of Draft Minutes
      i. April 26, 2018
   
   B. Budget Amendments/Interlocal Agreements
      i. Approve Subgrant Amendment #2 from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 in the amount of $284,986.00 (no required match) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Immunization Program Internal Orders #10029 and #11319 and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Subgrant Amendment.
      Staff Representative: Nancy Kerns Cummins
      
      ii. Accept cash donation in the amount of $5,000 from Arctica Ice Sales to purchase Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs) to help decrease unintended pregnancy rates; approve amendments totaling an increase of $5,000 in both revenue and expense to the FY18 Arctica Ice Donation budget, IO# 20424.
      Staff Representative: Nancy Kerns Cummins
   
   C. Possible reappointment of Dr. Andrew Michelson, Emergency Room Physician, to the Regional Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board
      Staff Representative: Kevin Dick
   
   D. Recommendation to uphold the recommendation of the Sewage, Wastewater, and Sanitation Hearing Advisory Board with conditions for Variance #H18-0001VARI for APN 017-123-05, owned by Mike Fritz.
      Staff Representative: Jim English
   
   E. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for April, Fiscal Year 2018
      Staff Representative: Anna Heenan
      
      **Mr. Dahir moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Dr. Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

      Chair Jung wished to highlight item 7Bii, informing that the District Board of Health is accepting a $5,000 cash donation from Arctica Ice Sales to purchase Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs) to help decrease unintended pregnancy rates. She expressed thanks to Arctica Ice Sales for their donation on behalf of the Board and the Health District.

8. **Presentation on Renown’s Community Benefits Plan**
   Presented by: Dr. Anthony Slonim, Renown CEO
   
   Chair Jung introduced Dr. Slonim of Renown and thanked him for coming. She informed this presentation on Renown’s Community Benefits Plan was requested by Mr. Delgado.
   
   Dr. Slonim thanked Chair Jung and the Board for the opportunity to present at this
meeting.

Dr. Slonim acknowledged the Renown team members that were present with him at the meeting, and informed he would be speaking to the work at Renown Health. He added that he was honored to serve with Mr. Dick on the Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities project in the capacity of Co-Chair.

Dr. Slonim informed of the beneficial collaboration between the Health District, Renown Health and other not-for-profit organizations several years ago that produced the first Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), with the purpose of identifying where the community’s vulnerabilities were. He outlined the focus areas identified in the CHNA and those new priorities identified in the CHNA that was just completed and published in January, 2018.

Dr. Slonim informed that Renown budgeted $1 million dollars within their next fiscal year beginning in July, 2018, to partner with community-based organizations that applied and were accepted to receive funding from Renown to work on priority areas identified in the Assessment.

Dr. Slonim spoke to his presentation regarding the definition of Community Benefit. He informed that Renown is the only not-for-profit integrated health system in Northern Nevada, and that Internal Revenue Service Code requires Renown to contribute financially to the community to retain their not-for-profit status. He informed that, of the programs Renown funds with Community Benefit dollars, many intersect with the goals of the Community Health Improvement Plan. He stated that Community Benefit specifically refers to dollars that are reportable to the IRS and the State of Nevada as Community Benefit dollars.

Dr. Slonim informed that dollars spent by Renown for Community Development are for internal or external efforts related to Community Investment, but are not counted toward the Community Benefit contribution. Similarly, Community Investment contributions are not included in the Community Benefit amount and go toward internal efforts to improve access to services or the services themselves.

Dr. Slonim informed that Renown does pay taxes regardless of their not-for-profit status and are proud to contribute publicly in that manner.

Dr. Slonim detailed programs supported by Renown in 2017 with $120 million in Community Benefit dollars, and informed that the amount invested annually has increased.

Dr. Slonim spoke of the programs supported by Renown’s Community Development contributions, including their partnership with Stanford Health for persons obtaining Hometown Health insurance through a Renown Health subsidiary. This partnership provides an in-network benefit for members to allow access to medical care not provided in this area.

Dr. Slonim detailed benefits to the community in 2016-2017 for Community Investment totaling $210 million dollars and informed that improvements to access to health and health care come directly from the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Mr. Young inquired what challenges Mr. Slonim could foresee with the population growth in the community. Mr. Slonim informed that there had not been difficulty in recruiting physicians or other team members within the last several years.

