



Washoe County District Board of Health Virtual Meeting Minutes

Members

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

Thursday, January 27, 2022

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 1:05 p.m.

The following members and staff were present:

Members present: Oscar Delgado, Chair
Robert Lucey, Vice Chair
Michael Brown
Kristopher Dahir
Dr. Reka Danko (logged in at 1:10 p.m.)
Dr. John Novak (excused at 3:11 p.m.)
Dr. John Klacking

Mrs. Valdespin verified a quorum was present.

Staff present:

Kevin Dick, District Health Officer
Francisco Vega
Dr. Nancy Diao
Erin Dixon
Lisa Lottritz

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. John Novak led the pledge to the flag.

3. Approval of Agenda.

January 27, 2022

Michael Brown moved to approve the agenda for the January 27, 2022, District Board of Health regular meeting. Councilman Dahir seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

4. Recognitions.

A. Years of Service

- i. Rebecca Gonzales, 20 years, hired January 28, 2002 - CCHS
- ii. Kristen Palmer, 20 years, hired January 28, 2002 - AHS
- iii. Nicole Alberti-Sooudi, 15 years, hired February 9, 2006 - CCHS

- iv. Byron Collins, 15 years, hired January 8, 2007 - EHS
- v. Michael White, 5 years, hired January 30, 2017 - EHS

Health Officer, Kevin Dick acknowledged all employees with years of service milestones. He continued to thank and congratulate all employees for their years of service.

B. New Hires

- i. Amanda Santos, January 3, 2022, Health Educator II - CCHS
- ii. Jessica Gearhart, January 3, 2022, Environmental Health Specialist Trainee - EHS
- iii. Bailey Taber, January 3, 2022, Environmental Health Specialist Trainee - EHS
- iv. Ashley Humes, January 18, 2022, Health Investigator I - CCHS

Health Officer, Kevin Dick introduced Ms. Taber and Ms. Gearhart as the new EHS team members and briefly shared their background and education.

Mr. Dick also welcomed Ms. Humes and Ms. Santos as the new CCHS team members and also briefly shared their expertise and education.

Mr. Dick congratulated all new hires and welcomed them to the Health District.

C. Promotions

- i. Rayon LaVoie, Health Educator II to Management Analyst, effective December 9, 2021 – ODHO
- ii. Susy Valdespin, Administrative Secretary to Administrative Assistant I, effective December 9, 2021 – ODHO

Mr. Dick recognized and congratulated Ms. LaVoie and Ms. Valdespin for their recent promotions.

D. Retirements

- i. Kim Tran Franchi, Environmental Health Specialist, effective December 21, 2021 - EHS
- ii. Jeffrey Brasel, Sr. Environmental Health Specialist, effective January 31, 2022 - EHS
- iii. Isabel Chaidez, Community Health Aide, effective January 28, 2022 - CCHS

Mr. Dick recognized and congratulated Ms. Franchi for 15 years of service to the Health District.

Mr. Dick also recognized Mr. Brasel on his recent retirement.

Additionally, Mr. Dick expressed his appreciation and congratulated Ms. Chaidez on her retirement, after 26 years of service as a Community Health Aide in CCHS.

E. Special Recognitions

- i. Diana Karlicek, Organizer of the Health District Adopt-a-Family Campaign
- ii. Kevin Dick, Administrator of the Year Award, Human Services Network
- iii. Julia Ratti, Mike O’Callaghan Humanitarian Award, Human Services Network

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, recognized Ms. Karlicek for organizing the Adopt-a-Family event. Mr. Dick reported Ms. Karlicek’s success on this campaign, helping 3 families with a total of 14 people. Mr. Dick recognized Ms. Karlicek as the holiday angel and expressed his appreciation for all her efforts.

Additionally, he briefly spoke about his recent Administrator of the Year Award as well as Mr. Ratti's Humanitarian Award from Human Services Network. He added that Ms. Ratti's award is often viewed as a lifetime achievement award and that he was grateful that the presenters noted that Ms. Ratti is not done yet.

Chair Delgado congratulated everyone on their recognitions and thanked all their hard work and welcomed all the new employees to the Health District.

