



## **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, July 22, 2021  
1:00 p.m.**

**Washoe County Health District  
Commission Chambers, Building A  
1001 East Ninth Street  
Reno, NV**

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### **1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Chair Delgado called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.  
The following members and staff were present:  
Members present:

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

**Mrs. Valdespin verified a quorum was present.**

Staff present:

Kevin Dick, District Health Officer  
Dania Reid, Deputy District Attorney  
Jim English  
Brendan Schnieder  
Joelle Gutman-Dodson (via zoom)  
Dr. Nancy Diao  
Francisco Vega  
Erin Dixon  
Lisa Lottritz

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Jim English led the pledge to the flag.

### **3. Public Comment**

**Chair Delgado opened the public comment period.**

Ms. Valdespin call Ralph Coppola, as a registered public comment; however, Mr. Coppola was not available.

Ms. Katie Banuelos began her comment by asking the Board to refrain from taking similar action to that of Las Vegas regarding the institution of a new mask requirement for employees. She opined there is no need for further mandates. Ms. Banuelos asked the Board to put the level of risk locally into perspective, as she believes that even for those with pre-existing conditions the risk of death or hospitalization due to COVID is quite low. Ms. Banuelos opined that although the new variants are considered more transmissible there is no evidence that they are more deadly. Ms. Banuelos stated those that are concerned could protect themselves with the vaccine. Ms. Banuelos believes people have the tools and information they need to weigh their own risks and make decisions for themselves. Ms. Banuelos concluded by asking the Board to trust the people of Washoe County to make choices for themselves and their community.

Mr. Ian Gallagher stated he is concerned about adding additional mandates or further restriction on individuals in Nevada. He urged the Board to leave it up to the employers and individuals to decide how to protect themselves. Mr. Gallagher shared experiences from friends who have fainted due to the wearing masks under hot working conditions. He asked the Board to allow the individuals to decide how to protect themselves.

Ms. Katherine Pauly opined the issue of forcing vaccines on people in the State of Nevada is not a partisan issue, as it affects everyone. Ms. Pauly stated they know there is only a 1% morbidity rate for those who contract COVID-19 and almost 0% morbidity rate for those under the age of 30. Ms. Pauly opined these jabs were not tested on human beings and every animal test subject died during the studies. She believes the test subjects are now human beings who have allowed themselves to be injected with a gene altering mRNA toxin. Ms. Pauly opined that the fall season will be a dangerous time for many people, not due to Delta variant but rather ADE (Antibody Dependent Enhancement). Ms. Pauly continued to state that experts in epidemiology and infectious diseases are testifying that Delta variants are 1/10 as deadly as earlier variants of SARS-CoV-2 but are far more deadly to those that have been vaccinated due to ADE. Ms. Pauly continued to explain that the mRNA technology found in these jabs has been found to be permanently and irreversibly change the immune system by causing a spike protein response in the body which in turn forces the body into an auto-immune response. Mr. Pauly stated there is evidence that spike proteins pierce the blood brain barrier potentially causing neurological damage and causing issues with sterility. Ms. Pauly concluded by stating that Canada insurance companies have refused to insure aircrafts if their pilots have been vaccinated. She also stated that in Israel 40% of the people who have been reinfected with COVID have been vaccinated and those who previously had COVID but were not vaccinated is less than 1%. Ms. Pauly opines that the government and media driven censorship of this information may be viewed by future historians as one of the greatest mistakes of recorded human history and a crime against humanity. Mr. Pauly concluded by stating that they are here to stay and not going away, as this is a fight they will fight as long as they must.

Mr. Bruce Parks began his comment by stating he was there to give a lesson in civics. He referred to the constitution. Mr. Parks stated the constitution is the Supreme Law of the Land, but it doesn't appear to be. Mr. Parks stated a hamburger from McDonalds is attached to 40,000 different regulations put together by unelected bureaucrats that control every aspect of daily lives. He believes the federal registry is unacceptable. Mr. Parks continue to opine those unelected bureaucrats like those in the CDC flip and flop on the Wuhan virus issue. He doesn't believe that statistics can be trusted because they change almost daily. Mr. Parks referred to the World Health Organization as unelected bureaucrats telling people what to do. Mr. Parks continued to name some people that can be trusted: the Great Barrington

Declaration and America's Frontline Doctors Organization. Mr. Parks stated public safety is not the issue it is the money, as he feels the Board is afraid to upset the governor for fear that he will withhold money. Mr. Parks asked the Board to tell the governor the people do not need the money and will no longer follow the mandates.

Ms. Lorraine Dougherty addressed the governor's current state of emergency for the State of Nevada. Ms. Dougherty urged the Board to declare the state of emergency ended. She believes we are no longer in an emergency. Ms. Dougherty read the definition of a state emergency and feels this is no longer the case as well as it's not supported by the Washoe County Dashboard. Ms. Dougherty referred to the numbers in the Dashboard to state her opinion of the community's status as to the pandemic including the recovered numbers which she believes represents 96%. She opined this pandemic is much like the common cold, where people have it and some people are becoming immune. She concluded by urging the Board to end the state of emergency for Washoe County.

