



## Washoe County District Board of Health 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, August 25, 2022  
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.

Acting Chair Lucey called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.  
The following members and staff were present:

Members present: Robert Lucey, Vice Chair (via zoom)  
Michael Brown  
Kristopher Dahir  
Dr. Reka Danko (via zoom arrived at 1:03 p.m.)  
Dr. John Novak  
Dr. John Klacking

Members absent: Oscar Delgado, Chair

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

Staff present:

Kevin Dick, District Health Officer  
Joseph Dibble  
Kelcie Atkin  
Andrea Esp  
Sabrina Brasuell  
Erin Dixon  
Francisco Vega  
Dr. Nancy Diao  
Lisa Lottritz

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Dahir led the pledge to the flag.

### 3. Approval of Agenda.

August 25, 2022

Acting Chair Lucey reported things would be out of order for this meeting, as Chair Delgado wishes to be present for item #9A; otherwise, said item would be postponed until Chair Delgado is able to be present.

**Dr. Novak moved to approve the agenda for the August 25, 2022, District Board of Health regular meeting. Dr. John Klacking seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously, with Dr. Danko being absent.**

**4. Recognitions.**

Years of Service

- i. Rayona LaVoie, Management Analyst, 5 years, hired August 7, 217 – ODHO
  - ii. Stephanie Chen, Health Educator Coordinator, 5 years hired August 28, 2017 – CCHS
- Health Officer, Kevin Dick acknowledged and thanked Ms. LaVoie and Ms. Chen for their years of service.

Promotions

- i. Craig Petersen, promoted from Sr. Air Quality Specialist to Air Quality Supervisor, effective August 1, 2022 – AQM
- Health Officer, Kevin Dick, noted Mr. Petersen was not present but recognized Mr. Petersen in his recent promotion.

Resignations

- i. Chi Pham, Environmental Health Trainee effective July 30, 2022 – EHS
- Health Officer, Kevin Dick, acknowledged Ms. Pham’s resignation due to a family relocation.

Washoe County Health Heroes

- i. Rachel Ladd – CCHS
- Health Officer, Kevin Dick, recognized Ms. Ladd for her nomination for the Washoe County Health Heroes award. He briefly highlighted she was being recognized for exceling in the values of Professionalism and Partnership & Collaboration.

**5. Proclamations.**

**A. International Overdose Awareness Day Proclamation.**

Staff Representative: Joe Dibble

Accepted by: Anne-Elizabeth Northan, JTNN Executive Director

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, read the proclamation into the record and invited Mr. Dibble and Ms. Northan to accept the proclamation.

Mr. Dibble briefly spoke about the Health District’s involvement with Join Together Northern Nevada and the prevention of substance misuses in the community.

Ms. Northan expressed her appreciation for the recognition of the overdose issue in the community and briefly spoke of all the efforts put forth to bring awareness to overdose.

Ms. Northan invited the Board to the JTNN Overdose Day Awareness Day event on Friday, August 26, from 5 to 8 p.m.

**B. Breastfeeding Awareness Month Proclamation.**

Staff Representative: Kelcie Atkin

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, read the proclamation into the record and invited Ms. Atkin to accept the proclamation.

Ms. Atkin thanked the Board for their support and recognizing the importance of breastfeeding when it comes to the health of the community, especially since COVID-19.

C. National Preparedness Month.

Staff Representative: Raquel DePuy Grafton

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, read the proclamation into the record and invited Ms. Esp and regional partner to accept the proclamation.

Ms. Esp acknowledged all those who participate in preparing and planning for emergencies.

**Ms. Valdespin noted for the record Dr. Reka Danko's arrival to the meeting at 1:03 p.m.**

**Acting Chair Lucey asked Councilman Dahir to preside over the meeting due to difficulties he was experiencing.**

**Dr. Novak moved to approve the proclamations for International Overdose Dose Awareness Day, Breastfeeding Awareness Month, and National Preparedness Month. Chief Brown seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.**

Councilman Dahir thanked everyone for their service as we are only as good as we prepare for.

**6. Public Comment.**

**Acting Chair Dahir opened the public comment period.**

**Having no public comment, Acting Chair Dahir closed the public comment period.**

**7. COVID-19 and Monkeypox Update & Information.**

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

Board Representative: Dr. Reka Danko

Health Officer, Kevin Dick opened this item by providing an update on the COVID-19 situation. Mr. Dick reported that as of this meeting the community was at a low level for COVID-19, noting that the week prior all the counties in Nevada were in the low level, making Nevada the only state to achieve that status for the week. He stated that the current 7-day average is at 61.43 in comparison to mid-July when the 7-day average was at 234.