Councilman Dahir welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation for the work that has been done.

5. Public Comment.

Chair Delgado opened the public comment period.

Ms. Valdespin began by calling Nicholas St. John.

Mr. Nicholas St. John began his comment by appreciating the recognitions of all employees, he added he would like Mr. Dick to resign. He continued to request that vaccination for those ages 5-20 be terminated, as he opined the CDC considered this group as one without a threat in spreading COVID-19. Mr. St. John provided a list of therapeutics that he opined should be promoted and used to treat COVID-19 patients. He added that if patients request these treatments, such treatments should not be denied. Mr. St. John asked the board to provide studies that proved masks can prevent airborne respiratory illnesses, otherwise, cease and desist in suggesting or mandating mask requirements for children and adults.

Ms. Cindy Martinez concurred with Mr. Nicholas St. John. Ms. Martinez opined health restrictions are being lifted around the world and some countries are declaring the coronavirus infection to be endemic and on par with the seasonal flu. She further opined this Board is complicit in the mismanagement of the response to COVID-19. She continued to note Health Officer asserted the county had "Comirnaty in its freezers" but stated that she confirmed such vaccine is not available in the United States. She added that continued use of the Emergency Use Administration of Pfizer is immoral, unethical, and criminal. She requested the emergency be ended and the Health Officer be replaced.

Mr. Peter Krueger began to comment on last month's item regarding Underground Storage Tanks (UST). Mr. Krueger asserted that while the industry understands the UST Program cannot operate at a loss, the industry opines that going from zero dollars to \$875 will be a hardship on some of the industry's smaller members. Mr. Krueger commented that the hearing process is unfair, as staff is provided with unlimited time to present the item while members only get 3-5 minutes.

Ms. Val White began her comment by sharing her thoughts on the Health Officer's recent Administrator of the Year Award. She continued to opine the COVID-19 mandates and recommendations need to be removed and questioned this board's credibility. Ms. White opined the mandates and recommendations made based on the data from the CDC are the epitome of ignorance and corruption.

Ms. Valdespin stated for the record public comment received via email from Stacey Piro and Darla Lee.

6. COVID-19 Update & Information.

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

Board Representative: Dr. Reka Danko

Health Officer, Kevin Dick opened this item by stating that the Health District and the District Board of Health (DBOH) do not have mandates regarding vaccinations or mask wearing. Additionally, the DBOH and the Health District do not have a role in the regulation of treatments for COVID-19.

Mr. Dick also clarified that when Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine that was fully authorized by the Food and Drug Administration for use in those 16 years of age or older, Pfizer had not proposed the use of the name Comirnaty; however, the authorized vaccine is also known as Comirnaty and it retains its Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) as it's the same vaccine that is used for vaccination of 12-15 year-olds, which are provided under the EUA and not under the full authorization that was provided for the same vaccine in individuals 16 and older.

Mr. Dick continued to report that nearly 100% of all cases occurring in Washoe County are the Omicron variant. He also reported that the 7-day average of new cases in Washoe County is at 210% of the previous record of new cases in November 2020. He continued to suggest not to let our guard down, as cases need to drop significantly before we are out of woods. Mr. Dick continued to report the 7-day average for test positivity is at 42.89%, which means the testing is not fully meeting the demand. Mr. Dick reported that based on what is seen in other communities he estimates our community has 2-3 times the cases that are being reported. Mr. Dick reported the new cases over 7 days per 100,000 population were at 1,626.7, which means the numbers are extremely beyond the thresholds set by the CDC, which is 100 new cases over 7-days per 100,000 population. Mr. Dick continued to report on hospitalizations stating those numbers are at 214 people hospitalized for COVID-19 in Washoe County. These figures have doubled over a couple of weeks.

Mr. Dick reported the support of the National Guard has been requested to increase testing capacity at the Reno-Sparks Livestock Event Center. Testing has now been increased to Monday-Saturday. Mr. Dick added that free home tests kits are available at www.covidtests.gov

Mr. Dick continued by stating that vaccinations remain to be the best protection from COVID-19 and have demonstrated to be effective in preventing hospitalizations and death from Omicron cases. He added that most breakthrough cases that occur on vaccinated individuals are mild. He continued to report on vaccination efforts and sites. Additionally, he reported a decline on vaccination uptake.

