

# Washoe County District Board of Health Videoconference Meeting Minutes

## Members

Dr. John Novak, Chair  
Michael D. Brown, Vice Chair  
Marsha Berkbigler  
Kristopher Dahir  
Dr. Reka Danko  
Oscar Delgado  
Tom Young

Thursday, August 27, 2020  
1:00 p.m.

Washoe County Administration Complex  
Commission Chambers, Building A  
1001 East Ninth Street  
Reno, NV

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## 1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Chair Novak called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. due to technical difficulties.

The following members and staff were present:

Members present: Dr. John Novak, Chair  
Michael Brown, Vice-Chair  
Marsha Berkbigler (via zoom)  
Kristopher Dahir (telephonically)  
Dr. Reka Danko (telephonically)  
Oscar Delgado (via zoom)  
Tom Young (via zoom)

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

Staff present: Kevin Dick, District Health Officer  
Dania Reid, Deputy District Attorney  
Charlene Albee (via zoom)  
Lisa Lottritz (via zoom)  
Francisco Vega (via zoom)  
Andrea Esp (via zoom)  
Anastasia Gunawan (telephonically)

## 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Dania Reid led the pledge to the flag.

## 3. Public Comment

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

Mrs. Valdespin called one pre-registered public comment by Tom Dunn representing the Reno Fire Firefighters Association.

Mr. Dunn spoke about the item that was heard at the July 23, 2020 REMA EMS 9-1-1 emergency services delivery and changes that went into effect August 1, 2020. Mr. Dunn believes the changes were not properly discussed or voted on at the July meeting, which could pose a violation of both the REMSA franchise agreement as well as the Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Dunn also stated these issues were not properly discussed with the partnering fire agencies or the EMS Advisory Committee. Mr. Dunn stated he requested a public meeting from the City of Reno, the Health District, and the EMS Advisory Committee to discuss these changes publicly. Mr. Dunn included a copy of his letter referring his comment.

Ms. Valdespin confirmed no more public comment request.

**Chair Novak closed the public comment period.**

**4. Approval of Agenda**

August 27, 2020

**Commissioner Berkbigler moved to approve the agenda for the August 27, 2020, District Board of Health regular meeting. Vice-chair Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**5. Recognitions**

A. Years of Service

- i. Denise Cona, 35 years, hired August 19, 1985 – EHS

Mr. Dick recognized and thanked Denise Cona for her 35 years of service with the Health District and commended the work as a Support Specialist.

- ii. James English, 20 years, hired May 15, 2000 – EHS

Mr. Dick recognized Jim English for his 20 years of service.

- iii. Kevin Dick, 10 years, hired August 30, 2010 – ODHO

Chair Novak led the recognitions to address Kevin Dick’s 10-year anniversary and commended him for his work.

- iv. Wesley Rubio, 10 years, hired August 16, 2010 – EHS

Mr. Dick recognized Wes Rubio’s 10 years of service.

B. Promotions

- i. David Kelly, promoted from Sr. Environmental Health Specialist to Environmental Health Specialist Supervisor effective August 3, 2020 – EHS

Mr. Dick congratulated Mr. Kelly for his recent promotion.

C. New Hires

- i. Matthew McCarthy, Air Quality Specialist Trainee, hired August 17, 2020 - AQM

- ii. Candace Brown, Air Quality Specialist Trainee, hired August 31, 2020 – AQM

Mr. Dick recognized all the new hires in AQM.

D. Resigned

- i. Alissar Puckett, Epidemiologist effective July 30, 2020 – EHS

Mr. Dick recognized Ms. Puckett’s resignation.

E. Shining Stars

- i. Heather Holmstadt

Mr. Dick recognized Ms. Holmstadt’s 3-tier level in shining stars. Additionally, he thanked Ms. Holmstad’s for her efforts in assisting as an epidemiologist with COVID Response.

**6. International Overdose Awareness Day Proclamation.**

Staff Representative: Britany Wiele, Youth and Community Outreach Specialist, JTNN

Mr. Dick Read the Proclamation for the record, recognizing that Ms. Britany Wiele was present virtually to accept said proclamation.

