



## **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, December 16, 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 (excused at 3:00 p.m.)  
Kristopher Dahir  
Dr. Reka Danko  
Dr. John Klacking (via zoom audio at 1:10 p.m.)  
Michael Brown

Members absent: Robert Lucey, Vice Chair

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

Staff present:

Kevin Dick, District Health Officer  
Luke Franklin  
Wes Rubio  
Julia Ratti  
Laurie Griffey  
Dr. Nancy Diao  
Francisco Vega  
Erin Dixon  
Lisa Lottritz

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

Councilman Dahir led the pledge to the flag.

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

December 16, 2021

**Dr. John Novak moved to approve the agenda for the December 16, 2021, District Board of Health regular meeting. Michael Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

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

##### A. Years of Service

- i. Kathy Sobrio, 25 years, hired December 9, 1996 - CCHS
- ii. Cory Sobrio, 25 years, hired November 25, 1996 - CCHS
- iii. Christina Sheppard, 5 years, hired November 28, 2016 - CCHS
- iv. Samantha Beebe, 5 years, hired November 28, 2016 – CCHS
- v. Blair Hedrick, 5 years, hired December 19, 2016 – EPHP

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

##### B. New Hires

- i. Karley Crane, October 25, 2021, Office Support Specialist – CCHS (promoted from Records Office)
- ii. James Smith, November 22, 2021, Office Support Specialist – CCHS (promoted from Senior Services)
- iii. Yeraldin Deavila, November 22, 2021, Media & Communication Specialist – ODHO
- iv. Rachel Ladd, December 6, 2021, Medical Billing Specialist - CCHS

Health Officer, Kevin Dick invited Lisa Lottritz to introduce her division’s new staff members.

Ms. Lottritz introduced Ms. Crane and Mr. Smith as new members of her team and expressed gratitude for the new additions.

Mr. Dick invited Scott Oxarart to introduce Ms. Deavila.

Mr. Oxarart introduced Ms. Deavila and shared her expertise and expressed his appreciation for the new addition to his team.

##### C. Promotions

- i. Alexandra Velasco, Public Health Nurse I to Public Health Nurse II, effective October 14, 2021 – CCHS

Mr. Dick recognized and congratulated Ms. Velasco for her current promotion.

##### D. Retirements

- i. Denise Cona, Office Support Specialist, effective November 2, 2021 – EHS
- ii. Cory Sobrio, Public Health Nurse II, effective December 15, 2021 – CCHS
- iii. Kathy Sobrio, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, effective January 30, 2022, - CCHS

Mr. Dick recognized and congratulated Ms. Cona for her remarkable service to the Health District. Ms. Cona retired with 36 years of service at the Health District.

Mr. Dick also congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Sobrio on their retirements, after 25 years of service and presented them with a retirement token.

##### E. Resignations

- i. Julie Hunter, Emergency Medical Services Coordinator effective November 30, 2021 - EPHP
- ii. Megan Bowling, Medical Billing Specialist effective November 6, 2021 – CCHS
- iii. Martha Casique, Office Assistant II effective December 24, 2021 – CCHS

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, announced the resignations of Ms. Hunter, Ms. Bowling, and Ms. Casique. Mr. Dick noted Ms. Casique's extended services within Washoe County to equal about 24 years.

**5. National Radon Action Month Proclamations.**

Accepted by: Christine Kelly  
Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

Mr. Dick read the National Radon Action Month proclamation into the record.

Chair Delgado expressed appreciation for the education provided to the community.

Mr. Dick added that if Christine Kelly was present, she would remind everyone that this is the ideal time of year to test their home for Radon.

**6. Public Comment.**

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

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

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick  
Board Representative: Dr. Reka Danko

Health Officer, Kevin Dick opened this item by reporting the 1,000<sup>th</sup> death of a Washoe County resident due to COVID-19. Mr. Dick opined this was terrible for all the loved ones and families that have lost these individuals and expressed condolences. Mr. Dick continued to report on the numbers for COVID-19 cases in Washoe County as well as providing updates on the new variant, Omicron. Mr. Dick explained this new variant is being monitored and his expectation is that this variant will arrive in the community, and it will have significant impacts in the future.

Mr. Dick added that the number of cases has plateaued at 85-90 new cases per 7-day average, and under the County Tracking system the test positivity rate is declining down to 6.7% at the time of this meeting. However, Mr. Dick also stated that Washoe County remains on the high transmission category. He also added that although the county is considered substantial based on the positivity rate, the mask mandate applies to both substantial and high transmission areas in case count and positivity rate; therefore, the county is considered high transmission based off the case count.

Mr. Dick reported that the Nevada Hospital Association removed the warning level for hospital occupancy rates, which represents a good sign. The county remains under alert level for staffing.

Mr. Dick briefly spoke of the vaccination efforts which includes transition from the drive-thru facility at the Livestock Events Center to the indoor clinic at the Health District, as well as several recurring community events. Additionally, there are efforts in place to hold Point of Dispensing (PODs) for 5-11 year-olds. Mr. Dick informed that testing would continue outdoors as it is a better approach for the safety and preventing disease transmission.