Mr. Dick reported on some of the treatments that are available around the community, adding that some of the supplies are limited. Mr. Dick invited Dr. Reka Danko for additional reporting.

Dr. Danko reported from the hospital perspective regarding the newest surge of COVID-19. She added that while people say this surge is less severe this does not prove true in hospitals, as the hospitals still see significant disease and highlighted that predominantly hospitalized patients are unvaccinated. She further stated that very seldom do they find a patient that is fully vaccinated who struggles with COVID-19 and requires hospitalization.

Dr. Danko reported a capacity burden on hospitals contributed to by the COVID-19 infections. Dr. Danko reported on the COVID-19 treatments being used at the hospitals, stating that there is a supply and demand problem.

Vice-chair Lucey asked Dr. Danko if the hospitals are experiencing staffing issues.

Dr. Danko affirmed there are staffing issues in hospitals as well as in the post-hospital care facilities. She further reported that some of the post-acute facilities are testing daily to ensure that asymptomatic staff are not coming in with an active COVID-19 infection, which has proven to be effective as some staff members have tested positive and are not able to work their shifts. Additionally, she affirmed the best protection is prevention.

Vice-chair Lucey continued to ask if these privatized facilities fall under the state guidance.

Dr. Danko affirmed they fall under state guidance; however, they still follow the FDA and CDC recommendations.

Vice-chair Lucey further asked if in fact hospitals are facing challenges in transferring patients into skilled nursing and acute care facilities.

Dr. Danko affirmed that at times there is a back flow either due to active outbreaks status or staffing issues, which results in a back flow on the beds available within Emergency Rooms or acute care hospital.

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. December 16, 2021

B. Budget Amendments/Interlocal Agreements

- i. Approve a Notice of Subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public & Behavioral Health retroactive to January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 in the total amount of \$185,745.00 (no required match) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Control Program IO# 11958 and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward and any future amendments.
Staff Representative: Kim Graham and Sonya Smith
- ii. Retroactively approve the Notice of Subgrant Award from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the total amount of \$164,344.00 (with \$16,434.40 or 10% match) in support of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Public Health Preparedness Program Carryover Program; it will support the purchase of preparedness equipment and supplies to respond to healthcare evacuations and mass casualty incidents, authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward, any future amendments and MOU agreements with partnering agencies.
Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer
- iii. Retroactively approve the Notice of Subgrant Award from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the total amount of \$118,740 (with \$11,874.00 or 10% match) in support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) BP2 Carryover Program; it will support the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) full-scale exercise, Epi data entry and PHP support staff, authorize the District Health

Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward, any future amendments and MOU agreements with partnering agencies.

Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer

- C. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for November, Fiscal Year 2022.

Staff Representative: Anna Heenan

Vice-chair Lucey moved to approve the consent agenda. Michael Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

8. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority.

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

Presented by: Dean Dow

Dean Dow began his presentation by opening his item for questions from the Board.

Chair Delgado inquired about the status of the Assess & Refer Protocol.

Mr. Dow reported Aaron Abbott and Adam Heinz can provide the requested information, but globally the protocol is in utilization and the interactions with patients has been spectacular.

Mr. Abbott reported that the protocol has been received well by the patients. Mr. Abbott reported they are looking forward to collecting more data to report its success to the Board.

Chair Delgado asked if he should expect reports in the upcoming meetings.

Mr. Dow affirmed reports can be provided by the February meeting.

Chair Delgado continued to ask if there's a report on total number of Intermediate Life Support (ILS) Response and Transports.

Mr. Dow stated that information was not within his report, but Mr. Abbott and Mr. Heinz could speak on the subject.

Mr. Abbott reported they are doing about 30 ILS responses a day in the 9-1-1 system and added that the repatriation rate into an Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider is extremely low and centered around pain management and not criticality. Mr. Abbott stated those numbers can be reported along with the Assess & Refer report next month.