Mr. Nicholas St. John commented that while it sounds noble to protect people from the pathogen by mandating the wearing of masks, socially distancing, limiting the number of people in gatherings, and closing "non-essential" businesses in retrospect he feels that none of these protections did one thing to slow the spread. However, he feels it forced government overreach and invasion of the people's lives, property, and rights. Mr. St. John opined that for a disease that is less deadly than the seasonal flu and less contagious than the measles, the Board decided to go along with the governor and refused to protect the rights of the people. He continued to state that the science that has been ignored has showed that dozens of studies prior to 2020 proved that masks cannot keep a viral microbe, so small that would go through a mask, from infecting a person. He continued to refer to a study that showed that 85% of those infected wore their masks always or almost always, while 8% of those infected, never, or rarely wore their masks. Mr. St. John continued to refer to articles in the New York Post that spoke of alternative treatment for COVID namely high doses of vitamin C among others. Mr. St. John informed the people would hold this Board and the District accountable. He informed the Board is now on notice and the people are present to redress their grievances, as such he asked the Board must respond with the thoughts of the Board.

Ms. Cindy Martinez displayed images in Chambers, copies of which were placed on the record and began her comment by stating that she is asking for an end to the Public Health Emergency, no mandatory vaccinations, and a ban on vaccine passports. Ms. Martinez referred to a CDC's declaration to end reports on hospitalization of vaccinated persons but continue to report on hospitalizations for those who are not vaccinated in what she opined was advancing the narrative of this is a pandemic of the unvaccinated. Ms. Martinez commented that Pfizer is a sponsor of the American Academy of Pediatrics who wants to see children in mask, which she opined was a conflict of interest. She continued to speak about the vaccinated population of health care workers in Indonesia. Ms. Martinez also commented that the German pharmacies have stopped issuing COVID vaccine passes after a security breach. Ms. Martinez opines cyber security is also an issue of concern for the U.S. Ms. Martinez concluded by referring to a lawsuit from Tom Renz against the federal government based on a report from a CDC whistleblower regarding deaths after vaccination. Ms. Martinez asked the Board to access information outside of the CDC, Governor's Task Force, and the taskforce headed by the Health Officer.

Ms. Melanie Sutton asked the Board to end the Public Health Emergency. Ms. Sutton shared that she home-schools her children because she did not want to force them to wear masks, as she believes it's unconstitutional. Ms. Sutton reiterated she wants to end the Public Health

Emergency and get rid of the masks, as she opines, they do not help. Additionally, she asserted the vaccine is not a vaccine as it had not been approved by the FDA and continues to state she knew more people that have died from the vaccine than COVID. Ms. Sutton relayed her experience in having contact with a person that had COVID and stated she has not been sick and asked why if it's contagious she has not been infected. Ms. Sutton stated she has only worn a mask to play Commissioner Lucey's and the School Board's game. Ms. Sutton continued to speak of her continuous contact with the public without getting sick.

Mr. Donald Fossum began his comment by calling attention to his shirt "No more house arrest" and continued to state he has been everywhere including Trump rallies and other gathering without a mask. Mr. Fossum called attention to his age and states he has been healthy. He also referred to an article from CNN with a quote from the president where the president states "it's simple, we have a pandemic for those who haven't gotten a vaccination. It's that basic, it's that simple." Mr. Fossum concluded by asking the Board not to establish guidelines behind what the government is doing.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar displayed an image in Chambers. She discussed the everyday number of cases on the Dashboard. She noted that if she added all those numbers, there would be more new cases than people that live in Washoe County. She spoke about the COVID-19 vaccine and opined that it's an experimental bioweapon that is being tested on people. She believes COVID-19 is a lie. She spoke about the Chairman of the Commission when he was supporting hydroxychloroquine but was promised a job if he discontinued support, so he withdrew his support. She admitted to not wearing a mask, not isolating, and attending big crowds and has not been sick.

Ms. Erin Massengale asked the Board to agendize and pass a resolution to end the Public Health Emergency, ban vaccine passports, and discrimination based on vaccine status.

Mr. Kenji Otto said he reviewed the Board's qualifications and opined the only one qualified was the doctor. He asked for the Health Officer to be removed, as he opined the Health Officer is not qualified to do anything. He believes Nevada is being led by Marxists. Mr. Otto spoke about his monthly contact with the public and states he has not been sick. Mr. Otto spoke about his military medical experience.

Mr. Kenneth Coppola spoke about his exposure to the medical field and stated masks are worthless. He opines the only method that works is a quarantine. He asserted that this situation has only created misinformation, anxiety, fear, and depression. He further spoke about the invalidity of vaccine passports and asked the Board to end the Public Health Emergency.