**Vice-Chair Brown moved to adopt the International Overdose Awareness Day Proclamation. Dr. Danko seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.**

## 7. Consent Items

Matters which the District Board of Health may consider in one motion. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

### A. Approval of Draft Minutes

- i. July 23, 2020

### 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 and Behavioral Health in the amount of \$935,680.00 (\$93,560.00 cash match) retroactive to July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 in support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Preparedness Program (PHP) and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward, any future amendments and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements with partnering agencies.  
Staff Representative: Nancy Kerns-Cummins

- ii. Approve a Notice of Subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public & Behavioral Health for the period retroactive to July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 in the total amount of \$156,927.00 (no required match) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Immunization Program and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward and any future amendments.  
Staff Representative: Kim Graham

- C. Accept a donation of 60 lunches from Nathan Almlie for COVID-19 testing staff with an estimated value of \$500.00.

Staff Representative: Nancy Kerns-Cummings

- D. Recommendation to uphold citations not appealed to the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board.

- i. Ryno Land and Development LLC - Case No. 1224, NOV No. AQMV20-0001

Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

- ii. Northern Nevada Homes - Case No. 1225, NOV No. AQMV20-0002

- E. Approve to reappoint Dr. Andrew Michelson, Emergency Room Physician, to the Regional Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, a three-year term commencing on May 2020 and ending on May 2023 or until such time as a successor is appointed.

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

- F. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for June, Fiscal Year 2020.

Staff Representative: Anna Heenan

**Vice-Chair Brown moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Berkbigler seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

## 8. Presentation on Truckee Meadows COVID-19 Threat Meter.

Presented by: Jeremy Smith, Director, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency

Councilwoman Naomi Duerr was present with Dr. Jeremy Smith on this presentation. Dr. Smith introduced Councilwoman Duerr to make introductory comments.

Councilwoman Duerr mentioned that Mayor Hillary Schieve convened a COVID Task Force, as a result and the changes in their needs a COVID Threat Meter unique to our

community was developed to help manage the COVID situation. Ms. Duerr explained that this meter was developed with the feedback from Harvard, New York, and MIT in an effort to analyze the data that is being utilized nationally.

Ms. Duerr mentioned that all three hospitals Northern Nevada, Renown, and St. Mary's joined this team along with members of the school district and Kevin Dick, in order to roll out the concept and talk about how this meter would help the community. Ms. Duerr asked the Board to provide feedback on this subject and reiterated that the purpose of this method is not to replace what the Health District is doing.

Dr. Smith continued by sharing his PowerPoint presentation (attached to the agenda packet) which displayed the home page look of the Truckee Meadows COVID Threat meter, that is designed for citizens to quickly ascertain the current threat/escalation levels of COVID in the community, based on data trends. The site also includes a set of guidelines to help residents on making decisions about their behavior.

Dr. Smith shared that Councilman Dahir has been participating in the task force. Additionally, Dr. Smith continued to introduce the members of the Metric Subcommittee and their expertise as well as explaining some of the colors used within this site to determine the guidelines to be followed.

Dr. Smith spoke about the 5 data indicators used to determine threat levels and what the interpretations are per indicator. He also mentioned that these indicators allow the group to compare to other communities. He discussed assumptions by indicator, holiday/special day modifications, which reflects a known increase in gatherings associated with special events, and history threat.

Dr. Smith related that due to unprecedented circumstances for the current situation, the threat model will need ongoing refinements such as testing of accuracy and predictive power, adding steps within each color, and feedback from stakeholders.

Dr. Smith expressed that the goal of this tool is to be used as a communication device for the community and to empower residents to make behavioral changes that they believe are appropriate based on the current status of COVID-19.

Tom Young stated he would like to see the status of antibody testing within this model. Dr. Smith appreciated the comment and offered to ask the statistician about the data availability.

Chair Novak inquired about how this information will be released and to whom.

Dr. Smith stated it will be released daily via the TMRPA site [www.tmrpa.org/covidwc](http://www.tmrpa.org/covidwc), which will also be available in Spanish. This site will be available to the public and a press release will be rolled out once it's ready to be launched.

Councilwoman Duerr reiterated that the doctors mentioned in the presentation will be the public face to the Threat Meter. She also stated this will be a medical subject and not a political platform.