Mr. Heinz reported those reports are scheduled to be presented to the EMS Advisory Board next week.

Chair Delgado also asked if a report regarding mutual aid requests can be added next month.

Mr. Heinz stated that report is also with the EMS Advisory Board, so he'll be sure to bring it next month.

Chair Delgado asked for a status on the 30-minute max implementation at the hospitals.

Mr. Dow reported they have seen a significant improvement but facing staffing challenges. Mr. Dow expressed his gratitude to the hospitals.

Mr. Heinz shared that they are trending on the right direction and are hopeful to see the numbers continue to decrease.

Mr. Abbott added that an 8% is down from an over 40% in September.

Chair Delgado thanked Tiffany Coury from St. Mary's Hospital for their collaboration, as she was present via Zoom for the DBOH meeting.

Vice-chair Lucey asked what the numbers were on the day the emergency protocols were put into place.

Mr. Heinz reported that specifically on January 14, the system responses were 270, but earlier in January they had hit a new record of 299-300 responses.

Vice-chair Lucey asked if those were the responses that went down 40%.

Mr. Heinz reiterated that Mr. Abbott was reporting for numbers in September.

Councilman Dahir reported that City of Sparks dispersed a video to their community explaining the upcoming events. He continued to encourage partners and anyone present to get the word out about this new protocol to prevent confusion.

Dr. John Klacking asked where staffing levels are projected to be at and if REMSA is comfortable with its current position.

Mr. Abbott reported the challenges include the increased volume in utilization of 9-1-1 and COVID-19 infected providers. Both those challenges pose a problem in staffing, however, REMSA continues to recruit to alleviate the issue.

Mr. Dow stated in a recent meeting with Senator Cortez Masto, he asked her to go back to Washington DC and look at ways to help in recruiting and training individuals to help them get interested in this field.

Vice-chair Lucey asked Mr. Dow what guidelines are being used with REMSA Health staff regarding quarantine.

Mr. Dow stated they are following a 7-day period, based off the decisions made by the clinical arm and their medical directors.

Mr. Abbott affirmed the conventional CDC guidelines are being followed.

Dr. John Klacking moved to approve REMSA Health Operations Report for December 2021. Vice-chair Lucey seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

B. Update of REMSA Health's Public Relations during December 2021.

Presented by: Alexia Jobson

Ms. Alexia Jobson presented the Public Relations report for December 2021.

Ms. Jobson provided updates since the writing of her report. She reported REMSA Health in partnership with the Washoe County Health District donated an AED to the Cares Campus as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 100453.

Ms. Jobson reported on the new car seat laws that went into effect on January 1. She added that KOLO interviewed Ms. Martinez, who outlines the changes and informing people on how to keep babies and children safe in their seats. Additionally, Ms. Martinez assisted the Sheriff's office with a Facebook Live demonstration about the changes and how to properly install a seat.

Ms. Jobson continue to report that KOLO and KTVN covered the need for proper patient navigation in light of high call volume, staffing shortages, and Emergency Room wait times all due to the high prevalence of COVID-19 in Washoe County. She also reported Councilman Dahir visited REMSA Health to discuss proper patient navigation.

Ms. Jobson concluded by stating the REMSA Health will be launching a community campaign regarding the Assess & Refer Protocol through paid and earned media and a variety of digital channels.

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

C. Discussion and possible approval of the Final Report for REMSA Health's Market Comparison, Performance & Deployment Study with a possible determination that the market study reveals that the performance of REMSA Health's contractor is reasonably competitive on service and cost, adjusted to account for relevant differences in market characteristics, and that no competitive bid for the provision of ground ambulance services is required at this time.

Presented by: Aaron Abbott

Mr. Aaron Abbott open his item with a quick reminder as to the purpose of the market study. Mr. Abbott introduced Mr. Todd Sheridan, Fitch & Associated Senior Consultant.

Mr. Sheridan introduced Mr. Guillermo Fuentes, Partner/COO, and Mr. Fred Wurster, Senior Consultant.

Mr. Sheridan provided a brief description of the process to meet the goals and objectives of the market study as well as Fitch & Associates' methodology. He continued to describe their onsite visit and Fitch & Associates' initial findings.