**Having no additional public comment, Chair Delgado closed the public comment period.**

**4. Approval of Agenda.**

July 22, 2021

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

**5. Recognitions.**

**A. New Hires**

- i. Sahara Cruz, July 6, 2021, Office Assistant II - IZ – CCHS
- ii. Kaelyn York, July 6, 2021, Public Health Nurse I – CCHS
- iii. Jordan Petrilla, July 6, 2021, Public Health Nurse I – CCHS

iv. Ernesto Rodriguez, July 19, 2021, Office Assistant II – IZ- CCHS

Mr. Kevin Dick recognized all the new hires and invite Lisa Lottritz to welcome the new hires.

Ms. Lottritz briefly introduced the new hires and their new positions.

B. Years of Service

i. Amy Santos, 5 years, hired July 11, 2016 – EHS

Mr. Dick recognized Ms. Santos for her years of service.

C. Transfers

i. Kaleigh Behrendt, transfer to Public Health Nurse II from Nursing Supervisor in Senior Services effective June 7, 2021 – CCHS

Ms. Kevin Dick recognized Ms. Behrendt on her transfer to the Health District.

D. Promotions

i. Mike White, from CCHS Storekeeper to COVID Office Support Specialist effective June 28, 2021– COVID EPHP

ii. Joseph Crump, from Intermittent Hourly Public Health Nurse to Public Health Nurse I, effective July 6, 2021 – CCHS

iii. Nicole Alberti, promoted from Health Educator II to Health Educator Coordinator, effective July 6, 2021 – CCHS

Mr. Kevin Dick acknowledged Mr. White as the OSS with COVID and acknowledged his great work as a Storekeeper.

Mr. Dick recognized Mr. Crump’s promotion into CCHS as a Public Health Nurse I.

Mr. Dick acknowledged Ms. Alberti for her promotion.

E. Special Recognitions

i. Jim English, Advanced Leadership Academy - UNR

ii. Nicole Alberti, Advanced Leadership Academy – UNR

Mr. Kevin Dick recognized Mr. English and Ms. Alberti for their achievement with UNR to develop his leadership.

F. Recognition of County Staff Providing Critical Support for the Health District COVID-19 Response

i. Dan Cahalane, Planner, CSD

ii. Denise Evans, Volunteer Coordinator, CSD

iii. David Gonzales, Equipment Services Superintendent, CSD

iv. Dylan Menes, Sr. Engineer, CSD

v. Aaron Smith, Business Intelligence Program Manager, CSD

vi. Sarah Tone, Business Facilitator, CSD

vii. Shane Weckerly, Recreation Coordinator, CSD

viii. Kristy Lide, Curator, CSD

ix. Samantha Pierce, Internal Auditor, County Manager’s Office

Mr. Kevin Dick asked Mr. Jim English to recognize County staff who have provided critical support for the COVID-19 Response Operations.

Mr. English briefly spoke about the roles the listed County Staff executed as a response to a call for additional resources, which included staff to work in areas that were unfamiliar these staff members. He also spoke about the time these employees spent supporting the COVID Response.

Mr. English presented all nine employees with challenge coins as a token of the Health District's appreciation.

Chair Delgado congratulated everyone for either joining the team or being recognized for their hard work on behalf of the County.

## 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. June 24, 2021

### B. Budget Amendments/Interlocal Agreements

- i. Approve an Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County Health District (District) and Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine (School) to provide services associated with detection and description of populational and environmental public health threats, retroactive to July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 unless extended by the mutual agreement of the Parties, with automatic renewal of two successive one-year periods for a total of 3 years unless previously terminated pursuant to other provisions of this Agreement.  
Staff Representative: Lisa Lottritz
- ii. Authorize FY22 Purchase Order to Merck Sharp & Dohme Corporation in the amount of \$150,000.00 to purchase vaccines for the Immunization and Family Planning Programs.  
Staff Representative: Kim Graham and Katherine Sobrio
- iii. Approve a Grant Award and Agreement from Nevada Clinical Services, Inc. retroactive to July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, in the total amount of \$132,000.00 (no match required) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division's Tobacco Control Program IO# 29024; and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Agreement and any future amendments.  
Staff Representative: Kim Graham and Kelli Goatley-Seals
- iv. Approve a Subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Grants Management Unit retroactive to July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023 in the total amount of \$626,822.00 (no required match) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Family Planning Program IO# 11855 and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Subaward and any future amendments.  
Staff Representative: Kim Graham and Kelly Verling
- v. Approve the additional provisions outlined in the Addendum #1 to Interlocal Agreement No. 2100872 between the District Board of Health and the Board of Regents, NSHE on behalf of the University of Nevada Reno Public Health Training Center to provide a team of employees to assist in the Health District's COVID response for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, and authorize the District Health Officer to execute any additional addendums.  
Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer and Heather Kerwin
- vi. Approve a Notice of Subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health in the total amount of \$948,213.00 (\$94,821.30 cash match) retroactive to July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public



Health Preparedness Program (PHP) and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward, any future amendments and MOU agreements with partnering agencies.

Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer

- vii. Approve the Grant Agreement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the amount of \$707,547.00 retroactive to October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021 for the Air Quality Management, EPA Air Pollution Control Program, IO# 11755 and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Agreement.

Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer and Francisco Vega

C. Recommendation to Uphold Citations Not Appealed to the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board.

- i. Preston Homes – Case No. 1252, NOV AQMV21-0031
- ii. Abbet Enterprises – Case No. 1253, NOV AQMV21-0033
- iii. Ryder NV Management, LLC – Case No 1260, NOV AQMV21-0029
- iv. DWF V Summit Club Holdings, LLC – Case No. 1263, NOV AQMV21-0036
- v. Tanamera Construction, LLC – Case No. 1298, NOV AQMV21-0027
- vi. Aspen Developers – Case No. 1299, NOV AQMV21-0026

Staff Representative: Joshua Restori

D. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for June, Fiscal Year 2021.  
Staff Representative: Anna Heenan

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

**7. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority**

**A. Review and Acceptance of the REMSA Operations Report for June 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.

**Vice-chair Lucey moved to approve REMSA’s June 2021 Report. Dr. Reka Danko seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**B. Update of REMSA’s Public Relations during June 2021.**

Presented by: Alexia Jobson

Alexia Jobson presented the Public Relations report for June 2021.

Ms. Jobson provided updates since the writing of her report. REMSA Health hosted a media event to encourage “water watcher” be designated to actively watch children near a body of water to prevent accidental drownings, which included a mock drowning scenario response.

Ms. Jobson reported REMSA Health sent a delegation of 10 people to the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch Navigator Conference in Las Vegas, in which they earned continuing education credits.

Ms. Jobson concluded her report by informing that REMSA Health’s Regional Emergency Communications Center was recognized for its 20 continuous years as an accredited Center of Excellence. Additionally, Ms. Jobson reported Mr. Adam Heinz was installed as a member of the Board of Accreditation.

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

**C. Discussion and possible approval of the revisions to the REMSA Exemption**

**Guidelines Letter to better define exemptions related to construction, hospital evacuations and criteria for declared emergency exemptions.**

Presented by: Aaron Abbott

Mr. Aaron Abbott began his presentation by reporting that the item was intended to add amended language to the REMSA Late Call Exemption Criteria that is authorized by the District Health Officer. He briefly outlined the process that led to the proposed revisions and listed the revisions for the Board.

Mr. Abbott continued to report that this item is proposed to clean some of the responses up and grant those authorities to the District Health Officer.

Mr. Abbot opened his item for questions from the Board.

Chair Delgado asked if these changes were presented to the EMS Advisory Board.

Mr. Abbott clarified that REMSA Health worked with the EMS Oversight Committee to create the proposed revisions.

Chair asked if the EMS Oversight Committee had the opportunity to review the presented information and provide recommendations.

Mr. Abbott confirmed the Committee recommended to take these revisions to the District Health Officer.

Chair clarified he was interested in knowing if the EMS Advisory Board had reviewed the proposed revisions.

Mr. Abbott reports EMSAB has not had the opportunity to review the proposed changes.

Chair Delgado asserted he would like to hear from the EMS Advisory Board in terms of their feedback on changes that may impact the different jurisdictions.

Mr. Abbott complied and stated they would take the proposed changes to EMS Advisory Board.

Chair Delgado reiterated the importance of all entities to be apprised of the revisions and obtain input.

Councilman Dahir asked that these types of requests be brought forth to EMSAB, as he opined communication is not where it needs to be. He also asked Health Officer Dick to bring these types of requests to the Board with suggestions from EMSAB, even if it's not a requirement of the official bylaws.

Mr. Young agreed with the opinion that the Advisory Board needs to be brought onboard on all these issues. Additionally, he asked if the Status 99 delays have improved.

Mr. Abbott stated they are not improving and are getting worse.

Mr. Councilman asked Mr. Abbott to expand on his response.

Mr. Abbott explained the long-term impact of COVID will not be alleviated for some time. Health Care networks have seen a dramatic shift in staffing and increases in attrition, which poses a challenge for hospital partners. He added they are seeing unprecedented call volumes at REMSA and high 911 utilization rate.

**Councilman Dahir moved to postpone this item to allow REMSA to address the item with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, prior to obtaining Board approval. Dr. John Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**D. Discussion and possible approval of the recommended Consultant Fitch & Associates to prepare a market survey study report.**

Presented by: Aaron Abbott



Mr. Aaron Abbott informed the Board REMSA is attempting to satisfy the requirement of the franchise to retain a consultancy firm to do a 7-year market study. Mr. Abbot spoke briefly about the recommended consultant and their qualifications.

Councilman Dahir asked what the following steps are after the 7-year market study.

