



## **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, October 28, 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 1:05 p.m.

The following members and staff were present:

Members present: Oscar Delgado, Chair  
Robert Lucey, Vice Chair (left at 1:45 p.m.)  
Kristopher Dahir  
Dr. Reka Danko  
Dr. John Klacking  
Michael Brown

Members absent: Dr. John Novak

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

Staff present:

Kevin Dick, District Health Officer  
Julia Ratti  
Rayona LaVoie  
Michael Touhey  
Wes Rubio  
David Kelly  
Laurie Griffey  
Dr. Nancy Diao  
Francisco Vega  
Erin Dixon  
Lisa Lottritz

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

Dr. John Klacking led the pledge to the flag.

### **3. Approval of Agenda.**

October 28, 2021

**Health Officer, Kevin Dick noted a clerical error on Item #13 regarding the dates of the term to reflect October 25, 2021 concluding October 24, 2024.**

**Councilman Dahir moved to approve the agenda for the October 28, 2021, District Board of Health regular meeting with the stated modifications. Michael Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

Chair Delgado requested a moment of silence in honor of Dr. Randall Todd who passed away on October 7, 2021.

#### **4. Recognitions.**

##### **A. Introduction**

- i. Dr. John Klacking, District Board of Health Member, Non-Elected Washoe County Appointee

Chair Delgado welcomed Dr. Klacking as a new member of the Board of Health.

Dr. Klacking shared he has lived in Reno for over 40 years and attended graduate school in Reno as well. He added that he is a Board member of the UC Davis' Veterinary School for the past 20 years and sat on the National Board of the American Cancer Society for almost 4 years. He concluded by sharing that he lost his wife and son to cancer.

##### **B. New Hires**

- i. Kecia Olney, September 13, 2021, Account Clerk I – AHS (promoted from Clerks)
- ii. Sheri Martin, September 27, 2021, Account Clerk I – AHS
- iii. Gloriana Alvarez, October 11, 2021, Department System Technician – COVID EPHP
- iv. Briana Contreras, October 25, 2021, Office Assistant II – CCHS
- v. Lauren Huntsman, October 25, 2021, Storekeeper - CCHS

Health Officer, Kevin Dick invited Anna Heenan to introduce her division's new staff members.

Ms. Heenan introduced Ms. Olney and Ms. Martin as new members of her team. She shared these employees bring a tremendous amount of experience and expressed gratitude for having them in her team.

Mr. Dick invited Jim English to introduce Ms. Alvarez.

Mr. English introduced Ms. Alvarez and welcomed her as part of the COVID-19 Team. He expressed she will be a great asset to the Health District in the COVID Operations.

Mr. Dick invited Lisa Lottritz to introduce Ms. Contreras and Ms. Huntsman.

Ms. Lottritz introduced Ms. Contreras as the new IZ Clerical Team member and MS. Huntsman as the new Storekeeper. Ms. Lottritz shared a little bit about their experience and welcomed both to the Health District.

##### **C. Promotions**

- i. Stephanie Chen, Health Educator II to Health Educator Coordinator, effective September 27, 2021 - CCHS
- ii. Allison Schleicher, Public Health Investigator to Epidemiologist, effective October 11, 2021 – CCHS

Ms. Lottritz announced Ms. Schleicher's promotion as an Epidemiologist, making her the first epidemiologist for the Sexual Health Program. Ms. Lottritz shared Ms.

Schleicher's qualifications and experience. Ms. Lottritz also recognized Ms. Chen in her new role as Health Educator Coordinator.

D. Resignations

- i. Rachel Cord, Account Clerk I, effective September 18, 2021 – AHS
- ii. Elizabeth (Lisa) Iacoboni, Public Health Nurse II, effective October 8, 2021 – CCHS
- iii. Ashley Auer, Office Assistant II, effective September 3, 2021 – AHS

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, announced the resignations of Ms. Cord, Ms. Iacoboni, and Ms. Auer. Mr. Dick noted Ms. Auer's transferred to a different department.

E. Special Recognitions

- i. Kathleen Doyle, Homebound COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Efforts
  - ii. Aulene Schmitz, Homebound COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Efforts
  - iii. Julia Ratti, Nevada 2021 Hero Award - National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Health Officer, Kevin Dick, asked Jim English to assist in recognizing Ms. Doyle and Ms. Schmitz.