Mr. Sheridan reported on overall scores of REMSA in comparison to other like and unlike agencies in areas not limited to accreditation, communications, patient experience, leadership and finances.

Mr. Sheridan spoke of COVID-19 hospital turnaround time and stated this situation is not unique to this region. He highlighted REMSA is doing well with unit hour costs.

Mr. Sheridan continued to speak of the data analysis and their methodology which included but was not limited to responses by month and year beginning in January 2016 as well as a compliance summary.

Mr. Sheridan finalized his presentation by speaking of deployment models and findings as well as a final summary. The final summary showed REMSA scoring first overall with some room for improvement; however, no evidence was found to support the need to place the ground ambulance contract out to competitive bid.

Mr. Sheridan opened his presentation for question from the Board.

Chair Delgado began to speak about EMT salaries and called Mr. Abbott to comment.

Mr. Abbott made a correction to Mr. Sheridan's presentation regarding CADs accreditation, as it is not required in the REMSA Franchise Agreement, but the dispatch accreditation is required.

Chair Delgado asked if they could speak about the 50th percentile in salaries for EMTs.

Mr. Dow stated that as REMSA brings more EMTs to the system, there needs to be a better effort in improving them and moving them up the scale, which he opined is the case of all the individuals in the organization. Mr. Dow reported that in the last 3 months, REMSA's Human Resources is going through a national survey to measure that scale and seek an increase in salaries of about 3.5%.

Councilman Dahir commended the team on the report and expressed he appreciated the comparison to other agencies.

Mr. Sheridan reiterated that it is a great exercise as not many entities compare themselves to other agencies and continue to strive.

Councilman Dahir asked if other agencies are facing the same challenges in growing and staying sustainable.

Mr. Sheridan reported as this is a market study those challenges were not investigated.

Councilman Dahir asked if there were any studies on transporting from hospitals to the next step.

Mr. Sheridan affirmed it was reviewed in relation to deployment for the 9-1-1 side to understand from the community experience as it related to the 9-1-1 service, but it was not reviewed from a staffing point of view. He added that hospital discharging and times of discharge was not part of the study.

Chair Delgado congratulated Mr. Dow and his team and expressed appreciation for doing a great job.

Mr. Dow expressed how proud he is of all the employees as they are dedicated to the community.

Chair Delgado suggested having a conversation to discuss opportunities on how to deal with everchanging climate and the growing population to build a stronger system.

Councilman Dahir moved to approve REMSA Health's REMSA Health's Market Comparison, Performance & Deployment Study with a determination that the market study reveals that the performance of REMSA Health's contractor is reasonably competitive on service and cost, adjusted to account for relevant differences in market characteristics, and that no competitive bid for the provision of ground ambulance services is required at this time. Vice-chair Lucey seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

9. **Review, discussion, and possible adoption of the Business Impact Statement regarding proposed revisions to the District Board of Health Regulations Governing Air Quality Management, Section 040.051 Wood-Burning Devices with a finding that the revised regulations do not impose a direct and significant economic burden on a business; nor do the revised regulations directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business; and set a public hearing for possible adoption of the proposed revisions to the regulations for February 24, 2022, at 1:00 pm.**

Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

Mr. Francisco opened his item by providing a PowerPoint presentation discussing the proposed revision to the regulations.

Mr. Vega briefly spoke about the history of the regulation, stakeholder and public engagement, purpose of the revision, and the next steps.

Mr. Vega highlighted this process began back in early November 2021, with the ability to submit comments through December 17, 2021, with an effective date of July 1, 2022.

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

Councilman Dahir expressed his appreciation for the process that was used to bring this item to the Board.

Councilman Dahir moved to adopt the BIS regarding Revision to the Regulations Governing Air Quality Management and set a hearing on February 24, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Michael Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously with Dr. John Novak being absent.