Dr. Novak concurred that it should be a medical subject as opposed to a political message. Dr. Novak also asked that open communication happen with the Health District, so that the message is the same down the line.

Councilwoman Duerr agreed and confirmed that the purpose of this meter is to prevent confusion within the community. Additionally, Councilwoman Duerr mentioned that the plan is to have this tool reviewed and ready to be launched by next Friday, however, this decision is be subject to change.

**9. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority**

Presented by: Dean Dow and Alexia Jobson

**A. Review and Acceptance of the REMSA Operations Report for July 2020**

Mr. Dow began his presentation recognizing that recent changes have caused confusion and explained he has a group working together. Mr. Dow offered an apology to the Board and the fire partners.

Mr. Dow made himself available to answer any questions regarding his July report.

**Tom Young moved to approve REMSA’s July Report. Dr. Danko seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**B. Update of REMSA’s Public Relations during July 2020**

Alexia Jobson presented the Public Relations report for July 2020. Ms. Jobson began her presentation by updating the Board on recent activities.

Ms. Jobson reported that in early August REMSA shared a video with highlights on how emergency medical dispatch at REMSA works in comparison to other dispatch centers. Ms. Jenny Wilson, Medical Director, is the subject matter expert featured in the video.

Ms. Jobson informed that the “In the Wild Wednesdays” social series was released in August. These series provided safety tips on enjoying the wilderness. As an incentive a 71-piece first aid kit and a gift card were offered for those who participated.

Adam Heinz, Executive Director of Integrated Health offered a presentation to the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce as well as media interviews about REMSA’s response during the pandemic and REMSA’s innovations and enhancements being made to their system.

Ms. Jobson made herself available to answer question from the Board.

**10. Presentation, possible approval for distribution of the Washoe County EMS Oversight Program Fiscal Year 2020 Mid-Year Data Report.**

Staff Representative: Anastasia Gunawan

Ms. Gunawan did not have additional comments or information on her report, but made herself available to answer questions from the Board.

**Vice-Chair Brown moved to approve the distribution of the Washoe County EMS Oversight Program Fiscal Year 2020 Mid-Year Data Report. Commissioner Berkbigler seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.**

**11. Discussion and possible action to adopt Nevada Administrative Code 447E, SARS-CoV-2 Regulations at Public Accommodation Facilities (NAC 447E), only if NAC 447E has been previously adopted by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services in response to Senate Bill 4, as approved by Governor Sisolak on August 11, 2020.**

Staff Representative: Charlene Albee

Ms. Albee provided history on the immediate report, but also explained that this item will have to be tabled as the state did not adopt the regulations according to the original schedule.

Ms. Albee informed that adoption of regulations is scheduled for August 31, 2020 at which point Ms. Albee will bring this item back to this Board through a Special Meeting, as the Health District will have 14 days to adopt said regulations.

**Vice-chair Brown moved to table the agenda item and schedule a Special Meeting. Councilman Delgado seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**12. Update on current Air Quality Management (AQM) and Environmental Health Services (EHS) permit status along with a discussion and possible direction to extend the waiver for the assessment of late fees on AQM and EHS permits from September 10, 2020 until October 12, 2020 in response to economic impacts on the community from the COVID-19 emergency.**

Staff Representative: Charlene Albee

Ms. Albee informed that this has been a reoccurring item due to COVID-19. Ms. Albee proposed that this item be extended for 30 more days, but also recommended this be the final postponement. The number of permits that will have to be assessed for waiver of fees is almost unmanageable, with 358 late fees as of this report.

Ms. Albee made herself available to answer question from the Board.

**Commissioner Berkbigler moved to waive the assessment of late fees on Air Quality management and Environmental Health Services. Councilman Delgado seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**13. Staff Reports and Program Updates**

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

Program Update – Clean Cars Nevada Initiative, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Enforcement.

Daniel Inouye substituted for Mr. Vega. Mr. Inouye highlighted the Nevada Action Plan under the Program Update of the submitted report referencing SB54 and an executive order by the governor. The executive order called for greenhouse gas reduction calls. This plan aligns with the Ozone Advance Program. Mr. Inouye encouraged especially our elected Board members to assist in promoting Ozone Advance within the local jurisdictions. Mr. Inouye stated he did not have anything to add but opened the item to answer questions.