Mr. English recognized the above and beyond work of Ms. Doyle and Ms. Schmitz. Mr. English shared both women have put in countless hours building their team as they run the homebound program. He added they have driven over 5,000 miles serving the community and have administered 17,080 vaccinations and given over 500 PCR tests. Additionally, they assist with the community PODs.

James English presented Ms. Doyle and Ms. Schmitz with a challenge coin for their ongoing efforts.

Mr. Dick added the difficulty in attendance was due to their commitment to being out in the field.

Mr. Dick concluded by recognizing Ms. Ratti for her recent Nevada Hero Award from the National Association on Mental Illness and acknowledging her leadership in Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board and facilitation to develop a Regional Implementation Plan for Crisis Stabilization Services.

**5. Public Comment.**

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

Ms. Valdespin called Dodie Hanson, who was not present.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Janet Butcher quoted "a society based on freedom to choose is better than a society based on principles of socialism, communism, and coercion." Ms. Butcher continued to share statistics from Sweden and the United Kingdom regarding COVID-19 deaths of fully vaccinated individuals. She opined the COVID-19 vaccines being pushed on people do not fit the definition of a vaccine. She further opined those monetarily benefiting from the vaccines are pharmaceutical companies and stockholders. She concluded that the problem with natural immunity is that it's free.

Ms. Kardi Davis took some time to thank Dr. Klacking for services her dog received at UC Davis. Ms. Davis continued to speak regarding the Health District statistics. Ms. Davis asked about the percentage of breakthrough cases in Washoe County, as she opined those stats are not provided. Additionally, she asked if breakthrough from natural immunity cases has been

added to the statistics. She referred to Clark County's stats regarding the reports on vaccinated hospitalized cases, but not positive cases for COVID-19 that had been vaccinated. Ms. Davis concluded by stating that lack of the listed statistics leads to distrust in the system.

Mr. Murray Kane stated the country is built on democratic principles; however, he opined the members of this Board were not elected for their positions. He opined treatment options should be given to people. Mr. Kane stated he was misled by item #13, as a significant change was made to the date by three years.

Ms. Cindy Sassenrath believed COVID-19 was an emergency back in March 2020, but it is no longer an emergency. She opined people understand their options as they are educated people who can take care of themselves. She expressed frustration as to why those with natural immunity are treated the same as those who have not had COVID-19. She asked for doctors to encourage early treatment. Ms. Sassenrath stated she would give Ms. Valdespin pamphlets to distribute to the Board. She concluded by asking the Board to revoke the emergency declaration, lift the mask mandate, and ban vaccine passports.

Ms. Susie Howell asked if we are asked to wear masks because we believe we are in a pandemic. Additionally, she opined people crossing the border are not required to wear masks. Ms. Howell questioned the excitement of vaccines being available for 5-11 years old.

Mr. Bruce Foster displayed a couple of pictures. Mr. Foster opined mandates have not gotten us anywhere, as we are still one of the 8 states that requires masks for both vaccinated and unvaccinated. Mr. Foster asked if it's discrimination between vaccinated and unvaccinated.

Ms. Bev Stenehjem name a few facts she has read. Ms. Stenehjem opined this is an endemic not a pandemic and the vaccine is not a traditional vaccine. She stated the only shot available is the Emergency Use Shot as she also believes the virus is 99.7% survivable. She opined the Health District must be receiving federal money to keep people under control. She opined there is treatment and asked the Board to end the emergency.

Ms. Cynthia Miller opined most of the news on television is not correct. She expressed she feels afraid, fearful, and disconnected when she wears a mask.

Ms. Donald Fossum shared he should not be alive as he is 76 years old and attended Trump rallies. Mr. Fossum played audio for an interview with Dr. Fauci regarding Dr. Fauci stepping down. He opined we are driven by a fear wave.

Recording Secretary, Ms. Valdespin distributed a document submitted by Ms. Ann Sweder. Ms. Sweder believed COVID-19 is 99.7% survivable and curable. She opined the vaccine is a shot that does not prevent from getting or spreading COVID-19. She believed using this vaccine as an experiment is a crime against humanity and should be subject to an official investigation. She provided information regarding early treatments and believed the World Health Organization knows about these treatments and is hiding the facts. She shared her opinion on mask wearing and concluded by stating medical mandates do not have a place in a free society.