Mr. Slonim referred to the new hospital that will soon open in South Reno that will increase competition for personnel and stressed the importance of continuing to recruit to face this challenge.

Mr. Delgado thanked Dr. Slonim for presenting. He inquired how the portion of profits contributed to the community generated by a non-profit hospital is calculated, and if the amount of the contribution increases annually. Dr. Slonim informed that the calculation is determined by IRS statute, and that the Community Benefit contribution increased from $78
million in 2015 to $120 million dollars in 2017, and that these amounts don’t include the Community Investment and Community Development contribution amounts.

Mr. Delgado spoke of the concept that it is not only the genes one is born with, but the effect of the area in which one lives that determines quality of health. He inquired how Renown is focusing efforts on those more impoverished areas of the community and how they are involving the community in decisions to positively impact those areas. Dr. Slonim outlined the steps of the process beginning with the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) that was co-sponsored by Renown and the Health District which provided the areas of focus for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and included input from a number of focus groups and individuals.

Mr. Delgado inquired when the Community Health Improvement Plan would be published. Dr. Slonim informed that they are still working to determine the Priorities for the CHIP, but that the CHNA had been published which provided the four Priority areas for the CHIP.

Dr. Slonim informed that Renown is partnering broadly across the community by sharing in the work of the CHNA and in identifying where impacts can be made by activities funded by Renown Health. This will allow Renown to carry on their not-for-profit mission to positively impact the community.

Mr. Delgado spoke to Dr. Slonim’s presentation regarding partnerships, and stated he would like to see detail of funding for the Priorities. Dr. Slonim listed funding levels for 2017, and Mr. Delgado inquired if funding levels for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 were known and if there would be continued support for some of the partners. Dr. Slonim informed that some of the partnerships highlighted in the PowerPoint presentation would continue to be funded by Renown through the CHIP.

Mr. Delgado expressed concern that funding would be moved away from focus areas that are still an issue in the community. Dr. Slonim informed that, while funding all of the partners who do great work in the community would be optimum, it is not possible; however, since the CHNA’s Priorities are the guide for the new CHIP, funding will continue to go toward those focus areas but possibly not with the same partners.

Mr. Delgado thanked Dr. Slonim for the information and requested that he extend thanks to Renown staff and commended them for the exceptional work they do in the community.

Mr. Delgado expressed his interest in seeing the finished Community Health Improvement Plan and how it will have evolved and will continue to evolve through its cycles in response to conditions within the community.

Dr. Slonim thanked the Board for being allowed to present to them and welcomed any suggestions for development of the CHIP.

Mr. Brown thanked Dr. Slonim for his presentation and work at Renown, and inquired if ambulance providers would be able to begin using their Urgent Care facilities for non-acute patients. Dr. Slonim stated he would love that opportunity to assure patients receive the correct level of care. He informed that most Urgent Care facilities in the community don’t accept patients insured by Medicaid, and stated that Renown wants to make sure these patients have access to care at the appropriate level of care. He estimated it will take approximately a year to institute that capability.

Mr. Dahir expressed thanks for Dr. Slonim’s presentation. He inquired about care for mental illness in the community and requested more information on Renown’s efforts toward assisting those in need. Dr. Slonim stated that the mental health and addiction issue will require broader involvement due to the scope of work necessary to improve conditions that have been growing over the past three decades. Dr. Slonim informed that the worsening
conditions are a combination of lack of infrastructure and funding, and acknowledged that it will take leadership to begin to create the needed structure and financial involvement.

Dr. Slonim informed that the Behavioral Health and Addiction Institute is focused on addiction and on assessment necessary to identify people at risk for placement in programs for assistance.

Dr. Slonim informed that Washoe County is ranked number one in the nation for adolescent female suicide. He informed of a screening program being initiated in schools to identify those at risk and to understand the contributing factors, and informed that the prevalent demographic is young, Hispanic females.

Dr. Slonim stated that Renown is exploring ways to partner with the area’s schools to screen all adolescents for suicide risk and direct those at risk to programs to learn ways to cope with life issues. Mr. Dahir thanked him for his information.

Chair Jung expressed she was thankful to be a part of Renown’s Healthy Nevada Project DNA testing.