Mr. Dick reported that hospitalizations were at 32 confirmed and suspected patients with COVID-19. Mr. Dick reports the COVID-19 hospital impact is currently very low, which is encouraging. Mr. Dick announce therapeutics are widely available, but vaccines are still strongly encouraged.

Mr. Dick continued to report the community has 13 Monkeypox cases and disease investigations are in the process. He also informed the treatment drug, Tpoxx, is available as well as testing through the Renown Urgent Care Centers.

Acting Chair Dahir invited Dr. Danko to provide additional updates.

Dr. Danko did not have anything to add to this report.

**8. 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. July 28, 2022

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 July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 in the total amount of \$935,091.56 (no required match) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) COVID-19 Immunization (IO# 12017) and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward and any future amendments.  
Staff Representative: Loraine Fernandez
  - ii. Approve a Notice of Subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public & Behavioral Health retroactive to July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 in the total amount of \$290,777.00 (no required match) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Immunization Program (IO# TBD) and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward and any future amendments.  
Staff Representative: Loraine Fernandez
  - iii. Approve the Grant Agreement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the amount of \$706,949.00 retroactive to October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 for the Air Quality Management, EPA Air Pollution Control Program, IO# 11920 and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Agreement.  
Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer
  - iv. Approve a Notice of Subaward from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, for the period of August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023 in the total amount of \$130,730.00 in support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Program and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Subaward and any future amendments.  
Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer
- C. Recommendation for the Board to Uphold Uncontested Citation Not Appealed to the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board.  
Staff Representative: Francisco Vega
- i. Tim Lewis Communities, Case No. 1363, NOV AQMV22-0009
  - ii. Sierra Nevada Construction Inc., Case No. 1362. NOV AQMV22-0008
- D. Approve donation of Public Health Preparedness Supplies and Equipment to Community Partners in accordance with the funding source once permission has been received from the granting agency.  
Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer
- E. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for June, Fiscal Year 2022.  
Staff Representative: Anna Heenan
- Dr. Novak moved to approve the consent agenda. Chief Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

9. **Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority.**

- A. Recommendation for appointment of person to the REMSA Board of Directors. Applicant for the Accounting Representative, and the recommendation of the Program for appointment, is Cora Case for a four (4) year term beginning on August**

**25, 2022, and ending August 24, 2026. Applicants for the Consumer Representative are Warren Lyons, Don Vonarx, and the recommendation of appointment by the Program is Reverend Debra A. Whitlock Lax for a four (4) year term beginning on August 25, 2022, and ending August 24, 2026. Applicant for the Legal Representative, and the recommendation of the Program for re-appointment, is Louis S. Test for a four (4) year term beginning on August 25, 2022, and ending August 24, 2026. Reverend Debra A. Whitlock Lax, Irene Kreuzscher, Michael Pagni, Kathleen Conaboy and Don Vonarx, and the recommendation of appointment by the Program is Reverend Debra A. Whitlock Lax for a four (4) year term beginning on August 25, 2022, and ending August 24, 2026. Applicant for the Legal Representative, and the recommendation of the Program for re-appointment, is Louis S. Test for a four (4) year term beginning on August 25, 2022, and ending August 24, 2026.**

Staff Representative: Sabrina Brasuell

This item was tabled due to Councilman Delgado's absence.

**This item was re-addressed after item #10E.**

**Dr. Novak moved to table this item until September 22, 2022. Chief Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**B. Review and Acceptance of the REMSA Health Operations Report for July 2022.**

Presented by: Barry Duplantis

Barry Duplantis, Interim CEO for REMSA Health began his presentation by highlighting that for the month of July, REMSA's priority 1 systems wide average response time was 6 minutes 14 seconds, which places REMSA Health at 91% in Zone A and Zones B, C, and D at 90%.

Mr. Duplantis reported REMSA Health continues to focus on meeting its franchise obligations as they continue to recruit and hire additional staff. He continued to report on the number of employees for REMSA Health, which has remained at 162 clinical employees, 13 full time supervisors, and 103 contingent/per diem staff members.

Mr. Duplantis reported 8,184 calls responded to by REMSA Health, which represents 887 more than last month. Additionally, he reported that out of all those call REMSA Health transported 4,926 patients to area hospital, which is 316 more than last month. Mr. Duplantis concluded by reporting the results on their Patient Survey for the month of July with a score of 92.3% from 91.88% in the prior reporting period. Mr. Duplantis reported REMSA Health is researching the reasons for the low response on these surveys and what can be done differently and/or improved.