Ms. Cindy Martinez read a quote from Aldous Huxley regarding "pharmacological method of making people love their servitude". Ms. Martinez stated a demand has been made to all the bodies of government to declare an end to the public health emergency, as there is no health emergency. Ms. Martinez opined the Board is guilty of crimes against humanity. She

concluded by expressing her support of Ms. Bennet over Dr. Klacking for the seat at the District Board of Health.

Ms. Jeanne Quintana asked the Board to make decision based on true science and statistics. She opined the test being administered to detect COVID-19 is not made to detect the virus as it provides false positives. Ms. Quintana asked about the statistics for the flu as they appear to have gone away. Ms. Quintana spoke of her relative's experience with the vaccine.

Ms. Patricia Toone stated the decisions of the Board have an impact on the citizens. She opined late decisions have had devastating consequences specifically on children. Additionally, she opined the mandates have caused a decline in moral and mental health. Ms. Toone concluded by asking the Board to do something to prevent catastrophe through a quote from Dietrick Bonhoeffer.

Ms. Darla Lee made note that more people would be attendance if these meetings would be in the evening. She asked the Board to figure out what the citizens want from this Board. Ms. Lee referred to the October 27 update from the Health District regarding the 300<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 related death and asked for more details to be included. Additionally, she asked for therapeutic information to be included in the updates.

Mr. Roger Edwards stated he will not be taking the COVID-19 vaccine. Mr. Edwards opined no one is taking responsibility for decisions regarding COVID-19. Mr. Edwards concluded by comparing an untested anthrax vaccine to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Ms. Sara H spoke about the definition of "health". She opined masks do not allow air to recirculate and vaccines are not a body's natural immune system. She stated she is upset as she has changed her family's schooling, grocery shopping, and traveling because of masks, COVID-19 testing and vaccines.

Mr. Wayne Gordon questioned if the Board knows what really is going on in the community. He believed this pandemic had to do with control, including mask wearing and vaccines. He opined comparing this pandemic with the Spanish flu pandemic is inaccurate. He concluded by stating that those stating facts and truth should not be silenced.

Ms. Erin Massengale was present via Zoom and reported she felt her civil and human rights were violated and felt discriminated and segregated as she could not enter Chambers because she cannot wear a mask. She continued to request the Board to agendize and pass a resolution to end the public health emergency, as well as pass a resolution for nutritional guidance for the Washoe County residents to gain optimal health and optimal immune system. She continued to ask that a resolution be passed regarding COVID-19 treatment guidance.

Ms. Melanie Sutton was present via Zoom and asked to end the public health emergency. She asked why the public is asked to wear masks now, when at the meetings for the Board County Commissioners it is not a requirement.

Ms. Victoria Myer was present via Zoom and stated they are watching everything the Board is doing. She opined medical mandates do not have a place in a free society. She opined the Board must broaden the scope of information they read. She believes the vaccine is for emergency use. Additionally, Ms. Myer opined the virus has a 99.9% survival rate and believed there's no reason for children to be masked as there are no children dying. She concluded by opining the Board has no authority to make policy decisions over the lives of people.

**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. September 23, 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 July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the total amount of \$300,000.00 (no required match) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Youth Vaping Prevention Fund (IO#11859) and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward and any future amendments.  
Staff Representative: Kim Graham and Kelli Goatley-Seals
- ii. Approve the Notice of Subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health retroactive to October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 in the total amount of \$1,146,465.00 (no match required) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program IO#11901 and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Subaward and any future amendments.  
Staff Representative: Kim Graham and Kelli Goatley-Seals

C. Approve a Settlement Agreement with VIA Motors, Inc., in the total amount of \$39,500.00 in resolution for the Beta Test Collaboration and Purchase Agreement entered into by the Washoe County Health District and VIA Motors, Inc., in September of 2012.  
Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

D. Recommendation for the re-appointment of Mr. Richard Harris, JD, PhD, to the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board for a three-year term beginning December 20, 2021 through December 20, 2024.  
Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

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

- i. Paradiso Communities – Case No. 1310, NOV AQMV21-0035
- ii. Majestic Realty Company – Case No. 1311, NOV AQMV21-0039
- iii. Truckee Meadows Construction – Case No 1312, NOV AQMV21-0038
- iv. Indoor Sports Holdings, LLC – Case No. 1313, NOV AQMV21-0040
- v. Nevada Tri Partners, Case No. 1314, NOV AQMV21-0041
- vi. DR Horton Inc., Case No. 1320, NOV AQMV21-0046  
Staff Representative: Joshua Restori

F. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for September, Fiscal Year 2022.  
Staff Representative: Anna Heenan

**Michael Brown moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilman Dahir seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**7. Presentation: Prevention and treatment of COVID-19.**

Presented by: Dr. Reka Danko

Dr. Reka Danko presented a PowerPoint discussing what is COVID-19, how it's transmitted, and how it can be prevented. Additionally, Dr. Danko spoke of natural immunity after COVID-19 infection as well as the different types of COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States as well as worldwide. Dr. Danko also included a brief explanation regarding boosters and additional doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Dr. Danko provided detailed information on how COVID-19 affects the lungs and breathing and shared ways of protecting ourselves before, during and after COVID-19. Dr. Danko provided suggestions on how to keep the bases of the lungs open.

Dr. Danko concluded by discussing potential treatment medications for outpatient/ambulatory and hospitalized patients as of October 2021. Dr. Danko's presentation and a list of medications for treatment was made available at the District Board of Health website under the meeting of October 28, 2021.

Chair Delgado open the item for questions from the Board.

Councilman Dahir thanked Dr. Danko for the presentation and expressed appreciation for the education provided, as he believes educating the public is one of the roles of the District Board of Health. Councilman Dahir asked for updates to benefit both the Board and the community. He continued to ask Dr. Danko for advice on how to protect ourselves.

Dr. Danko reported that boosting the immune system with healthy eating, exercise program, hand washing, mask wearing, distancing, taking vitamins, and healthy sleep patterns is a great way to protect the community from a variety of respiratory virus and non-respiratory conditions.

Dr. John Klacking expressed appreciation for the information provided. He reported he is not vaccinated and has traveled around the world. He reports he believes in Vitamin D and would like to present to the Board on that subject. He clarified he is pro-vaccination but has not received this vaccine yet. Dr. Klacking continued to speak of the role vitamin D plays in the immune system.

Michael Brown thanked Dr. Danko for the information provided.

Chair Delgado welcomed a presentation from Dr. Klacking at a future meeting, so that it is properly agendized.

Chair Delgado reported one of the District Board of Health meeting was flagged on YouTube as misinformation due to public comments, so his hope was that this presentation will assist in providing proper information for access of the public.

**8. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority.**

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

Presented by: Dean Dow

Mr. Aaron Abbott for Dean Dow opened this item for questions the Board may have regarding the report that was submitted by REMSA Health.

Chair Delgado asked about the progress regarding the staffing needs of REMSA Health, per last month's presentation to the Board.

Mr. Abbott reported an estimated amount of 10-15 field employees had been cleared from their training period as of last month's meeting. However, he reported there will be an additional 10-15 field employees from the November academy.

Chair Delgado asked if progress and/or improvements have been made to reduce the hospital delays that were reported last month.

Mr. Abbott reported REMSA Health is working closely with hospital partners since September to reduce those delays. However, in the last two weeks or so, REMSA Health is trending on the negative direction with offload delays. He reported they meet twice a week with hospital partners to address issues and put mitigation techniques in place. Mr. Abbott continued to report paramedics dedicated to the hospitals have been added the staffing schedule to assist with offloads.

Chair Delgado asked for a formal progress report from REMSA Health to the District Board of Health at the next meeting to include mutual aid requests.

Councilman Dahir asked for a report that reflects the needs of specific regions, specifically the City of Sparks.

Chair Delgado asked if an algorithm is utilized to determine where ambulances are stationed throughout the Washoe County.

Mr. Abbott affirmed REMSA Health uses a predictive analysis algorithm that helps understand the most probable area to have the heaviest 9-1-1 incident volume.

Councilman continued to specify it would help to know if one particular hospital seems to be having the most offload delay.

Michael Brown asked if REMSA Health is working with other agencies to identify their specific wall times and use that information to find a solution.

Mr. Abbott reported a representative from all three fire agencies is included in the calls with the hospital partners.

Mr. Abbott reported REMSA Health has provided a recommendation to community partner hospitals and fire departments to approve an assess and refer protocol and is now awaiting a final consensus from the group before implementing the recommended protocol. They are hoping to implement the new protocol the first week of November, which allows paramedics to assess patients and determine if an emergency exists based on a very specific protocol. If the patient agrees to accept the alternative transportation, the patients would be referred to an appropriate health care pathway such as urgent care.