Mr. Abbott briefly described the process that is followed in compliance with the franchise.

Chair Delgado asked about the costs.

Mr. Abbott clarified that REMSA covers these costs, so there is no charge to the Health District.

**Commissioner Lucey moved to approve the recommended Consultant Fitch & Associates to prepare a market survey study report. Dr. Reka Danko seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**8. PUBLIC HEARING for review, discussion, and possible adoption of the proposed revisions to the District Board of Health Regulations Governing Air Quality Management, Section 050.001 - Emergency Episode Plan.**

Staff Representative: Brendan Schnieder

**Chair Delgado called the Public Hearing to order.**

Mr. Brendan Schnieder began his presentation by providing a brief description for the purpose of this item as well as a description of all revisions. Mr. Schnieder included a list of steps taken to discuss the impact to business.

Mr. Schnieder opened his item for questions from the Board.

Councilman Dahir asked that a provision be added to allow the Board to revisit these regulations if needed.

Mr. Kevin Dick reported that for this Emergency Episode Plan the emergency is determined by the air pollution reading from Air Quality Monitoring Network. The Emergency would only be while those air quality concentrations were occurring.

**Dr. John Novak moved to adopt the proposed revisions to the District Board of Health Regulations Governing Air Quality Management, Section 050.001 - Emergency Episode Plan. Councilman Dahir seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**Chair Delgado closed the Public Hearing.**

**9. Recommendation and possible adoption of the July 21, 2020, Washoe County Public Records Request Policy.**

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

Health Officer Kevin Dick provided a brief explanation for the purpose of this item. Health Officer reported the policy presented to this Board reflects the policy passed and approved by the County Commission in July 2020, which incorporated revisions that were made into the NRS regarding public records in 2019.

**Councilman Dahir moved to adopt of the July 21, 2020, Washoe County Public Records Request Policy. Commissioner Lucey seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**10. Recommendation to Approve the delay of Community and Clinical Health Services (CCHS) scheduled fee revision analysis until September 2022, and possible adoption of the new fees to January 2024.**

Staff Representative: Lisa Lottritz

Ms. Lisa Lottritz provided the Board with a brief description of her item and the reason behind the request, which included a requirement for a yearlong time study. Ms. Lottritz reports that CCHS is nowhere near daily normal operations, as such a study of current operations would not be a good identification of normal operations.

Councilman Dahir voiced concern over the increase in fees once the delay is remanded.

Ms. Lottritz reported that part of their fee analysis is looking at like-clinics in the area to determine increases in fees.

Health Officer Dick further confirmed that the fees collected by CCHS have the Western Medical CPI incorporated in them to keep pace with inflation, in an effort to prevent a big adjustment.

**Dr. Reka Danko moved to approve the delay of Community and Clinical Health Services (CCHS) scheduled fee revision analysis until September 2022, and possible adoption of the new fees to January 2024. Tom Young seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**11. Presentation, discussion and possible adoption of revised Bylaws, and Rules, Policies and Procedures, to include additions, deletions or changes as requested by the Board.**

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

Health Officer, Kevin Dick provided an explanation for bringing this item to the Board. Board members were concerned with attendance policies/rules regarding DBOH meetings. Mr. Dick informed the Board that the additions to the current bylaws, and rules, policies, and procedures clarify the importance of attendance as well as formalizing attendance expectations and notifications of absenteeism.

Chair Delgado asked if there were further requests outside of the stated revisions.

Mr. Dick invited further changes if deemed necessary.

Vice-chair Lucey voiced some concerns with the language regarding the number of missed meetings as Board members do not have alternates. He asked that if this item moves forward, that members be allowed to have representatives to sub-in when member have scheduling challenges.

Councilman Dahir opined that a representative would be beneficial as he would like for Sparks to be represented in the event he must be absent.

Commissioner Lucey opined the item is too broad and suggested representatives be assigned for members with a waiver for the doctor seat.

Mr. Dick informed the Board that the District Board of Health composition is determined under NRS 439, which does not call for alternate members. He additionally clarified that bringing the item to the Board for discussion after 3 absences is not an automatic action.

Commissioner Lucey clarified that he understands NRS 439 to dictate size.

Chair Delgado suggested to adopt what was presented today and have the item return to the Board with further explanation with respect to membership to this Board. Additionally, Chair made note that 3 meetings of the year is a quarter of the year to have non-representation from a jurisdiction, which he believes is inappropriate. He further commented that the jurisdictions are entitled to be aware that their members are not attending.

Mr. Dick clarified that it would be more than 3 missed meetings, which would represent a

third of the meetings within a year.

Dr. Novak agreed with Chair that this is not meant to be disciplinary, it would just reinforce that being a member of this Board is an important position that requires consistent participation.

Councilman Dahir opined that his appointment came from his city, thus, he does not believe this Board is within its jurisdiction to decide a member should not be a member of this Board.

