



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, April 22, 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 1:01 p.m.
 The following members and staff were present:
 Members present:

Oscar Delgado, Chair
 Michael Brown (via zoom)
 Kristopher Dahir (via zoom)
 Dr. Reka Danko (telephonically)
 Dr. John Novak (via zoom)
 Tom Young (via zoom)

Members absent: Robert Lucey, Vice Chair

Mrs. Valdespin verified a quorum was present.

Staff present:

Kevin Dick, District Health Officer
 Dania Reid, Deputy District Attorney
 Yann Ling-Barnes (via zoom)
 Esmeralda Chavez (via zoom)
 Dr. Nancy Diao (via zoom)
 Heather Kerwin (via zoom)
 Christabell Sotelo (via zoom)
 Liliana E. Wilbert (via zoom)
 Scott Oxarart (via zoom)
 David Kelly (via zoom)
 Joelle Gutman-Dodson (via zoom)
 Francisco Vega (via zoom)
 Erin Dixon (via zoom)
 Lisa Lottritz (via zoom)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. John Novak led the pledge to the flag.

3. Public Comment

Chair Delgado opened the public comment period.

Ms. Valdespin called registered public comment from Alicia Ferraro.

Having no response from Ms. Ferraro or additional public comment, Chair Delgado closed the public comment period.

4. Approval of Agenda.

April 22, 2021

Dr. Novak moved to approve the agenda for the April 22, 2021, District Board of Health regular meeting. Councilman Dahir seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

5. Recognitions.

A. Years of Service

- i. Kelly Verling, 5 years, hired April 21, 2016 – CCHS

Kevin Dick recognized staff's years of service and thank Ms. Verling for her services to the Health District and the community.

B. Promotions/Transfers

- i. Adriana Albarran, promoted from HSA Office Assistant II to Health Office Support Specialist effective March 29, 2021 – CCHS Medical Billing

Kevin Dick acknowledge Ms. Albarran's promotion from Human Services Agency and congratulated her for her promotion.

C. Retirements

- i. Krista Hunt, effective April 16, 2021, Environmental Health Specialist - EHS

Kevin Dick recognized Ms. Hunt on her retirement, after her 17-years of service, also stating he attended Ms. Hunt's social distanced farewell.

6. Proclamation.

National Bike and Bicycle Safety Month and Washoe County Bike Month.

Accepted by: Yann Ling-Barnes and Esmeralda Chavez

Kevin Dick read the proclamation into the record.

Yann Ling-Barnes thanked the Board for bringing the proclamation forward and encouraging the community to ride their bikes and enjoy the good air quality, exercise and be healthy.

Esmeralda Chavez thanked the Board for allowing them to celebrate Bike Month and informed the Board they will be distributing and promoting the commuter challenge to local businesses.

Chair Delgado thanked Ms. Ling-Barnes and Ms. Chavez for the hard work and encouraging bike safety and riding.

Mike Brown moved to approve the National Bike and Bicycle Safety Month and Washoe County Bike Month Proclamation. Dr. Danko 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. March 25, 2021

B. Budget Amendments/Interlocal Agreements

- i. Approve an Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County Health District and Reno Fire Department, to provide Paramedic and medical supplies to staff at the Washoe County Health District COVID-19 Point of Screening and Testing (POST)/Point of Dispensing (POD) retroactive to April 5, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer

- ii. Approve an Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County Health District and Sparks Fire Department, to provide Paramedic and medical supplies to staff at the Washoe County Health District COVID-19 Point of Screening and Testing (POST)/Point of Dispensing (POD) retroactive to April 5, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer

- iii. Approve an Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County Health District and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, to provide Paramedic and medical supplies to staff at the Washoe County Health District COVID-19 Point of Screening and Testing (POST)/Point of Dispensing (POD) retroactive to April 5, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer

- C. Approval to donate to our Emergency Medical Services partners evacuation equipment purchased with the \$99,353 Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Carry Forward Grant. Value of donated property is estimated at \$70,960.**

Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer

- D. Recommendation and approval of the appointment of John R. Hardwick, M.D. as the Emergency Room Physician representative to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board.**

Staff Representative: Andrea Esp

- E. Approval of authorization to travel and travel reimbursements for non-County employee, Dr. John Novak, for FY21 in the approximate amount of \$2,800.**

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

- F. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for March, Fiscal Year 2021.**

Staff Representative: Anna Heenan

Tom Young moved to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Danko seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

8. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority

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

Presented by: Dean Dow

Adam Heinz appeared on behalf of Mr. Dean Dow. Mr. Heinz opened this item for

questions the Board may have regarding the report that was submitted by REMSA.