Chair Delgado asked if the recommendation goes back to the Health Officer for approval or if it was considered approved.

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, asked if this item would go to the EMSAB.

Mr. Abbott affirmed this report would be presented to EMSAB as an informational report.

Mr. Dick clarified the regional partners must be on board, and this item would be presented to the EMSAB on Friday morning for approval.

Chair Delgado asked for clarification as to a formal process for approval.

Mr. Dick reports REMSA Health is moving forward with an adjustment to the system as directed at last month's meeting. The intent of this directive was to prevent the implementation from being delayed by the schedule of the Board of Health meeting.



However, Mr. Dick reports that the previous decision could potentially affect the way the EMS system responds and could lead to modification to the REMSA franchise agreement, if this process proves to be a more efficient utilization of the resources available.

Michael Brown expressed his hope is to have checks and balances to monitor this process as the risk exists of people slipping through the cracks. Additionally, he reiterated Chair Delgado's concern regarding this process being set in place without Board approval, as said process could potentially impact the franchise.

Chair Delgado affirmed that this Board is held responsible for these types of decisions.

Councilman Dahir agreed with checks and balances; however, he believed last month this seemed like an emergency conversation for hospitals and movement was necessary.

Chair Delgado affirmed that he appreciates the urgency; however, he asked for the right information to be presented to this Board when situation like these come forward. Chair Delgado requested REMSA Health to give notice to this Board as soon a decision is reached, to provide the opportunity to the Board to address any concerns.

Mr. Abbott affirmed REMSA Health has the intention of keeping the Board informed through the Health Officer.

**Michael Brown moved to approve REMSA Health's September 2021 Report. Dr. Reka Danko seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**B. Update of REMSA's Public Relations during September 2021.**

Presented by: Alexia Jobson

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

Ms. Jobson provided updates since the writing of her report. She reported REMSA Health's Center for Integrated Health and Community Education graduated 9 paramedics. REMSA Health was recently recognized as a 2021 Mission Lifeline Gold Plus Organization by the American Heart Association which honors the quality care provided to STEMI and ACS patients.

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

**C. Discussion and possible approval of the recommended market areas for the REMSA market survey.**

Staff Representative: Kevin Romero

Mr. Kevin Romero reported Fitch and Associates performed a market survey of REMSA. He additionally reports REMSA has completed all financial, operation, and data requests for Fitch and Associates and continued to speak of the recommendations that were being brought to the Board. Mr. Romero provided brief details to justify the recommendation.

Chair Delgado asked when the results could be expected.

Mr. Romero provided a timeline of all the steps taken so far to complete this survey and reported he hopes it would be completed through the middle of November.

Chair Delgado asked if REMSA is working with any of the regional partners as part of the study.

Mr. Romero reports that there are no real similarities or dissimilarities to anyone locally, because REMSA runs the high-performance EMS system through the franchise. Mr. Romero offered to ask Fitch and Associated, but he believes the scale would be different.

Chair Delgado affirmed his request is based off conversations to regionalize support, mutual aid, and transportation.

Mr. Aaron Abbott reported Fitch and Associates has been made aware of the recent changes that include Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District as a contractor with REMSA to help provide EMS services in Washoe County and will ensure that they highlight any markets that have similar relationships.

Michael Brown reiterated the need to address REMSA's need to solicit the assistance from the local government as it is the case in this region, when making comparisons to the entities listed in this report.

Mr. Romero agreed and affirmed that is why they approached the hybrid partnerships between private and public.

**Councilman Dahir moved to approve REMSA Health's September 2021 Report. Michael Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**9. Presentation and possible acceptance of the mid-year progress report on the 2021 Community Health Improvement Plan.**

Staff Representative: Rayona LaVoie

Ms. Rayona LaVoie began her report by providing brief background information on the Health Needs Assessment and the need to have a Community Health Improvement Plan to include needs assessments of the community, engaging the community, and planning to solve the needs.

Ms. LaVoie reports the focus areas include behavioral health, housing and homelessness, and physical activity and nutrition. Additionally, she provided details on the efforts that are put forth on the individual focus areas. Ms. LaVoie reported some of the activities to include the creation of Behavioral Health Crisis Response System and Family Health Festivals. She additionally announced the next Family Health Festival would be Wednesday, November 3, 2021, from 4-7 p.m. at the Neil Road Recreation Center.

Ms. LaVoie concluded by reporting the next steps for this program.