Chair Delgado pointed to the bylaws, Item 4.4.b. as it states this addition allows for a discussion for possible action by the Board to consider a request to the appointing Body to replace a member due to a lack of attendance.

Commissioner Lucey asked the verbiage of the addendum reflect a notice be sent to the appointing Body and not a letter requesting to replace a member. He opined that membership to this Board is a representation of the people.

Councilman Dahir agreed.

Chair Delgado reiterated that representation of the people is important via attendance.

**Commissioner Lucey moved to adoption of revised Bylaws, and Rules, Policies and Procedures, to include additions, deletions or changes as requested by the Board and allow Counsel to bring forth issues regarding potential alternates and members. Dr. John Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**12. Review, discussion and direction to staff regarding the provisions of the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) entered into by the Cities of Reno and Sparks and Washoe County for the creation of the Health District. Take action to accept the ILA in its current form *or* direct staff to forward any recommendations for possible amendments to Reno, Sparks and Washoe County.**

Presented by: Dania Reid, Deputy District Attorney

Deputy District Attorney, Dania Reid provided a brief explanation of her item, including the requirement of this Board to engage on an annual review of the agreement. Ms. Reid defined the roles to be played by the Board as to revisions whether it is approving the agreement as it exists or formulate recommendations that staff will forward to the three jurisdictions for their consideration. Ms. Reid reminded the Board that any revisions to the agreement must be complete 90-days before it's anniversary date.

Commissioner Lucey reference the January 2020 concurrent meeting as to recommendations to revise the agreement. He shared the recommendation brought forth for the County Commission to include changing the name of the Washoe County Health District, the membership arrangement to include two elected members and add three members to include the physician seat, local industry seat, and at-large public seat, amending the appellate process, and the requirement of Health District Officer be that of a medical professional.

Councilman Dahir agrees with expanding the elected officials, as he opined that when decisions made were not communicated effectively. He stated he is in a place to represent the City of Sparks for Health decisions, businesses, constructions, and other components.

Councilman Dahir also agreed regarding the name change. Additionally, he confirmed changing the requirements of the Health District Officer does not mean replacement of the current Health Officer, but rather future recruitments.

Tom Young commented that this department operates much like a business, so it needs someone that understands budget, personnel, public relations, and complex operations. He

opined the best person for the job is the best person for the job and it might not be someone with a medical degree as other operations take place within the Health District.

Commissioner Lucey opined that while he agrees that the Health Officer handles other matters in his role, there are hospitals who employ individuals that handle both the business and the health portion of the job. Commissioner Lucey stated that they are a policy board and provide overall direction and not to try to tell the Health Officer or any other staff how to perform their duties. Mr. Lucey opined that elected officials are purely representatives of policy direction. He also opined that the accountability that comes from an elected seat calls for more elected officials to be members of this Board. He stated he is looking for something similar to what Clark County is doing with Southern Nevada Health District.

Chair Delgado supported the name change and reported funds have been set aside to support that decision. In reference to clarifying the appeal process, he opined this was achieved. Chair Delgado expressed appreciation for the communications aspect, which was a heavy part associated with the concurrent meeting.

Chair Delgado expressed appreciation for this Body not consisting of more elected officials and more so the community, as he opined it takes the politics out of the operations. He also expressed that the non-elected members of the Board are not as heavily influenced as their names are not on a ballot during elections. Additionally, Chair Delgado referred to boards around the community that are not composed of only elected officials which he opined helps in taking the politics out. Chair Delgado also responded to the comparison of this Board with the Board of Southern Nevada, to which he opined is not a fair comparison as Clark County is much larger than Washoe County. Chair Delgado spoke as to the qualifications of the Health Officer. He opined this issue can be discussed at the time of his evaluation and further stated he feels discussing it mid-year is unfair and ahead of its time.

Councilman Dahir stated he needed an end result, as he does not want anything to be done or said that has his name and his city's name on it that is not something he would say or do.

Chair Delgado reiterated that some of the issues with the meeting expectations is the open meeting law. He also confirmed the Health Officer consults with Chair about any decision, so the Health Officer is not acting on his own. He asked the Board to have confidence and belief with the performance of the Health Officer to allow him to do his job. Chair also highlighted the Health Officer's efforts to have open communication with the rest of the Board, by setting regular meetings with all the members of the Board.

Dr. John Novak showed appreciation for the chair's comments and expressed agreement based on his experience as chair. Dr. Novak opined about an absolute requirement that the Health Officer must be a physician. He stated he knows there are physicians around the country that hold the Health Officer's position, but it doesn't make them qualified due to a medical degree. He asserted that he did not want to see the said requirement as part of the policy.

Commissioner Lucey stated that he would contend that if tax dollars pay for the majority of the Health District's budget this Board needs more elected official representation. He concluded by stating that it is his duty to bring this assertion forward as a liaison from the Board of County Commissioners.