Chair Novak asked about the smoke levels within the next two weeks or so.

Mr. Inouye informed that due to the latest wildfire we did see high numbers with particulates and with ozone, which shows our vulnerability to being down wind to some of the largest wildfires. Mr. Inouye reported that with the ozone exceedances monitored last week, there's a chance that the design value will violate the ozone standard. Mr. Inouye stated he would update the Board at the next meeting in September.

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

Divisional Update – STD Awareness; Data & Metrics; Sexual Health (HIV and Disease Investigation), Immunizations, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, Reproductive

and Sexual Health Services, Chronic Disease Prevention Program, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health and Women Infants and Children.

Ms. Lottritz added that the immunization team completed 4 back-to-school events in August and saw a total of 264 clients and gave 743 vaccinations at these events.

Mr. Lottritz made herself available to answer questions from the Board.

**C. Environmental Health Services, Charlene Albee, Division Director**

Consumer Protection (Food, Food Safety, Commercial Plans, Permitted Facilities); Environmental Protection (Land Development, Drinking Water, Vector, WM/UST); and Inspections.

Ms. Albee added to her report information regarding the outstanding case with a holding order referencing CBD oil. Ms. Albee informs that the state did not finalize and approve the CBD regulations as of the end of June, as it was intended. The Health District is FDA grant funded and operations reflect the guidelines set forth by the FDA.

Ms. Albee also reported that Tyler Henderson successfully passed his REHS exam via the training program that was established in 2016. This program has been successful in training candidates with the education to qualify as an Environmental Health Specialist. This program has proven to be of benefit given the current needs of the Health District, as it is difficult to hire Registered Environmental Health Specialist, as they are not available to hire directly into said position. Ms. Albee reports there will be 5 more trainees that will be go through this exam in the next few months.

Ms. Albee made herself available to answer questions from the Board.

**D. Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness, Andrea Esp, Acting Division Director**

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

Ms. Esp made herself available to respond to questions from the Board.

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

District Health Officer Report – Special Legislative Session, Public Health Accreditation, Community Health Improvement Plan, Contact Tracing, Washoe County School District, Unified Command, and Joint Information Center.

Mr. Dick began with an update on COVID-19. He reports that the state updated the County Tracker for elevated disease transmission, today. Washoe County continues to exceed 2 of the thresholds and continues to be flagged. Mr. Dick states the Health District has seen a decrease in testing at the drive-thru at the Livestock Events Center, due to no-shows. Mr. Dick informed they are using Charles River Labs for the analysis of specimens collected two day a week and looking to expand to three days a week.

Mr. Dick report that Accela Regional Permitting Licensing platform will be down over the weekend for a scheduled maintenance. Mr. Dick informed that anyone that would like to test should go through the website portal or to call the 775-328-2427 line prior to 3:00 p.m. on Friday.

Mr. Dick reports staffing is increasing for disease investigators, currently there are 58 disease investigators on staff. He added that the Health District is working to fill vacancies left by UNR contractors and 16 additional staff members.

Mr. Dick informed the Health District requested the State Task Force to allow bars to open in Washoe County as it has been noted that outbreaks are occurring from private gatherings. Mr. Dick opines that private gatherings may diminish if people had an opportunity to meet at a bar as oppose to someone's private residence, supplying a controlled environment where government officials could inspect for compliance and take enforcement action, if necessary. However, the request was denied by the State Task Force.

Mr. Dick informed that the cities are working on addressing the problem with private gatherings, in an effort to meet the State Task Force's expectations, by patrolling in "party cars" to police those events and increasing inspections on businesses outside of complaints.

Mr. Dick informed that Washoe County is leading an effort with the Regional Information Center, and some marketing firms have been brought on board for this purpose. PBK is partnering with local KPS3 for this marketing campaign. This group interviewed the Health District's Epi Team to gain a better understanding of some of the issues that are occurring, so that PBK and KPS3 can get more granularity of what they want to consider for this marketing and messaging campaign. Mr. Dick added that they will also focus on the Latino community as well as working on ways to reach the 20-40-year-old group that also seems to have more cases proportionally in the community.