Ms. LaVoie opened her items for questions from the Board.

Councilman Dahir asked about the completion of the housing and homelessness initiative.

Ms. LaVoie replied that most of the initiatives are still in progress because there are several strategies within this initiative.

Councilman Dahir expressed that collaboration is the key and appreciates that the Health District has found its place in the conversation. He also inquired about the Care Center, as he believed the center is a crucial element.

Ms. Julia Ratti reports the 988 number has been approved and will go live in July 2022. She reported the goal is to make that number available to the community which requires a place to call (via text, chat or phone), someone to come to them, and somewhere to go. Additionally, Ms. Ratti reported they are waiting to determine what community partners are interested in this program. She concluded by informing an answer may be available around January.

Councilman Dahir additionally asked if there is anything community leaders can do to ensure this opportunity does not pass the community by.

Ms. Ratti replied that encouraging providers to recognize this as a community wide priority is a way for community leaders to assist in accomplishing this goal and reassure providers that the community is willing to look for ways to fill in any gaps.

Chair Delgado asked if the Health District is still partnering with Renown.

Ms. Ratti reported that during the pandemic the Health District got off cycle with Renown. However, she reported they are in conversations with Renown about partnering on the next Community Health Needs Assessment.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Wayne Gordon asked how the homeless are being accounted for and are those homeless by choice being counted separately. He additionally asked about how the Healthy Store initiative is going to be handled as a result of inflation.

**Councilman Dahir moved to accept of the mid-year progress report on the 2021 Community Health Improvement Plan. Michael Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**10. PUBLIC HEARING to review, discuss and possibly adopt the Proposed Amendments to the Regulations of the Washoe County District Board of Health Governing Food Establishments for the addition of new provisions from the Supplement to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Model Food Code, a new chapter covering Catering Operations, the Make-up of the Food Protection Hearing and Advisory Board, as well as minor edits and formatting corrections.**

Staff Representative: Mike Touhey

Mr. Mike Touhey open his item by reviewing the impacts and changes to the presented update.

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

On the call for public comment, Mr. Murray Kane asked if additional regulations to Nevada businesses are necessary, considering these businesses barely came out of a lockdown. He additionally asked about the outreach efforts that have been made for this item. He asked the Board to fully consider the impact on these already hard-hit businesses. Mr. Kane asked for the Board to respond to his objection.

Chair Delgado asked Mr. Touhey if he had performed a Business Impact Statement as part of the roll out of the public hearing. Additionally, he asked if they had reached out to businesses that could be affected by these updates.

Mr. Touhey affirmed that those steps were followed. He added that for those following the regulations, this process is less restrictive as a result of the new amendment.

Councilman Dahir opined those changes should not be implemented just because it is mandated but appreciates the inquiry for clarification on the process as not everyone is aware of said process. Additionally, he asked if there was any negative response from the community.

Mr. Touhey reported there was no negative feedback from the local businesses. He also reiterated these changes offered more options to businesses.

Councilman confirmed that this regulation has had all the necessary vetting.

**Councilman Dahir moved to adopt of the proposed amendments to the regulations of the Washoe County District Board of Health Governing Food Establishments. Michael Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

11. **Review, discuss and adopt the Business Impact Statement regarding Washoe County Health District Permitting and Fees for all Underground Storage Tank Facilities, with a finding that the permitting and fees do not impose a direct or significant economic burden on a business; nor do the proposed fees directly restrict formation, operation or expansion of a business; and set a public hearing for possible adoption of the proposed permitting and fees December 16, 2021, at 1:00 pm.**

Staff Representative: Wes Rubio

Mr. Wes Rubio provided a brief explanation with the purpose of the presented item as well as the efforts to inform the affected parties of the changes and way of accessing information online including public workshops. Mr. Rubio briefly described the content and format of all the public workshops and their outcomes.

Mr. Rubio provided a PowerPoint presentation describing installation, inspection, and removal of USTs as well as the implementation plan. This presentation was made available on the District Board of Health website.

Mr. Rubio shared an email from Jonathan McRae, supervisor for the State UST Program expressing his approval of the proposed changes to the Interlocal Agreement. This email was provided to the Recording Secretary to include in the record.

Mr. Rubio opened this item for question from the Board.

Councilman Dahir expressed he is not happy that people are being asked for fees; however, he asked to get confirmation that people have been involved in the process and are in agreement with these changes. Additionally, he asked if this agreement would go back if the federal government chooses to change.