Mr. Duplantis opened this item for questions from the Board.

Councilman Dahir opined it was fantastic that REMSA Health is digging deeper about the survey results.

**Chief Brown moved to approve REMSA Health Operations Report for July 2022. Dr. Novak seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously, with Commissioner Lucey abstaining.**

**C. Update of REMSA Health's Public Relations during July 2022.**

Presented by: Alexia Jobson

Alexia. Jobson, Director of Public Relations for REMSA Health began her presentation by sharing recent updates with the Board.

Ms. Jobson reported Adam Heinz, executive director for REMSA Health, was the guest on the Inside EMS Podcast, which focused on the importance of working with providers, patients, and community partners to improve the delivery of emergency medical services.

Ms. Jobson continued to report on a collaboration with Vitalant to host a Blood Drive as part of the Battle of the Badges annual blood drive event. Ms. Jobson concluded by encouraging the Board to follow REMSA Health on Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook to view the content that highlights the hard work and talent of providers and staff.

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

**D. Update, Discussion, and Possible Acceptance of the notice of non-compliance response letter from REMSA, dated August 12, 2022, and corrective action detailed within the plan and direction for REMSA to continue to provide monthly updates to the Board on the progress of the corrective actions.**

Staff Representative: Sabrina Brasuell

Sabrina Brasuell, EMS Oversight Program Coordinator began her item by providing a brief summary of the action that led to the item. Ms. Brasuell invited Barry Duplantis to complete the presentation and opened her item for question from the Board.

Mr. Duplantis reported REMSA Health has been working on their action plan as anyone would expect of any concerted effort to fix the problem. Mr. Duplantis confirmed compliance has been an issue due to COVID-19.

Mr. Duplantis provided some of the efforts put forth to comply with the short-term item within their action plan including an increase in shift lines, staffing in Basic Life Support, providing scholarships to high schools as well as paramedics, expand capacity to do in-house clinical training, and additional call center staff.

Mr. Duplantis noted some of the longer-term items will require more time because they deal with patient navigation, staffing, and regionalization.

Acting Chair Dahir noted that collaboration is the key.

**Chief Brown moved to approve to accept the notice of non-compliance letter, the corrective action plan, and the continuance of monthly updates from REMSA Health. Dr. Klacking seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**E. Update, and Possible Approval of corrections to typographical and grammatical errors in the 2014 document and modified language for the REMSA Amended and Restated Franchise Agreement for Ambulance Service specific to Article 1.1 Definitions, Article 2.3 Level of Care and Article 12 Reporting.**

Staff Representative: Sabrina Brasuell

Sabrina Brasuell, EMS Oversight Program Coordinator, began by providing details on the specific content that was being corrected.

Ms. Brasuell referred there are changes to the level of care, which impacted the definition section as a level of care that was not previously defined was created. Ms. Brasuell continued to report that part of the changes included a basic life support (BLS) addition and a position of an Advanced EMT. Ms. Brasuell concluded her report on changes by noting that Article 12 requires a quarterly reporting, which would be presented through the EMS Advisory Board, with the first report presented in November.

Ms. Brasuell recognized the cooperation of all the partners in order to complete these recommended changes.

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

Mr. Duplantis thanked Ms. Brasuell for her hard work and organization and reported the REMSA Health Board has reviewed the draft and unanimously approved it.

Dr. Novak commended the team for all their hard work in a short amount of time, as he feels this item allows REMSA Health the possibility to fulfill their goals.

**Dr. Novak moved to approve the corrections to typographical and grammatical errors in the 2014 document and modified language for the REMSA Amended and Restated Franchise Agreement for Ambulance Service specific to Article 1.1 Definitions, Article 2.3 Level of Care and Article 12 Reporting. Chief Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

Councilman Dahir opined this was a foundation for many conversations to come, as he felt there would be many more and expressed confidence that the intended goal will be achieved.

## **10. Staff Reports and Program Updates.**

- A. Air Quality Management** - Various State AG's Ask EPA To Set Greenhouse Gas NAAQS, Divisional Update, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.  
Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

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

- B. Community and Clinical Health Services** - National Immunization Awareness Month; Data & Metrics; Sexual Health (HIV and Disease Investigation), Immunizations, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, Reproductive and Sexual Health Services, Chronic Disease Injury Prevention Program, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health, Women Infants and Children, and Community Health Workers.  
Staff Representative: Lisa Lottritz

Ms. Lottritz began her presentation by announcing that her division wrapped up another back-to-school season and took the opportunity to thank her staff for their hard work. She continued to outline the extensive outreach activities that were conducted in fiscal year 2022.