Michael Brown moved to approve REMSA's March 2021 Report. Dr. Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

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

Presented by: Alexia Jobson

Alexia Jobson presented the Public Relations report for March 2021.

Ms. Jobson provided updates since the writing of her report regarding REMSA participating in the Faith and Healthcare community vaccination event earlier this month, where 170 COVID-19 vaccinations were administered.

Ms. Jobson continued by reporting that Aaron Abbott, Executive Director of EMS Operations was featured in an interview on KRNV regarding Opioid Overdose including signs and symptoms that may suggest overdose.

Ms. Jobson concluded by reporting that REMSA participated in the virtual EMS on the Hill Day. During this event REMSA leaders spoke with members of Congress or their staff regarding EMS topics and federal legislation that would have an impact on REMSA's work within the community.

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

9. Presentation: "REOPENING FROM AN EPIDEMIOLOGIST'S PERSPECTIVE".

Staff Representatives: Dr. Nancy Diao and Heather Kerwin

Kevin Dick opened this presentation by introducing Dr. Nancy Diao and reminding the Board that this presentation was requested by Vice-Chair Lucey.

Chair Delgado invoked the Board for a decision to continue this item due to Vice-Chair Lucey's absence. The Board agreed to go forward with the presentation.

Dr. Diao began her presentation by providing a detailed explanation of the Reopening Planning coming from the perspective of an Epidemiologist. Dr. Diao reported on the general background on the current epidemiological factors driving COVID-19 and the considerations and measures that went into drafting the initial opening plan. Dr. Diao disclosed that an updated presentation will be loaded to the agenda after this meeting, based on the need to update data.

Dr. Diao continued to give a detailed explanation of the information provided in the Washoe County COVID-19 Dashboard, which includes the increase in reinfection and breakthrough infections due to spread of variants. Dr. Diao continued to explain the different variants and the best way to slow or curve the process of infection.

Dr. Diao spoke of the percentages on the vaccinated population as well as the available vaccines. She also spoke of herd immunity, which represents an indirect protection from an infectious disease that happens when the population is immune through vaccination or through immunity developed in a previous infection. Dr. Diao stated that population immunity should be achieved through vaccination not natural spread as referenced by the World Health Organization.

Dr. Diao shared metrics that are crucial to consider in the reopening plan, including but not limited to knowledge of infection status, public health capacity, health system capacity, community engagement, and measures to decrease cross-regional spread.

Heather Kerwin continued the presentation by reporting that the reopening plan approached an existing tool to measure all the metrics widely known as the Truckee Meadows COVID Risk Meter. Ms. Kerwin provided a brief visual presentation of the Risk Meters as well as the leading indicators used on said meter including risk assessment, test positivity, daily new cases, COVID medical intervention and hospital bed use/capacity.

Ms. Kerwin reported on the continued efforts in vaccinating the community which includes homebound vaccinations. Ms. Kerwin also spoke of a phased reopening plan that was proposed in the reopening plan in accordance with the percentage of the population vaccinated. However, Ms. Kerwin informed that if transmission increases to the red meter, adjustments will be necessary.

Ms. Kerwin explained the steps that are being taken to prevent and prepare for a potential surge. Ms. Kerwin spoke of REDCap, which is a secure CDC and State of Nevada State Department of Health and Human Services platform that captures case and contact information. She reports that it has been used nationally including in Washington. She concluded by providing a report on the number of disease investigators available for case investigations, the COVID Trace phone app, efforts concerning genetic monitoring, international travelers contact, and data collection.

Ms. Kerwin opened this item for questions from the Board.

Tom Young asked for clarification on how the test positivity rate is measured as well as what factors are involved when individuals request to be tested. Mr. Young also inquired about the current vaccination rate as he believes Washoe County is lagging behind the rest of nation. He asked if the issues with vaccine quantity had been remedied.

Ms. Kerwin reports positivity rate is impacted by the type of testing that is performed either symptomatic or asymptomatic. Ms. Kerwin explained that Washoe County's positivity rate is higher because all contacts of a positive cases are referred to test within Washoe County.

Dr. Diao explained that the fully vaccinated percentage nationwide is 25% and Washoe County is at 30%, with Michigan, a state that claims to have a high vaccination rate, coming in at 32%. Dr. Diao explained the rate of vaccinating is dependent on the number of doses available weekly.