Chair Delgado noted that around the country Health Officers are resigning due to the political pressures as well as political oppositions and distress. He concluded that allowing professionals to do their job. He respectfully opined, contrary to Vice-chair's opinion, that

non-elected members were just as responsive to the community.

Councilman Dahir stated that he serves in over 20 boards and opined this is the only Board that creates the communication problems he has had. He stated that while he appreciates the media wants things right away, however, he opines the Board works on their own timeline.

Chair Delgado asked guidance regarding the name change motion, as to whether it would necessitate a change in the Interlocal Agreement.

Deputy District Attorney, Dania Reid affirmed that any changes that would relate to the composition governance would require a change to the Interlocal Agreement. DDA Reid continued to provide instruction on how to move forward with a motion. DDA Reid also asserted that the 3 jurisdictions can act on their own.

Vice-chair made a motion to direct the Health Officer to meet with cities and county managers and take recommendations to build a plan on revisions to the Interlocal Agreement and for further discussion with this Board and the 3 entities, which include name change, membership arrangement, and all that was discussed today and follow up with the Board to find reasonable amendments based on the discussion.

Councilman Dahir stated he would second the motion; however, he added that he would like the Board to have a vote on this action.

Chair Delgado confirmed Vice-chair's motion which included changing the required qualification for the Health Officer and continued to assert he would not approve or vote yes on said motion.

Tom Young agreed that the name change is a positive change; however, he feels tabling this item to address the two other recommendations would be prudent.

Chair Delgado asked DDA Reid to bring back information as to Board members according to NRS and open a membership discussion.

Dr. Novak asked if a workshop can be facilitated to discuss these recommendations more in detail. He also asserted that he would vote no to the proposed recommendation.

Commissioner Lucey recommended Health Officer meet with the managers and discuss today's meeting and follow up with this Board at the next scheduled meeting for ratification.

DDA Reid reiterated the Interlocal Agreement requires that any amendments be effectuated 90-days before the anniversary date of the agreement which is January 1, 2022. Any amendment or revision to the Interlocal Agreement would have to be approved and effectuated by no later than October 1, 2021.

**Councilman Dahir moved to direct staff regarding a name change to the Washoe County Health District. Commissioner Lucey seconded that motion which was approved unanimously.**

**Councilman Dahir moved to table this item to allow Health Officer, Kevin Dick to discuss the content of this meeting with Reno, Sparks and Washoe County regarding amendments to the Interlocal Agreement. Commissioner Lucey seconded that motion which was approved unanimously.**

Mr. Kenji Otto asked Chair Delgado to speak up and Dr. Novak to turn on his microphone when speaking to avoid violation of open meeting laws. Mr. Otto spoke about his experience with doctors who ran large medical units using people like Mr. Otto to handle equipment tracking and budgets. Mr. Otto stated the public does not have confidence in this Board. In

conclusion he stated a doctor can run an office. Mr. Otto agreed with Commissioner Lucey and Councilman Dahir regarding the changes in the system.

Ms. Cindy Martinez thanked Councilman Dahir for representing the spirit and independence of Sparks. Ms. Martinez also thanked Commissioner Lucey for his comments. Ms. Martinez made references to the pneumonia cases, and she opined that history would sort out where the missteps were made. She expressed disappointment with the Health Officer's inability to make medical decisions that have affected the civil liberties of the citizens of Washoe County. Ms. Martinez stated she felt that there is no accountability to the people. Additionally, she expressed that she's unsure as to the expansion of the Board, unless expanding means being more accountable. Ms. Martinez expressed her strong feelings about the medical qualification the Health Officer should have.

**13. Washoe County Health District Government Affairs Update.**

Staff Representative: Joelle Gutman-Dodson

Ms. Joelle Gutman-Dodson began her update by providing a list of all the bills that the Health District was involved in. She continued by providing details of specific bills that directly affect the roles of the Health District including Senate Bills 424, 209, 460, 341, and 69.

Ms. Gutman-Olson opened this item for questions from the Board.

Vice-chair Lucey thanked Ms. Gutman-Dodson for her report and work with the legislation. He also asked if there have been discussions regarding changes to SB4.

Ms. Gutman-Dodson confirmed the bill was discussed and there was a bill related to SB4 but it did not go to the extent the casinos and the Health District would have hoped; however, SB386 revised some of the parts of SB4, such as removing language regarding regulating cleaning products. Ms. Gutman-Dodson reported these changes were effective July 1, 2021, and it expires when the Governor terminated the Emergency Directive or 8/31/2022.

Vice-chair asked for clarification of the expiration date.

Health Officer stated his understanding was the provisions set on SB386 would terminate and not the bill in its entirety. He also clarified that SB4 in its entirety would cease once the Governor ends the Declaration of Emergency.

**14. Staff Reports and Program Updates**

**A. Air Quality Management, Francisco Vega, Division Director**

Program Update - Clean Cars Nevada Webinar, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Gets \$15 Billion, Electrification of Medium and Heavy-Duty (MHD) Vehicles, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

Mr. Vega open his item by informing the Board he did not have anything additional to add to his submitted report.