Ms. Lottritz reported that the immunization team was gearing up for monkeypox, flu, and bivalent COVID vaccine booster. She continued to report that her division will be holding their annual training day on September 28.

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

Dr. Klacking asked for an update on the new suicide hotline.

Ms. Lottritz reported she has not received updates on this topic and asked Health Officer, Kevin Dick about updates.

Mr. Dick informed he had not received any update but is aware that the transition occurred. Mr. Dick offered to have an update at the September meeting.

- C. Environmental Health Services (EHS):** Highlighted Program; Program Activities; Consumer Protection (Food/Food Safety, Commercial Development, Permitted Facilities); Environmental Protection (Land Development, Safe Drinking Water, Vector-Borne

Diseases, Waste Management); and Inspections.

Staff Representative: Erin Dixon

Ms. Dixon opened her item by highlighting the schools and childcares program. Ms. Dixon provided some of the activities her team is involved in to ensure that schools are a safe environment. Ms. Dixon reported all schools are inspected at least once each semester for things like proper storage in chemistry classes. Ms. Dixon stated their close collaboration with Human Services Agency to ensure that childcares are safe for children.

Ms. Dixon continued to report on their commercial development plan and construction intake which totaled 151 plans this year with an increase from 121 from last year for the month of July. Additionally, 14 health permits were issued to the opening of new Legends Bay Casino in Sparks.

Ms. Dixon concluded by reporting on the Safe Drinking Water program. The program is partnering with Community Services Division for completion of the engineering review for the water projects.

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

Acting Chair Dahir asked about monitoring flies, as it appears there's been an increase in the number of flies.

Ms. Dixon reported she was not aware of monitoring for flies but would check with her team for additional information.

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

Staff Representative: Dr. Nancy Diao

Dr. Diao opened her item by reporting that outside of COVID-19 and Monkeypox in the past month of July they did see the lowest number of open outbreaks, due to schools closing for the summer. Additionally, the EPHP team is working on streamlining the processes and protocols to support schools and childcare facilities. She continued to report that the flu activity remains low since the decline at the end of June. Dr. Diao reported the quadrivalent flu vaccine has been updated for the upcoming flu season.

Dr. Diao opened her item for questions from the Board.

Dr. Novak asked when the flu count week start.

Dr. Diao reported it starts ends of September beginning of October.

**E. District Health Officer Report - COVID-19 Response, Monkeypox, COVID-19 Joint Information Center, Health District Communications Update, Regionalization of Dispatch, Fire and EMS, Interim Finance Committee, Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, Health Equity, Community Health Improvement Plan, Workforce Capacity Assessment, and Public Communications and Outreach.**

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, opened his item by highlighting the concurrent meeting that addressed regionalization. He reported a workgroup was formed by the City and County Managers that meets every two weeks to discuss issues that need to be addressed.

Mr. Dick reported a request for \$10 million of ARPA funding for a satellite building has been approved. These funds will allow to find a building where the TB clinic can be



stationed. This building will provide better negative pressure room capacity to deal with infectious diseases as well as provide other clinical services and decompress the space constraint in the current building B. Mr. Dick reported that due to the deadline for spending the funds, the Health District will be seeking to purchase an existing building.

Mr. Dick reported the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services met the week prior to this meeting and approved a top priority bill draft request (BDR) for the Health District to create a public health infrastructure and improvement fund in the amount \$15 million each year of the biennium. Mr. Dick informed the funds would be used for the Health Districts to use for priorities that are identified through the community health assessment and community health improvement plans.

Mr. Dick shared his attendance to the ribbon cutting for the Community Health Alliance clinic in Sun Valley. Additionally, he reported Chair Delgado was detained at the Reno City Council meeting and would probably not be able to attend this meeting. Mr. Dick acknowledged some of the attendees present for item #9A, namely Reverend Whitlock Lax and Louis Test and apologized for not being able to address said item.

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

Councilman Dahir asked the Board to go back to item #9A and take action.

Mr. Dick stated item #9A should be tabled until next month.

#### **11. Board Comment.**

Dr. Novak took the opportunity to wish Dr. Danko a happy birthday for the following day.

Dr. Danko thanked Dr. Novak.

Having no further comments from the Board, Acting Chair Dahir closed this item.

#### **Adjournment.**

#### **Acting Chair Dahir adjourned the meeting at 2:05 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.gov](mailto: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. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, in Reno, Nevada. Ms. Susy Valdespin, Recording 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](mailto: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.