Chair Jung wished to state for the record that the very first donor for the 89502 Project was Commissioner Bob Lucey due to his commitment in Public Health.

Chair Jung informed that Behavioral Health is a Strategic Planning Goal for this District Board of Health due to it being a root factor to other health outcomes. She thanked Dr. Slonim and informed that she would be there for their Grand Opening of the Behavioral Health and Addiction Institute.

Chair Jung stated that she serves on the Nevada Works Board in collaboration with all but two Nevada counties, and they have defined the need provide telemedicine to rural areas. She informed that many of those areas have Broadband available, but that no major supplier will provide connection due to lack of volume.

Chair Jung stated she would like to investigate the possibility of providing that capability in conjunction with Renown’s Urgent Care Facility in Tonopah, and to study best practices nationwide to provide health access to Nevada’s rural citizens.

Dr. Slonim agreed that this conversation could be continued outside this meeting, and informed that Renown is very involved in providing telemedicine to rural communities and have a demonstration project with the prison system that is highly appreciated by the Governor.

Dr. Slonim informed that there is much more that can be done, and quoted Kaiser Insurance who stated they project fifty percent of their visits will be conducted through telemedicine.

Dr. Slonim stated that he serves as the Chair-Elect at the Systems Board of the American Hospital Association and this entity strongly advocates for investment in health care and Broadband and wire infrastructure development, particularly for rural areas, to the President of the United States.

Chair Jung informed that she greatly appreciated the ability to contact their Renown physician via email for issues that would otherwise require another appointment. Dr. Slonim agreed that providing care when it is needed and offering alternative ways of receiving this care is the most important capability that can be provided to deliver a more consumer-oriented service from a healthcare prospective.

Chair Jung requested Dr. Slonim to provide any assistance possible regarding access to information regarding the train wreck victim injured in Truckee, California. She stated that, due to the nature of the accident and Amtrak having jurisdiction over the investigation, information provided by Amtrak was not very transparent. Dr. Slonim agreed to assist, and Chair Jung thanked him again for his presentation.
9. Review, discussion and possible adoption of the Business Impact Statement regarding Proposed Revisions to the District Board of Health Regulations Governing Air Quality Management, Sections 020.040 (Civil Fines and Penalties) and 020.042 (Criminal Fines and Penalties) 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 June 28, 2018 at 1:00 pm.

Staff Representative: Charlene Albee

Ms. Albee informed the detail of the Business Impact Statement was included in the Board Member’s packets, and that, prior to the legal requirements for public notice and formal workshops, she presented to the Associated General Contractors (AGC) group and the Builder’s Association of Northern Nevada (BANN) as the two groups most likely to be impacted by these regulations and there were no objections received regarding the proposed revisions. She informed that it was understood that these revisions would not have any impact to companies that are operating in compliance with the regulations.

Dr. Novak inquired regarding Section G, wherein it appeared to read that money for payment of fines could be accepted by an Air Quality Management employee. Ms. Albee informed that, in her nearly twenty-four years of service, she has never seen staff accept a check for payment of penalty that was not first approved by the District Board of Health. She stressed that the revision to Section G was simply a bit of housekeeping to remove archaic verbiage to clearly state that all fines are to be assessed at the decision of the District Board of Health.

Mr. Dahir thanked Ms. Albee for her work in meeting with the AGC and BANN to make revisions to regulations transparent and understood, thereby alleviating some possibility for negative response.

Mr. Brown moved to adopt the Business Impact Statement regarding Proposed Revisions to the District Board of Health Regulations Governing Air Quality Management and set a public hearing for possible adoption of the proposed revisions to the Regulations for June 28, 2018 at 1:00 pm. Dr. Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

10. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority

Presented by: J.W. Hodge

A. Review and Acceptance of the REMSA Operations Report for April, 2018

Mr. Dahir inquired regarding a complaint received involving a verbally abusive attendant that did not show as resolved. Mr. Hodge stated that due to the timing of the report, the resolution of a complaint will not always be captured; however, all complaints are processed by meeting with the involved crew who do occurrence reports and interviews are conducted with each crew member and the patient. Mr. Hodge informed that he would go back to that specific report and follow up with Mr. Dahir directly, and reported that all negative comments had been resolved for the month.