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

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

Divisional Update – CCHS Leadership Changes, 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 Vaccinations.

Ms. Lottritz began her report by highlighting the Family Health Festival and their participation in the event. She also reported her division will be holding back-to-school



clinics. Ms. Lottritz added that the WIC's federal waiver was extended to November 16, which allows for remote visits.

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

Councilman Dahir asked if he can receive notification on events via email.

Chair Delgado acknowledged and thanked the non-profits that participate in these events.

**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 that the EHS Epi Team temporarily closed a childcare due to the inability of the facility to control an outbreak. Enforcement and education were provided to assist the childcare. Additionally, she reported a food facility was charged with a validated complaint fee. She concluded by informing the Board of the latest aerial treatment and the food program has received the physical Crumbine Award.

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

Chair Delgado spoke of his experience with the EHS Division as they inspected the Traner Pool.

**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 highlighting that the Hospital Preparedness Program participated in the Reno Rising 2021 Tabletop Exercise that was hosted by the VA. Dr. Diao reported that outside of COVID the largest outbreak being tracked is RSV with 3 open outbreaks in daycare settings.

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, Joint Information Center, Public Health Accreditation, Community Health Improvement Plan, Strategic Planning, Workforce Development, NACCHO 360, and Public Communications and Outreach.

Health Officer, Kevin Dick opened his item by providing an update on the COVID-19 response. Mr. Dick reported the Health District continues to see increases in new cases daily reporting 51 new cases for today, bringing the 7-day average to 45 new cases per day which represents a 142% increase over the past 14-days. Additionally, Mr. Dick reported on hospitalization at the request of the public. He reported 39 hospitalizations in Washoe County, which is a 77% increase from June 22, 2021. He provided a brief comparison to Clark County, with Clark County reporting higher numbers in hospitalizations.

Mr. Dick reported status on vaccination efforts, with an increase in people seeking initial vaccination. He also reported that under the State's County Tracker Program Washoe County is flagged for having less than 100 tests per day per 100,000, however, he reported that due to the increase in cases the Health District is seeing an increase in people that are being tested. Mr. Dick reported that in Nevada, 9 out of 17 counties are flagged for elevated disease transmission.

Mr. Dick provided some clarification based on some of the comments received today. Mr. Dick reported the Health District does track breakthrough cases that are hospitalized; however, the Health District does not track every single person that has been vaccinated and ends up in the hospital as people get hospitalized for various reasons. He continued to report the number of Delta variant cases and deaths and asserted the vaccine is the best approach to move forward out of the pandemic.

Mr. Dick also clarified the Washoe County Health District doesn't have any mandates in place as far as the response to COVID-19. The State through the Governor's directive does have a mandate for mask wearing of unvaccinated individuals when indoors. He continued to assert the Health District does not declare a State of Emergency, under state law Public Health Emergencies are declared based on a recommendation from the Chief Medical Officer for the State to the Governor. Also, he informed the Health District does not play a role in making decisions for the types of treatments provided by medical providers and throughout the community. Additionally, he clarified the numbers being reported that were referred to by a commenter that add up to more than the population of Washoe County are statewide numbers.

Mr. Dick opened his item for questions from the Board.

Councilman Dahir asked if flu shots can be administered along with other vaccinations.

Mr. Dick informed flu shots have not been planned yet; however, agreed that concurrently vaccinating is a good idea.

Ms. Cindy Martinez referred to a door knock flyer for the vaccination lottery. Ms. Martinez feels its unconscionable. Ms. Martinez showed concern for what this act would mean for the future. Ms. Martinez made note of the Health Officer's report and asked Dr. Reka Danko to address the concerns of the citizens. Ms. Martinez asserted the information about prevention is not readily available.

**15. Board Comment.**

Councilman Dahir asked if more information can be provided regarding hospitals, as he would like to understand it better.

Chair Delgado thanked District Health Office, Kevin Dick, and his staff for their hard work, and continued to clarify that the District Health Officer has a team of professionals that surround him, and this team speaks through him to the rest of the County. He continued to assert that although often compared to Clark County the two counties are very different. Chair Delgado encouraged the community to acknowledge the work that has been done around the Washoe County to prevent situations like those in Clark County and others in the nation, and further encouraged the community to take the opportunity to continue to work together.

**16. Public Comment.**

**Chair Delgado opened the public comment period.**

**Ms. Valdespin called Mr. Kenji Otto.**

Mr. Kenji Otto opined social media is not an official communication mechanism of any government agency. He stated the County website should be used to post official information. He asserted employers should not have to pay employees to get vaccinated. Mr. Otto concluded that Health District staff should be trained on trespassing law, he asserted he will take legal action against the County, if staff come to his property.

## Adjournment.

### Chair Delgado adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

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**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. 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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. 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.