Councilman Dahir thanked staff for their presentation as educating the community is the biggest role of the Board of Health. He also asked how the hospitals rate within this report, as he noted hospitals are not listed as an important factor within this report.

Ms. Kerwin reports that hospitalization numbers are tracked by Nevada Hospital Association. Ms. Kerwin also reported the COVID numbers are relatively low in the hospital system which is a reflection of all the efforts that have been put forth including but not limited to vaccinations. Ms. Kerwin agreed with Councilman Dahir that people should not live in fear and that is why the Health District promotes vaccinating. She also added that if individuals are fully vaccinated certain relaxation of parameters and guidelines can happen.

Councilman Dahir clarified his question to include death rates. Additionally, he reiterated that he does not believe hospital should be listed at the bottom.

Ms. Kerwin reports that case fatality rate for SARS-CoV-2 in the community is about 1.5% and has remained at that rate approximately through the last 10 months approximately.

Dr. Diao added that the main message to the community is to get vaccinated if it's available as vaccination is the most important metric that can be used to prevent new variants from gaining foothold.

Chair Delgado thanked Ms. Kerwin and Dr. Diao for their hard work and made note that the updated PowerPoint will be uploaded to the agenda packet.

10. Presentation – Influenza: A Public Health Perspective.

Staff Representatives: Christabell Sotelo
Liliana E. Wilbert
Heather Kerwin

Heather Kerwin began this presentation by introducing Lilian Wilbert and Christabell Sotelo as presenters for this item.

Ms. Sotelo began her presentation by defining what the flu is and informed the Board she would be discussing Type A and B flu. She continued by giving details on how those flu types develop and how they are transmitted along with the symptoms associated with the illness. Additionally, Ms. Sotelo spoke of the various ways a flu can be diagnosed and treated.

Ms. Sotelo referred to the CDC report dated October 1, 2019 through April 4, 2020 to provide information about the number of estimates of national burden for the 2019-2020 season. She concluded her presentation by introducing Liliana Wilbert.

Ms. Wilbert began her presentation by reporting the estimate of the national burden is possible because of surveillance efforts, which is conducted at the international level by the World Health Organization.

Ms. Wilbert shared a few charts to depict Influenza Like Illness as well as Virologic Surveillance, hospitalization, and Syndromic Surveillance in Washoe County. Ms. Wilbert went into detail about Over the Counter Sales and Emergency Department and Urgent Care Syndrome Surveillance through Essence (a system that collects data from Emergency Department and Urgent Care). Ms. Wilbert reports that this season both Influenza Like Illness Syndrome and COVID Like Illness Syndrome were able to be monitored.

Ms. Wilbert continued to speak about the efforts from a public health perspective which included influenza prevention and prediction methods. Ms. Wilbert explained the benefits of the flu vaccine and its effectiveness. Ms. Wilbert concluded by introducing Heather Kerwin.

Ms. Kerwin continued this presentation by sharing graphs that collected data for Influenza Like Illness Surveillance and Seasonal Severity. She also provided a brief explanation on how influenza is predicted, which includes testing algorithms, interventions and challenges in making predictions. Ms. Kerwin informed the World Health Organization has put forth the vaccine selection recommendations for the 2021-2022 season; however, the low numbers through the 2021 season in influenza have posed some challenges in determining what the viral component should be in those vaccines.

Ms. Kerwin opened the item for questions from the Board.

Councilman Dahir commended staff for a fascinating presentation. He also asked about the plan for making sure the Health District stays ahead of the virus due to “vaccine fatigue”.

Ms. Kerwin responded that no specific plans have been made to make changes on promoting the flu vaccine nor has there been any national recommendations relating to

such changes. Ms. Kerwin agreed that she suspects challenges resulting from vaccine fatigue will arise.

Chair Delgado expressed his appreciation for the detailed presentation.

11. Presentation: COVID-19 Awareness Campaign Report. (October 2020 – January 2021)

Staff Representative: Scott Oxarart

Scott Oxarart began his presentation by thanking everyone for their support over the last 15-months. Additionally, he recognized the collaboration of communication professionals like Rebecca Venis, Julie Duewel, and Nancy Leuenhagen.

Mr. Oxarart explained that the Regional Information Center (RIC) is the external term used to refer to as the group of communication professionals and in the true Incident Command Center structure the Joint Information Center (JIC) is the internal term most commonly used.