Mr. Dahir inquired how recruiting is going. Mr. Hodge informed that it had been difficult to recruit paramedics due to a regional shortage, but that situation has recently improved. Mr. Hodge stated that REMSA also constantly revamps customer service training and opportunities to teach crews how to deal with new issues in patient care and providing healthcare in the field.

Chair Jung informed that there is currently 100% percent employment locally, and that
employers will have to enhance environment, morale, benefits, pay and flexibility to retain employees and hire new staff. She opined that that a somewhat unknown benefit for employees is the transition possible between REMSA to firefighter, and it is a career trajectory that could be highlighted as a benefit.

Mr. Hodge opined that the work of the Board to provide a better community in which to live also helps for recruitment.

Mr. Dahir moved to accept the REMSA Operations Report for April 2018. Dr. Hess seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

B. *Update of REMSA’s Public Relations during April 2018

Mr. Hodge informed that the end of EMS Week culminates in a barbeque and awards ceremony on May 25th with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and presentation of awards at 12:30 p.m. He invited the Board Members and Mr. Dick to attend.

Chair Jung informed she would attend and encouraged the others to attend in support of the Emergency Medical Services personnel.

Mr. Hodge informed he would like to give an update on the Communications Center issue with the lightning strike that occurred the week of May 14th. He stated that a lightning strike that hit or nearly struck their building caused a critical system failure. He informed that this was the first instance of this sort in REMSA history and that the backup systems failed, despite being tested in annual drills and weekly through backup system tests. Mr. Hodge informed that immediately after power was lost, all of the regional partners and the REMSA team worked together and were operating from their backup center in eleven minutes with no loss in calls or the processing of calls. He stated that the Operations Team also immediately added additional ambulances to the system and through regional partnerships with the fire departments were able to staff ambulances at fire stations, as well. This assured there was bidirectional communication.

Mr. Hodge stated that, although the main center was brought back online within less than an hour, the backup center was kept in operation for multiple hours to make sure there was redundancy and that a dispatcher manned the backup center through the next morning.

Mr. Hodge informed thorough testing showed the system to be back to normal and that an internal after-action review is being conducted with technicians who maintain their power systems. They will determine whether any other form of backup is available that could have prevented the loss of power.

Mr. Hodge opined it ironic that the full scale communications system shut down failure drill was due to have occurred the week of May 21st, and thanked Mr. Dick and Ms. Conti for allowing this real life event to count as their drill.

Chair Jung expressed appreciation for being informed immediately of the situation.

11. *Staff Reports and Program Updates

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

Ms. Albee brought attention to the map included in the Board’s packets that shows the areas of the United States designated nonattainment for Ozone, and informed that Washoe County is attainment.

Chair Jung requested the map be shown for those viewing the meeting. Ms. Albee opined that Western Regional Transport presents the next challenge for our Air Quality Management Division due to the large area of nonattainment directly to the west of Washoe County, and that she has engaged the Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters regarding the impact of that area of nonattainment affecting Washoe County due to prevailing winds.

Ms. Albee informed that AQM was contacted by Region 9 regarding the use of AQM’s portable Particulate-Matter Monitor for the Hawaiian Islands. She stated that the Hawaii air quality has been impacted with the lava now reaching the ocean and the resulting emission of airborne pyroclastic particulates.

Ms. Albee stated that AQM had contacted Hawaii to offer loan of the portable EBAM monitor and are making arrangement to ship it to them. She informed that Hawaii is broadening their monitoring to as close to real-time as possible for evacuation noticing. She informed that Region 9 has staff there to set up and operate the monitors.

B. Community and Clinical Health Services, Steve Kutz, Director
Program Report – Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month; Divisional Update – Client Satisfaction Survey Results; Nevada Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program; Data & Metrics; Program Reports

Mr. Kutz informed he wished to highlight CCHS’ Client Satisfaction Survey included in his report to the Board, and extended thanks to his great staff that contributes to their ongoing and highly rated results.