Mr. Dick concluded by reporting that the Health District is waiting to hear from CDC regarding the Janssen vaccine. He continued to invite Dr. Reka Danko to add comments regarding medical or hospital front.

Dr. Danko explained that from the hospital front things continue to evolve, as the trends are

different in a hospital. She explained that improved trends in the community takes time to reach the hospitals.

Dr. Danko advised that as COVID-19 continues to evolve, the community must stay vigilant with the prevention efforts, which includes vaccination. She also added that a trend has been noted at hospitals which trends more towards unvaccinated individuals.

Dr. Danko concluded by reminding everyone to be watchful during holiday gatherings and use masks as a prevention method as well as wiping common touch surfaces. Dr. Danko continued to state that there have not been many changes with respect to the treatment medications.

Mr. Dick continued to report on the number of people receiving boosters in Washoe County. He noted it has been about a year since the first shipment of the vaccine was received, and the Health District has since been working hard to administer the vaccine. Mr. Dick briefly shared the number of vaccinated residents statewide, which revealed Washoe County being ahead as far as vaccines administered per 100,000 population. Additionally, he reported that the Health District accounts for a little under 10% of all the doses administered.

Councilman Dahir asked what dictates when mask will no longer be necessary.

Mr. Dick explained the mask requirement is under the Governor's directive, such directive is guided by the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He added that the CDC recommendation is based on the level of new cases and transmission thresholds at the county level.

Chair Delgado commented on the confusion that has resulted after the County Commission's recent action to terminate the Declaration of Emergency. He also asked if the Health District will be providing clarity on what is required by the public.

Mr. Dick responded that the Health District can reinforce the communication on the mask mandate being in effect in Washoe County. Mr. Dick added that the County Commission terminated the Emergency Declaration, which allowed for the Health District to act quickly at the beginning of the emergency response and allowed for reimbursement through FEMA for the costs of the response. However, Mr. Dick informed that the currently the situation allows for the federal government to provide grant funding for the COVID-19 response efforts.

Mr. Dick concluded by reporting that he does not see the Health District's operations being directly impacted by the termination of the Emergency Declaration; however, it does not change the mask requirements under the Governor's directive.

Chair Delgado reiterated that while ending the Emergency Declaration changes the operation structure, it does not indicate the pandemic is over or that masks are no longer warranted. Chair reported the District Board of Health will continue to move in accordance with the Governor's directive with respect to indoor policies.

Dr. John Novak requested a full breakdown of the vaccination numbers which includes all entities administering vaccines.

Mr. Dick reported the Health District's four week moving average was at 1,326 per week. However, he stated he would request the numbers from the state but advised that attaining the requested granular number may pose a challenge.

Dr. Novak expressed his doubt about the Health District's participation coming in at 8%.

Chair reiterated transparency is important.

Councilman Dahir offered clarification on the removal of the Declaration of Emergency by stating that this action is typical business within cities and counties. Councilman Dahir encouraged to take that action for what it is.

Chair Delgado reported he attended a POD event at Dodson Elementary School and commented the children were excited to be able to see the grandparents after being vaccinated.

**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. October 28, 2021
- ii. November 18, 2021 (Strategic Planning Retreat)

**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 for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 in the total amount of \$109,112 (no required match) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Tuberculosis Prevention Program IO#11923 and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Subaward and any future amendments.  
Staff Representative: Kim Graham and Victoria Nicolson-Hornblower
  - ii. Approve a Notice of Subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public & Behavioral Health effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 in the total amount of \$287,496 (no required match) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) HIV Prevention Program IO# 11943 and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward and any future amendments.  
Staff Representative: Kim Graham and Sonya Smith
  - iii. Approve Intrastate Interlocal Contract between the State of Nevada, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Corrective Actions and the Washoe County Health District upon approval of the Board of Examiners through June 30, 2025 in the total amount of \$350,000 (\$100,000 per fiscal year) in support of the Environmental Health Services Division (EHS) Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program, and if approved authorize the District Health Officer to execute the agreement and any future amendments.  
Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer
- C. Approve donation of a Norwesco 5,025 gallon water tank to Northern Nevada Medical Center with a current market value estimated at \$1,000.00.  
Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer**
- D. Authorize FY22 Purchase Order to My Next Career Path in the anticipated amount of \$3,000,000.00 to provide temporary staffing in support of the COVID-19 response and vaccination events.  
Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer and Jim English**
- E. Recommendation for the Board to Uphold Uncontested Citation Not Appealed to the Air**

Pollution Control Hearing Board.

- i. Atlantic Aviation – RNO – Case No. 1256, NOV AQMV21-0044  
Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

F. Recommendation for the Board to consider approval of a Settlement Agreement and a Supplemental Environmental Project valued at no more than \$1,000.00 for McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. as required in Order No. 00008 as a settlement for the Notice of Violation associated with Case No. 1308.  
Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

G. Recommendation for the Board to consider approval of a Settlement Agreement and a Supplemental Environmental Project valued at no more than \$3,000.00 for McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. as required in Order No. 00009 as a settlement for the Notice of Violation associated with Case No. 1316. (  
Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

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

Councilman Dahir requested further discussion for Item 8D under the consent agenda due to the amount of the purchase order.