Mr. Rubio confirmed his division reached out to as many people possible to allow for feedback, however, apart from the petroleum industry not many people responded. The petroleum industry spoke in favor of implementing fee and keeping it at a local level. Additionally, he reports the State will be seeking to implement their own permit fees to support their own program, so these fees will continue even if the jurisdiction moves to the State due to the reduced funding level from the EPA.

Chair Delgado asked Mr. Rubio to clarify what the fee would be if this program did not received the NDEP funding.

Mr. Rubio reported the fee would be \$1,384 as opposed to \$875.

Councilman reiterated this agreement is the right thing to do, as it keeps it local. He additionally asked if keeping it local meant keeping positions to continue to perform the inspections.

Mr. Rubio affirmed and additionally reported it allows the local jurisdiction to continue to work with the local inspected entities with an established process.

**Councilman Dahir moved to adopt the Business Impact Statement regarding Washoe County Health District Permitting and Fees for all Underground Storage Tank Facilities and set a hearing on December 16, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Michael Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

12. **Recommendation to approve an update to the interlocal agreement (ILA) between Washoe County Health District (WCHD), Nevada Division of Environmental Protection**

**Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW) and Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) to reflect 2021 – 2023 changes to contract scope of work and grant TMWA the same authorities provided to its groundwater systems.**

Staff Representative: David Kelly

Mr. David Kelly provided a brief description of this item. He reported that changes to the contract necessitated some of the listed changes. He additionally explained the intent was to have a process that streamlined engineering review and design, and all those involved agreed that this process has worked well. Mr. Kelly reported the Board of Truckee Meadows Authority has approved the agreement as well as legal counsel and risk management.

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

Councilman Dahir recognized the great collaboration that this item represents.

Chair Delgado thanked Mr. Kelly for the great work.

**Michael Brown moved to approve an update to the interlocal agreement (ILA) between Washoe County Health District (WCHD), Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW) and Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA). Dr. Reka Danko seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

- 13. Recommendation for appointment to the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board as an At-Large Committee Member. Staff recommends: Ms. Yvonne Downs for a three-year term beginning on October 25, 2018, and concluding on October 24, 2021; Applicants include: Alan Horvath, Art O'Connor, Cathy Fitzgerald, Dorothy Hudig, Ph.D., Hazel Brown, James Mitcheltree, Lee Squire, Marcia Wilmes, Martin Breitmeyer, Phil Schweber, Pierre Mousset-Jones, Scott Courier, William Grey, William Foster McCoy, Ph.D.**

Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

This item was requested to be tabled until the meeting of December 16, 2021, due to the minor clerical error.

Deputy District Attorney, Dania Reid, advised the Board to continue this item based on the discrepancy and an audience member voicing the prospect of a complaint to the Attorney General.

Councilman Dahir asked if postponing this item sets a hold on the operation of the Board.

Mr. Francisco Vega reported this continuance would not impact any appeals or decision making.

**Councilman Dahir moved to continue this item to the December 16, 2021, meeting. Michael Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

- 14. Recommendation to review and approve of the District Health Officer's Annual Performance Evaluation Results.**

Presented by: Laurie Griffey

Chair Delgado suggested this item be moved to December 16, 2021, due to a time constraint.

**Michael Brown moved to table the Health Officer Annual Performance Evaluation to December 16, 2021. Dr. Reka Danko seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

## 15. Staff Reports and Program Updates

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

EPA Report Shows Disproportionate Impacts of Climate Change, EPA to Limit Climate-Damaging Greenhouse Gases Used in Refrigeration, New WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines Aim to Save Millions of Lives Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

Mr. Vega open his item by updating the Board on the Clean Car Nevada initiative. He reported the initiative completed the regulatory process and was approved by the legislative commission, which means more options for residents of Washoe County to purchase low or zero emitting vehicles.

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

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

Divisional Update – Fetal Infant Mortality Review Program; 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, Women Infants and Children, and COVID-19 Vaccinations.

Ms. Lisa Lottritz began her report by adding that Health Plan of Nevada is partnering with Count the Kicks which will focus on the importance of tracking fetal movement on a daily basis in the third trimester. Additionally, she reports WIC was able to extend the expanded cash value amount for fruits and vegetables for WIC clients.

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

### C. Environmental Health Services, Erin Dixon, Division Director

Environmental Health Services (EHS) Division: 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.