Mr. Kutz stated that he also wished to highlight the unveiling of the Healthy Living Mural that occurred earlier in May, and thanked Chair Jung for speaking at the event. He informed that Mr. Delgado also spoke at the unveiling, and that Health Officer Mr. Dick acted as Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Kutz informed that Reno Housing Authority and some students and staff from Traner Middle and Glenn Duncan Schools were in attendance, as well as members of the outstanding Chronic Disease Prevention Program team who helped organize the event. The video of the unveiling was presented.

Mr. Dahir asked how it would be possible to get such a mural in the City of Sparks, and expressed what a wonderful process and outcome it was.

Chair Jung informed that it was funded by the Reno Housing Authority.

Mr. Dahir inquired who the artist was, and Mr. Kutz informed that Eric T. Burke and Matt McDowell were the artists. Mr. Kutz reiterated Chair Jung’s comment that Mr. Burke is a nationally and internationally known artist and how fortunate it was that he was awarded the project in the Request for Proposal process. Mr. Kutz expressed how pleased they were that Mr. Burke wanted to involve the children and the community, and how excited and proud of the mural they all are.

Chair Jung inquired if a mental health screening process similar to that mentioned by Dr. Slonim in his presentation was part of CCHS’s procedure for all clients. Mr. Kutz informed that there is a basic screening given in all clinical encounters and immediate referrals are made if indicated to medical and behavioral health facilities for at risk clients.

Chair Jung congratulated Mr. Kutz on his son becoming a Captain at Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

C. Environmental Health Services, Chad Westom, Director
Environmental Health Services (EHS) Division and Program Updates – Child Care, Community Development, Food, Land Development, Safe Drinking Water, Schools, Vector-Borne Disease and Waste Management

Mr. Westom informed that EHS is involved with the FDA Voluntary National Food Standards Program who has set their optimum level of inspections for a Risk Level 3 Food Establishment at three times per year. He stated that this type of establishment
includes full service restaurants, casino resort kitchens, buffets, food manufacturers and caterers serving potentially hazardous foods.

Mr. Westom explained that EHS is working to increase their inspections of Risk Level 3 Food Establishments to two times per year with the second inspection set for the Fall or Winter of 2018, and have met with industry leaders who have agreed the re-inspection fee of $180 is reasonable to cover the expense of the second inspection and assure the safety of their establishments.

Mr. Westom stated that he and the EHS staff agree this is an important step in protecting the safety of residents and visitors from non-compliant restaurants, and will provide added assurance to the entire restaurant-casino industry of Washoe County. He opined it is a firm step in the right direction to meet the requirements of the FDA Food Program Standards.

Dr. Hess inquired the amount of the first annual inspection fee for restaurants. Mr. Westom informed that the inspection fees vary depending on the category of the facility. He stated that he would send that information to the Board Members.

Dr. Hess inquired if EHS would be inspecting the Risk Level 3 Food Establishments two or three times per year. Mr. Westom informed that EHS is staffed to increase the number of inspections to two per year, but currently could not increase inspections to three per year. He explained that EHS strove for efficiencies in their program to allow capacity for a second inspection of these facilities, which will add over eight hundred more inspections per year.

Dr. Novak noted the information on the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event included in Mr. Westom’s report, and inquired where this information had been published. Mr. Westom informed that he could provide the media sources where it had been publicized to the Board and would request suggestions of other sources that would target a more wide-spread audience, but noted that it had been a successful event.

Mr. Dick informed he believed this program is a part of the Franchise Agreement the local governments have with Waste Management, and that it would be Waste Management’s responsibility to publicize this event to the community. He opined the Health District could work to better support the advertisement of this program, but it is not a program run by the Health District.

Chair Jung mentioned that she believes this event is held twice per year. She requested that the Board be notified before the event in the future.

D. Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness, Dr. Randall Todd, Director

Program Updates for Communicable Disease, Public Health Preparedness, and Emergency Medical Services

Dr. Todd stated he was pleased to have the final influenza report for this season. He informed that the season begins in the fortieth week of the year and continues through the twentieth week of the subsequent year, and that he had just received the twentieth week’s statistics for the Board.

Dr. Todd informed that in Week 20, eleven of the twelve sentinel providers reported a total of sixty-four patients with influenza-like-illness (ILI), which was one percent of the total of persons seen. He noted that this is below the regional baseline of 2.4%, and that during Week 19, the percentage of visits to US sentinel providers due to ILI was down to 1.2%.