Mr. Oxarart listed the goals of the RIC and the members that made this possible including but not limited to the Washoe County, the cities of Reno and Sparks, and the Health District along with 22 additional stakeholders.

Mr. Oxarart acknowledged Adam Mayberry, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's Communications Manager for leading the JIC from March through May of 2020. Additionally, Mr. Oxarart spoke of all efforts put forth to communicating with the community including 93 media briefings and 458 press releases, all which were made available to the media in Spanish as well.

Mr. Oxarart highlighted the increase in subscribers to the newsletter from 5,000 to 30,000 subscribers within approximately 2 months. Mr. Oxarart also spoke about social media efforts via Twitter and a recently launched website, which contains a language selection capability. Mr. Oxarart acknowledged the collaboration of Joshua Andreasen, Matthew Brown, and Chad Brown on the creation of said website. Mr. Oxarart noted the importance of making all material and outreach available in Spanish, hence his collaboration with Coordinator Yvette Contreras from Hispanic Outreach, who collaborated with Mr. Oxarart in creating the [covid19washoe.com/español](https://www.covid19washoe.com/espa%C3%B1ol) site.

Mr. Oxarart briefly spoke about the Mask On Move On campaign and shared a video that was created by the RIC with KPS3's collaboration. Mr. Oxarart concluded his portion of this presentation by introducing Rebecca Venis, Director of Neighborhood Services for the City of Reno.

Ms. Venis began her participation by expressing her gratitude to the members of the RIC. Ms. Venis mentioned the RIC was one of the first communication teams in the State providing COVID information in Spanish and to those who are hearing impaired. She expressed her appreciation for this collaboration as it has improved and widened the reach of community-wide communications throughout the pandemic. Ms. Venis also shared her excitement in continuing to work with this team in other fields and projects.

Ms. Julie Duewel, City Sparks Community Relations Manager echoed the statements previously made and expressed her confidence in this team continuing to work together on other regional issues in the future.

Ms. Nancy Leuenhagen, Washoe County Communications Director added that this team's work continues with vaccine messaging and seeking funds to reach the vulnerable populations.

Ms. Leuenhagen believes that after this emergency is over this is the model to follow for future collaborations in combining the rest of the recurring communications regarding fires, floods, etc.

Mr. Oxarart concluded by informing that the Regional Twitter account and the newly created website will be kept in place and pivoted toward the upcoming needs. Mr. Oxarart thanked the Board for the opportunity to present this item. He also thanked District Health Officer and staff for their support. Mr. Oxarart opened his items for question from the Board.

Councilman Dahir acknowledge the good work of the presenting team as he feels it is important to have a concise message.

Chair Delgado thanked the team and echoed Ms. Leuenhagen's comment regarding this being an opportunity to find best practices in how to communicate with the communities that are served.

12. Recommendation for the reappointment of Nick Vestbie, P.E. and Matt Buehler as members of the Sewage, Wastewater and Sanitation Hearing Board (SWS Board) and reappoint Ray Pezonella, P.E. and Matt Smith as alternates to the SWS Board for a three-year term beginning April 25, 2021 and ending on April 24, 2024 and direction on how to proceed with public recruitment for all Washoe County Health District Appellate Board positions.

Staff Representative: David Kelly

Kevin Dick prefaced this item by stating that it was placed out of the consent agenda to allow for a broader discussion as the structure of the appellate boards has been a topic of interest to the District Board of Health.

The SWS Board has individuals that are willing to be reappointed as their terms are imminently expiring. Staff is seeking direction from the Board regarding reappointment, or otherwise provide direction as to how to proceed with this item and all items pertaining to the Food Protection Hearing and Advisory Board and Air Pollution Control Hearing Board.

David Kelly provided details regarding the seats available for reappointment within the SWS Board as well as their alternates. Mr. Kelly also presented the facts for his recommendation to reappoint the listed candidates based on their experience. Mr. Kelly made note that if the Board did not approve staff's recommendations the SWS Board will not have a quorum until a decision is made.

Chair Delgado noted he does not want to prolong developments as appeals come forward. However, he asked Mr. Kelly if the alternate positions are used often enough to merit an urgent decision.

Mr. Kelly responded that alternates are not used too often, as the attendance of all regular members is reliable.

Chair Delgado suggested perhaps reappointing the listed members and one alternate but also take measures to hold public recruitment for the open seats. He also suggested providing recruitment information via the Health District website with clear direction as to

the process. Additionally, Chair Delgado noted that in an effort to be transparent, the SWS Board site should contain the names of all members along with the beginning and end dates of their terms. In any event, it may be of benefit to keep a waiting list available for when these seats become open.