Erin Dixon began her report by highlighting the Temporary Foods program. Ms. Dixon reported this program doesn't just issue permits for the individual food operators but also requires a promoter's event permit, so that staff is onsite that monitors the event. Additionally, she provided details of the work that is done prior to the event to ensure operators have everything in order to be successful.

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

### D. Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness, Dr. Nancy Diao, Division Director

Communicable Disease, Public Health Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services, Vital Statistics.

Dr. Nancy Diao noted that in general communicable disease an increase has been seen on the number of open outbreaks in childcare and elementary school settings. She reported there are 5 open RSV outbreaks as of the current week.

Councilman asked for an update on flu.

Dr. Diao reported there is no uptick as of right now as they see more COVID like illness.

Dr. Diao made herself available to respond to questions from the Board.

Councilman Dahir asked if it mixes altogether and opens door for each other.

Dr. Diao explained those two viruses have similar symptoms; however, you can be infected with both at the same time.

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

District Health Officer Report – COVID-19 Response, Joint Information Center, Government Affairs Update, Public Health Accreditation, Community Health Improvement Plan, Workforce Development Survey, Washoe Impact Awards, Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities/Truckee Meadows Tomorrow Merger, and Public Communications and Outreach.

Health Officer, Kevin Dick opened his item by reporting the COVID-19 Response and provide clarification based on some of the comments. He reported the Health District and the District Board of Health do not have any direction over medical personnel in hospitals, pharmacists, treatments, or drugs available to the community. Additionally, the Governor issues the directives and neither the Health District and/or the Board of Health have the authority to end the Governor’s emergency.

Mr. Dick reported on vaccinations administered by the Health District.. Mr. Dick also reported that the test administered at the Health District tests for COVID-19 and the flu, so the few flu cases reported last year proved that masks and mitigation measures work to prevent the spread of respiratory diseases. Mr. Dick affirmed the mask mandate has been in effect since July 27 and has not changed. Mr. Dick reported that breakthrough cases are being tracked by the epidemiology team. Additionally, Mr. Dick provided possible reasons for these breakthroughs including but not limited to new variants and waning of efficacy.

Mr. Dick updated the Board regarding an increase in cases and pointed out some clerical errors in his report. Mr. Dick also reported a significant increase in vaccine administration because of people receiving their boosters and third doses. Mr. Dick reported the vaccination rate has increased to represent 65% of the population 12+ who has received their first dose and over 71% of the population has received their second dose. Mr. Dick reported a scheduling issue for the Moderna booster; however, he stated the problem had been dealt with and he anticipated a test of the platform to happen by Monday.

Mr. Dick also reported that the Health District received recognition from Washoe County with the Manager’s Award for the COVID-19 Response in addition to the Communications Award.

Mr. Dick concluded by reporting the Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities has merged with Truckee Meadows Tomorrow.

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

**16. Board Comment.**

Having no Board comments, Chair Delgado closed this item.

**17. Public Comment.**

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

On the call for public comment, Mr. Murray Kane rendered an apology for a previous outburst. Mr. Kane opined this is a very emotional subject among many and referred to the

reported deaths due to the vaccine on the CDC website. He opined that Emergency Use Authorization is not approval by the FDA. Mr. Kane invited the Board to read the Meta-analysis in the June 2021 American Journal of Therapeutics amongst other articles to learn about treatments. He asked the Board to encourage treatment not just vaccines.

Ms. Janet Butcher opined that not taking the vaccine does not make you antivaxxer. Ms. Butcher took time to thank essential workers especially those being disenfranchised by the mandates. Ms. Butcher shared the Art from the Well poem written by Krista Lee, a nurse. She asked the Board not to force others to take the vaccine.

Ms. Darla Lee thanked Dr. Danko for her report, however, she opined it gave her very little that she didn't know. She referred to a variety of situations regarding COVID-19 and the regulations she opined were unreasonable. Additionally, she asked why the Board is not standing against the vilifying of the unvaccinated.

Mr. Wayne Gordon asked the Health Officer to listen to the public comment. He expressed appreciating for Dr. Danko's presentation. Mr. Gordon made a differentiation between the flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine. Mr. Gordon opined the Board of Health does have the authority to end the emergency. He added that a mandate is not the law.

## **Adjournment.**

**Chair Delgado adjourned the meeting at 4:45 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.gov/health>

State of Nevada Website: <https://notice.nv.gov>

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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.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.