Dr. Todd informed there had been one death certificate received for Week 20 with pneumonia or influenza listed as a factor contributing to the cause of death. The total number of deaths for Week 20 was seventy-four, reflecting a P&I ratio of 1.4%. The
total P&I deaths registered to date in Washoe County for the 2017-2018 influenza season is 256, an overall P&I ratio of 7.9%.

Dr. Todd stated that this was a significant flu year with 5,521 laboratory-confirmed cases, and of the 542 that were hospitalized, 221 or 40.8% had been vaccinated. There were 88 ICU admits and 26 confirmed influenza deaths. He informed that the number of deaths was higher than in any recent flu season that he was able to find.

Dr. Todd stated that the Influenza A component of the vaccine was not as effective as they would have liked to have seen it be.

Dr. Todd informed that there continues to be media interest on the paper written by Dr. Lei Chen and himself in 2016 on New Delhi Metallo-Beta-Lactamase-Producing Klebsiella pneumoniae, with the latest being two different British media outlets who interviewed Dr. Todd by telephone and will interview Dr. Chen at a later time.

Chair Jung requested best practices for increasing influenza immunization rates be researched and reported at the next DBOH Meeting. She opined there may be a decrease in persons being immunized for the next flu season due to this year’s vaccine being less effective than it could have been, and stated that she envisions a regionally-involved campaign.

Mr. Dick informed that Ms. Heidi Parker, Executive Director of Immunize Nevada, is scheduled to attend the September District Board of Health Meeting to speak on their flu immunization campaign. He stated that Dr. Slonim’s presentation highlighted Renown’s support of Immunize Nevada and informed that the Health District works very closely with both entities. He opined that it will provide a good opportunity to explore options for the regionally-involved campaign the Chair spoke of.

Dr. Novak agreed on the possibility of a decrease in influenza immunization, and opined it is important to develop a strong campaign.

Mr. Brown opined it important to partner not only with REMSA, but the fire-based services as well. He stated that it would not only provide more sites where the public can be immunized, but that they would have the capacity to go into the community to immunize those citizens who were unable to get out.

Mr. Young stated that involving more outlets in the community for immunizations could involve local businesses, as well, and offered his own business for the purpose. He opined it would provide a variety of venues that could improve the percentage of those being immunized.

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

District Health Officer Report – FY19 Budget, Water Projects, Public Health Accreditation, Community Health Improvement Plan, Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities, Quality Improvement Team, Workforce Development, Smoke Free Workplaces, REMSA Board Resignation, New CCHS Fees, Brazilian Delegation, Other Events and Activities and Health District Media Contacts.

Mr. Dick stated that earlier in the week, the Board of County Commissioners approved the County Budget that includes the General Fund Transfer for the Health District. He reminded the Board that the Health District budget includes the above base request for the additional positions that were approved, however, the portion of the Health District budget that was not approved was the above base request to fund the purchase of additional mosquito abatement chemicals.

Chair Jung inquired what can be done to treat the increased acreage of water for mosquitoes.

Mr. Dick informed that the Vector Program is working now on a mosquito abatement
plan for the season for chemical amounts necessary for this summer and next spring that falls within FY19. He stated the outcome of that plan would be brought to the DBOH to decide what is feasible to accomplish within the existing Health District budget and whether to then go to the Board of County Commissioners to for additional funds.

Chair Jung opined that the request for additional funding should be taken to the BCC as soon as possible due to the increase in insect borne illness nationwide.

Chair Jung requested the National Weather Service be invited to attend the next DBOH Meeting to report on the effects of the wet spring and climate change in the area for additional information to present to the BCC in support of the request for funding.

Mr. Dick informed that the additional funding amount for mosquito abatement received in FY18 was approximately $750,000.

Mr. Dick agreed with Chair Jung’s comments on climate change, and informed of discussions the Health District has had with Carson City and Southern Nevada Health District about state funding for mosquito abatement being necessary for resiliency.

Mr. Dick informed the Zika-carrying mosquito is now in Clark County which is a new development, but that they fortunately have not had Zika transmission to date.

Mr. Dahir spoke of a campaign he had seen previously to educate the public in ways they can help by eliminating standing water around their homes, and inquired if such a campaign could be broadcast again.