Councilman Dahir agreed with Chair Delgado's suggestion to recruit for the available seats on the SWS Board. Councilman Dahir also asked for confirmation as to the capability of the SWS Board to function if a decision was not made today on this item.

Mr. Kelly confirmed the SWS Board may continue to function, as he does not believe any cases will come in front of the SWS Board before the next District Board of Health meeting.

Councilman Dahir moved to continue this item to allow for public recruitment as well as implementing the same procedure to all the appellate boards under the Health District. Dr. Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

13. **Approve the Interlocal Contract between the State of Nevada, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Protection and the Washoe County Health District for the period upon Board of Examiners approval through June 30, 2023 in the total amount of \$250,000 (\$125,000 per fiscal year) in support of the Environmental Health Services Division (EHS) Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Program, IO 11593; and if approved, authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Agreement. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer

Kevin Dick opened this item by noting that it has been separated from the consent agenda in an effort to provide the Board with as much information as possible via a brief presentation, so that an informed decision can be made today.

Mr. Kelly briefly went over the Safe Drinking Water Contract. Mr. Kelly noted that the two changes made relate to compliance and review oversight for all surface water systems. This contract allows for these issues to be addressed by the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection as opposed to Washoe County Health District acting as the direct regulator of those systems. The second change relates to chemical data monitoring. This process will be delegated to Washoe County Health District for handling instead of the State.

Mr. Kelly reports that the existing interlocal agreement between Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, and Health District regarding surface water will have to be changed or abolished due to the changes in the new contract regarding surface water. The proposed changes will be brought forth to the Board of Health for approval.

Mr. Kelly opened his items for questions from the Board.

Councilman Dahir expressed his support on the proposed changes.

Councilman Dahir moved to approve Interlocal Contract between the State of Nevada, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Protection and the Washoe County Health District. Mike Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

14. Discussion and possible direction regarding legislative issues.

Staff Representative: Joelle Gutman-Dodson

Kevin Dick presented this item on behalf of Ms. Gutman-Dodson. He reported no direction from the Board is necessary at this time as there was not a lot to report.

Mr. Dick also reported the deadline for passage out of the first house occurred Tuesday, as a result the affordable housing bills that were in alignment with the Community Health Improvement Plan did not pass out of the first house and is no longer in play at the legislative session.

Councilman Dahir asked for a status regarding the bill that pertains to Air Quality with classic cars.

Mr. Dick reported the classic vehicle bill is still alive and it is exempt because it has an increase in the smog certificate fees attached to the bill, which means that in order to pass, it does need 2/3 vote to move forward.

15. Staff Reports and Program Updates

A. Air Quality Management, Francisco Vega, Division Director

Program Update - NV Quarterly EV Market Update, Clean Cars Nevada Listening Session, Michael S. Regan Sworn in as 16th EPA Administrator, American Rescue Plan Act and Environmental Funding, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

Mr. Vega open his item by stating to updates were available and continued to open his item for questions from the Board.

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

Divisional Update – National STD Awareness Month; 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, COVID-19 Vaccination.

Ms. Lottritz began her report by providing updates on the Family Planning Program’s recent federal Title X Virtual Audit and thanked all staff for their efforts. Mr. Lottritz acknowledged the work of the Homebound COVID Vaccine Team as they vaccinate at least 12 people 5 days a week.

Ms. Lottritz 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.

Erin Dixon highlighted the Samuel J. Crumbine Award. EHS is this year’s winner. This award is a consumer protection award for those that demonstrate unsurpassed achievements in providing outstanding food protection services to their community.

Ms. Dixon added that SB4 recently started their third round of inspections. She made note that Round 1 included 16 inspections and had 4 informal appeals, Round 2 included

17 inspections and had 3 informal appeals as well as 1 facility being fully compliant with all aspects of the SB4 requirements. She concluded by reporting that as of 12/31/2020 this program is considered an unfunded mandate.

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

Tom Young congratulated Ms. Dixon on her Division's award.

Chair Delgado resonated with Mr. Young's congratulatory message. He also added that he accompanied staff on a restaurant inspection and commended Ms. Wickman on her work.

Kevin Dick reiterated how prestigious the Crumbine award is as it is only presented to one local health department each year.

D. Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness, Dr. Nancy Diao, Division Director Communicable Disease, Public Health Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services, Vital Statistics.