10. Staff Reports and Program Updates

A. Air Quality Management – Executive Order making the Federal Government Carbon Neutral by 2050, Dr. Kristen Averyt announced as the state’s first Senior Climate Advisor, EPA announces stricter new vehicle emissions standards, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

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

B. Community and Clinical Health Services - Divisional Update - 2021 Year in Review; Data & Metrics; Sexual Health (Outreach and Disease Investigation), Immunizations, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, Reproductive and Sexual Health Services, Chronic Disease Prevention Program, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health, and Women Infants and Children.

Staff Representative: Lisa Lottritz

Ms. Lottritz began her report by acknowledging Councilman Dahir’s and Dr. Klacking’s inquiry on last month reports. Ms. Lottritz reported that the increase in STDs is due to more people being out and getting tested as opposed to 2020.

Additionally, Ms. Lottritz reported CCHS is implementing the Zero Suicide Program with 13 staff volunteers. This program will begin a training series on January 31, 2022.

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

Dr. Klacking asked about the length of the training session.

Ms. Lottritz explained there are seven trainings that culminate with the implementation of the program into the Division. She further reported the last training goes through June.

C. Environmental Health Services, Erin Dixon, Division Director - Highlighted Program; Program Activities; Consumer Protection (Food/Food Safety, Commercial Plans, Permitted Facilities); Environmental Protection (Land Development, Safe Drinking Water, Vector-Borne Diseases, Waste Management); and Inspections.

Staff Representative: Erin Dixon

Ms. Dixon began her report by providing a year-end review of the impacts EHS experienced. She reported 2021 was full of unexpected challenges including staff shortages. She continued to add that COVID-19 restrictions impacted the permitted facilities including spas and special events. She added that many permitted facilities had to adapt during and after COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, which resulted in many re-inspections. Ms. Dixon shared some of the division’s successes including but not limited to the Crumbine Award, programs regulations updates, the safe Drinking Water Act reinstatement, and most recently UST Program was redesigned and reinstated.

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

Vice-chair asked if childcare facility inspections fall under her division.

Ms. Dixon reported it is a collaboration with Human Services Agency with said entity being the one that issues the permits.

Vice-chair continued to ask if those facilities fall under EHS within the Health District.

Ms. Dixon affirmed.

Vice-chair asked if the quarantine regulations being followed for childcare facilities are set by EHS.

Ms. Dixon reported they do not come from EHS, the division follows the directions provided by the CDC. Erin stated perhaps the Health Officer or EPHP director would provide more information.

Vice-chair stated childcare facilities approached him with these questions as they are confused where they come from.

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, reported the CDC changed their guidance for K-12 and reduced the isolation period and quarantine for those facilities, but did not change the guidance for childcare facilities. He further informed the State takes the CDC guidance and supports that with a technical bulletin for the State.

Vice-chair Lucey thanked Mr. Dick for the clarification.

Chair Delgado asked the Health Officer where those childcare facilities should address their concerns and/or requests for reconsideration.

Mr. Dick affirmed directing the facilities to the State's program as they provide the technical bulletin with any changes for the State's approach.

D. Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness - Communicable Disease, Public Health Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services, Vital Statistics.

Dr. Diao began her report by sharing that the first month of 2022 has been busy in the EPHP division due to the unprecedented new surge of COVID-19 cases. She reported on the numbers for RSV cases for the current season, which surpasses the entire 2019-2020 season.

Dr. Diao opened her item for 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, Community Health Needs Assessment, Workforce Development, Employee Recognition Program, and Public Communications and Outreach.

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

Health Officer, Kevin Dick opened his item by reiterating Mr. English has stepped down from his role as Operation Chief for the COVID-19 response.

Mr. Dick also reported the department is moving forward with the Community Health Needs Assessment. Additionally, he commented an Employee Recognition Program has been initiated and the Board will be getting a future presentation to inform them more fully about the program.

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

11. Board Comment.

Councilman Dahir asked if he can receive a regional report on mental health that includes the players involved. He also added his congratulation to Julia Ratti on her humanitarian award.

Ms. Valdespin made note of Dr. John Novak's departure from the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

Adjournment.

Chair Delgado adjourned the meeting at 3:30 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.gov 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.gov/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.gov. Supporting materials are also available at the Washoe County Health District Website <https://www.washoecounty.gov/health> pursuant to the requirements of NRS 241.020.