Mr. Dick addressed the comments regarding REMSA's actions at the last District Board of Health meeting, stating it was a response to the Governor's Directive 11. Mr. Dick informed that he will address the concerns from the fire agencies, via a letter requesting additional information about any occurrences that they are aware of where there may have been inappropriate response.

Mr. Dick continued to inform that Julia Ratti is working with a FEMA grant and Human Service Agency to bring on crisis counselors to work with positive case individuals to provide support as they undergo mental duress.

Mr. Dick also informed about the Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities Family Health Festival, that was held as a drive-thru even with Mobile Harvest, State Welfare, School District, Family Resource Centers, United Way, Catholic Charities, the Health District, and the Food Bank. This even had 1500 participants. School supplies and books and resource kits were distributed along with the food bank.

The Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities Build Health project reaches out and engages seniors in creating social connections. Virtual meetings are being held. A Build Health Heart Town Project through Artown provided wooden hearts and paints for seniors to paint. A total of 350 hearts are being displayed at the Lear Theatre.

#### **14. Board Comment**

Chair Novak spoke about COVID Tracker Nevada and encouraged the Board to use this app. Chair Novak also commended Denise Cona for her service to the Health District, as well as staff and the National Guard.

Chair Novak additionally spoke of an item that will need signature from the Board members.

Chair Novak concluded by urging everyone to get their flu shots as well as wearing a mask and hand washing.

**12. Public Comment.**

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

At the approval of counsel, Dania Reid, Tom Dunn deferred to Chief Nolan from Reno Fire. Chief Nolan stated appreciation of Mr. Dow's previous comment on item #9. Chief Nolan read a statement regarding their concerns on recent response changes made by REMSA. Chief Nolan clarified the statements are not an attack on REMSA but rather a report of observations.

Chief Nolan states that it is believed that the changes were in violation of both the Interlocal and REMSA's Franchise Agreements. Chief Nolan states objections were presented to the changes without an in-depth vetting of said changes, but the belief is that those opinions were unheard.

Chief Nolan informs that a meeting between REMSA and local Fire Departments was requested at the EMS Advisory Board, but that meeting has not been scheduled.

Chief Nolan stated that implementing these changes has caused a delay in ambulance responses, incorrect dispatch determinants and disjointed responses to medical emergencies.

Chief Nolan stated that although REMSA not EMS Oversight has requested feedback on the issues that have risen, Reno Fire has provided such feedback because they are working on identifying trends and modifying their response to those trends as well as because they believe this responsibility falls within the District Board of Health's realm.

Chief Nolan concluded with a request of a formal investigation

Chief Charles Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue, took this opportunity to speak regarding the proposed REMSA response changes and informed the Board of his experience in discussing issues with Mr. Dean Dow, even when they're difficult. Chief Moore also states Mr. Dow has been welcoming when discussing respective services.

Additionally, Chief Moore stated he has discussed the current matter with Mr. Dow, and they are both committed to continue their meetings and discuss the concern as they arise. Chief Moore concluded by stating that their dialogue will continue to be straightforward and professional, as always.

**Chair Novak closed the public comment period.**

**Adjournment.**

**Chair Novak adjourned the meeting at 2:45 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) no later than 4:00 p.m. the day before the scheduled meeting, which includes the name of the commenter and the agenda item number for which the comment is submitted. 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 with an asterisk (\*). Any public comment for hearing items will be heard before action is taken on the item and must be about the specific item being considered by the Board.

**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 [www.washoecounty.us/health](http://www.washoecounty.us/health)

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

Pursuant to the Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 NRS241.023(1)(b), the requirement to physically post agendas is hereby suspended.

**How to Get Copies of Agenda and Support Materials:** Supporting materials are available to the public at the Washoe County Health District located at 1001 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, in Reno, Nevada. Ms. Susy Valdespin, Administrative Secretary to the District Board of Health is the person designated by the Washoe County District Board of Health to respond to requests for supporting materials. Ms. Valdespin is located at the Washoe County Health District and may be reached by telephone at (775) 328-2415 or by email at [svaldespin@washoecounty.us](mailto:svaldespin@washoecounty.us). Supporting materials are also available at the Washoe County Health District Website [www.washoecounty.us/health](http://www.washoecounty.us/health) pursuant to the requirements of NRS 241.020.