Chair Jung agreed that to be a good suggestion, and opined that the Communications Team at the County could assist in the campaign due to it being a County-wide issue.

Mr. Dick informed that the proposed revisions to the Nevada Administrative Code to streamline processes are proceeding to the State Environmental Commission on June 27th, and, if adopted, will become a permanent regulation due to their approval within the fiscal year.

Chair Jung opined a source for additional funding for the Health District could be obtained by requesting a portion of sales tax generated at marijuana dispensaries in unincorporated areas of the County from the County Commissioners. She stated that she would assist in presenting the concept to the Board.

Mr. Dick wished to update and correct a portion of his report on Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities regarding a community meeting scheduled for the evening of June 14th. He informed that the meeting has been postponed to occur tentatively in September, but that he still expects a presentation to the TMRPA Governing Board on June 14th.

Mr. Dick informed that funding has been secured for Phase II of the Affordable Housing Project and that the Project is moving forward.

Mr. Dick informed of the resignation of Mr. Jim Begbie as Chairman from the REMSA Board, and that he had served as Consumer Representative Appointee on the Board. He informed that volunteer opportunity would be posted on the Washoe County webpage and potential candidates would be brought before the DBOH for future appointment.

Mr. Dick stated that Mr. Tim Nelson had been elected at the last REMSA meeting to serve as Chairman of the Board, and that Mr. Nelson is the Accounting Profession Appointed Representative by the District Board of Health. He expressed his confidence that Mr. Nelson will do a good job in that capacity.

Chair Jung reminded the Board of their responsibility to recruit for Board openings, and that she would like to a person of Latin descent considered for the position of Consumer Representative Appointee as representation for the Latin citizens in the area.

Mr. Dahir inquired about the lower statistics in the QI survey for ‘I am able to
participate in QI without worrying about competing priorities” and “QI training is easy for me to attend”, and whether there was action necessary to improve employee’s ability to participate.

Mr. Dick noted that the Health District’s QI Team is reviewing survey questions to determine if there are better questions that could be asked to obtain data more relevant to determining the state of the Health District. While the change in the statistic on competing priorities was not statistically significant, he explained that the question missed the mark of determining whether employees feel that QI is important.

Mr. Dick highlighted the categories of statistically significant change, noting an increase of responders who agreed that “Co-workers show confidence and trust in one another” and “Expect a high quality job from themselves and others”. He opined the response to “Innovation and new ideas are encouraged” was discouraging in that fewer employees agreed with that statement.

Mr. Dahir opined that having a consistent survey is important to measure results from year to year.

12. *Board Comment

Mr. Dahir informed that he would not be able to attend the June District Board of Health Meeting.

Dr. Novak agreed that having the Weather Service attend the next meeting to obtain their predictions for weather conditions at three month intervals for the year would be advantageous.

Mr. Delgado invited the Board to the Traner Pool opening on June 11th at noon. He informed that the pool had been closed last year and expressed his excitement that it will be open this year.

Chair Jung thanked Mr. Delgado for his involvement being instrumental in the pool’s reopening and commented that it is a valuable resource for the community’s youth.

Chair Jung closed the Board comment period.

13. *Public Comment

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

15. Adjournment

Chair Jung adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.
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 – Limited to Announcement or Issues for future Agendas.”

Posting of Agenda; Location of Website:
Pursuant to NRS 241.020, Notice of this meeting was posted at the following locations:

- Washoe County Health District, 1001 E. 9th St., Reno, NV
- Reno City Hall, 1 E. 1st St., Reno, NV
- Sparks City Hall, 431 Prater Way, Sparks, NV
- Washoe County Administration Building, 1001 E. 9th St, Reno, NV
- Downtown Reno Library, 301 S. Center St., Reno, NV
- Washoe County Health District Website www.washoecounty.us/health
- State of Nevada Website: https://notice.nv.gov

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. Laura Rogers, 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. Rogers is located at the Washoe County Health District and may be reached by telephone at (775) 328-2415 or by email at lrogers@washoecounty.us. Supporting materials are also available at the Washoe County Health District Website www.washoecounty.us/health pursuant to the requirements of NRS 241.020.