Dr. Diao began her report by highlighting the silver lining of COVID measures. She reports that as a result of mask wearing and social distancing diseases transmitted through respiratory droplets have significantly decreased. Precautions put forth for COVID-19 have impacted positively on other diseases in the area.

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, Local Government Control Plan, Joint Information Center, Public Health Accreditation, Community Health Improvement Plan, Customer Service Survey, and Public Communications and Outreach.

Kevin Dick opened his item by providing an update on the COVID-19 response regarding the use of the Salesforce platform for scheduling and data collection. Mr. Dick also reported on the relocation of the POD to the southwest corner of the Reno-Sparks Livestock Event Center. Additionally, he reported a rise in COVID-19 case rate per 100,000 over a 30-day period at 305 up from 260 on March 21, 2021 which represents 17% increase over the last month. Mr. Dick reported that test positivity rate has risen from low 5% on March 14, 2021 to 7.2% currently. Mr. Dick reported that based on the levels of transmission occurring in Washoe County, the Washoe County has received a designation of elevated risk of community spread. Mr. Dick reported 112 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant in Washoe County. Mr. Dick reported that the samples collected by the Waste Water studies conducted by UNR show increasing levels of COVID-19. Mr. Dick provided an update on the vaccination efforts within Washoe County and highlighted that in order to be considered fully vaccinated individuals would have to allow for two weeks after their last dose of the vaccine.

Mr. Dick briefly spoke of the control plan that was developed and endorsed by the different entities before it went to BCC. Mr. Dick reports the BCC proposed changed to the presented plan. The plan proposed by the BCC was not endorsed the City of Reno, Washoe County School District or Health District. Washoe County requested to work with partners to develop a plan that was endorsed by all parties to submit to the Task Force. The entities worked together regionally to put a plan that could be presented to the Task Force.

Mr. Dick additionally reported that approval was received from the Public Health Accreditation Board for the annual maintenance report. Mr. Dick reported on the customer satisfaction survey results and highlighted that improvements have been made as it relates to internal communication and peer support over previous years, he took time to commend Scott Oxarart in facilitating communication both internally/externally.

Councilman Dahir commented on behalf of the City of Sparks as they supported moving forward and agree with the decision of the City of Sparks as he believes it is important to move forward as he want businesses to open. He thanked Health Officer Kevin Dick for communicating with the Board on all matters before correspondence goes out to the public.

Chair Delgado expressed his confidence in the Health Officer's decisions in relation to moving forward and putting together a solid plan to achieve moving forward.

16. Board Comment.

Dr. Novak expressed how proud he is of the Health District staff effort that goes into the POD operations.

Councilman Dahir reported he toured the POD operations, and he reiterates Dr. Novak's comments about the efficiency in which the team operates. He acknowledged the hard work of Jim English and his team including Dr. Novak.

Tom Young agreed with Councilman Dahir and Dr. Novak regarding staff's efficiency in their work but also encourage the Board to keep strong and encourage the public to get vaccinated.

17. Public Comment.

Chair Delgado opened the public comment period.

Ms. Alicia Ferraro began her public comment by commending the Board on their hard work. She also stated she wanted to be the voice for those who still have their children behind masks. She stated that as children are not being pushed to be vaccinated and considering the harm begin done to children, people are asking for the mask mandate for children should be lifted immediately especially outdoors.

Ms. Ferraro referenced articles and opinions of physicians and pediatricians as well as an article by Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, a Stamford professor, to state that masks do more harm than good. Ms. Ferraro believes mask wearing is the biggest point of contention within the population of Washoe County. Ms. Ferraro questions the qualifications of the Health Officer to warrant forcing children to be depleted of oxygen. Ms. Ferraro asked to see the scientific data that illustrates mandating masks on children is protecting them in any way in comparison to the harm they have suffered. She added she would like to see data to show how many children's lives were saved by wearing a mask in comparison to the health depravity they have suffered by the directives.

Ms. Ferraro opined that Washoe County will not meet the 50% that is required by May 1, 2021 in vaccinations. Ms. Ferraro stated she would like to speak with the Health Officer regarding her statements as she feels they're not working together. Ms. Ferraro expressed she feels as people are being told how to live their lives and are being held hostage with no

real results. She concluded her comment by reiterating that she would like to know where she can find the specific data that was used to make the decisions that are in place in Washoe County.

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

Adjournment.

Chair Delgado adjourned the meeting at 3:26 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.