**Councilman Dahir moved to approve the consent agenda with the request to pull Item 8D for further discussion. Dr. John Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

Mr. Dick continued to report that Item 8D is to be used for the temporary staff that helps support all the Health District’s operations. Mr. Dick explained the item is not intended to authorize a one-time expenditure of \$3 million, but rather allow for payments of staffing, as the original purchase order amount is nearing its previously approved \$1.5 million limit.

Councilman Dahir asked for clarification that the Health District will not be paying a \$3 million bill.

Mr. Dick clarified that this purchase order exists to allow invoicing to pay for temporary staffing.

Councilman Dahir expressed his disapproval of placing these types of items in the consent portion of the agenda.

**Dr. John Novak moved to authorize the purchase order to provide temporary staff in support of COVID-19 response and vaccination events. Michael Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

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

**A. Review and Acceptance of the REMSA Health Operations Reports.**

- i. **October 2021**
- ii. **November 2021**

Presented by: Dean Dow

Dean Dow began his presentation by opening his item for questions from the Board and noted that Item 9D is a presentation of the reports the Board had previously requested.

Chair Delgado inquired about the academy REMSA Health spoke about at the November meeting.

Mr. Dow reported these academies have been successful and the candidates have passed out of their training and are presently working in the field.

Councilman Dahir asked for a status on staff.

Mr. Dow reported some of the stresses the system faced through the summer and first part of fall have started to balance out. Additionally, Mr. Dow reported REMSA Health has worked with all three health systems with respect to the flow of moving patients through the Emergency Departments (ED). He concluded by reporting his department is being cautious over the next couple of months.

Chair Delgado asked if Spanish Springs' data is included in the compliance report.

Mr. Dow stated data for Spanish Springs will be present on the December compliance report.

Chair Delgado asked if Sun Valley and Washoe Valley are included in the report.

Mr. Down affirmed this data should have been included.

**Dr. John Novak moved to approve REMSA Health's October and November 2021 Reports. Dr. Reka Danko seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**B. REMSA Health Response Times and Hospital Delays Update.**

Staff Representative: Aaron Abbott

Mr. Aaron Abbott began his presentation by stating that report was brought forth during this meeting as a result of direct request from the Board of Health at the October meeting.

Mr. Abbott went through a PowerPoint to discuss response time trends and hospital delays from July thru November. Mr. Abbott continued to report that much of the hospital delays are related to staffing levels. Mr. Abbott added that REMSA Health had been meeting with hospital ED Directors on a daily basis to identify individual issues as well as discussing the divert policy. Mr. Abbott continue to clarify that REMSA Health changed how ambulances were diverted to hospitals, which made a noticeable impact.

Mr. Abbot reported that while REMSA Health is happy with the updated numbers and with the collaboration of the hospital partners, they are still representing about 190 lost unit hours trying to offload patients at hospitals during November.

Mr. Abbott continued to discuss Mutual Aid Responses and how these resources are being used and the challenges they have faced. Mr. Abbott reports that as of December 1, Truckee Meadows Fire (TM Fire) leased an ambulance from REMSA Health, which is now staffed in station 46 in Spanish Springs, which has had a positive impact in that area.

Michael Brown asked if the ambulance in District 46 was staffed by REMSA Health or TM Fire.

Mr. Abbott informed it was cross staffed with TM fire employees.

Mr. Abbott continued to discuss his heat maps concerning response areas, which showed the city Reno having the vast majority of the call volume, which now includes the CARES campus. Mr. Abbott reported that the Curti Ranch development in South Reno, poses a significant change in their operation, due to the new housing development that will soon be populated.

Councilman Dahir asked what it meant to be focused in a particular area.

Mr. Abbott reported on the details of the agreement with TM Fire for the Spanish Springs area.

Councilman Dahir asked if there had been a good shift.

Mr. Abbot reported that this agreement began in December, therefore, it's too early to tell but it does appear to be making a positive impact.

Chair Delgado asked for clarification as to whether the contract with TM Fire was entered into to assist REMSA Health in providing services to the City of Sparks.

Mr. Abbott affirmed that the services at station 46 are intended to serve the city of Sparks.

Mr. Abbott continued to report on late responses as they relate to CARES campus.

Councilman Dahir asked to sit down with REMSA Health to discuss the city of Sparks and eventually discuss the CARES campus with respect to providing health services within the campus.

Dr. Reka Danko asked if the back-end data is available to determine the actual illness acuity. She wondered if some of those calls can be served with a different level of care.

Mr. Dow addressed Dr. Danko's inquiry by stating that there's a tremendous percentage of calls that come in as priority 1 call, but once assessed they are low to no acuity. Mr. Dow added that Washoe County is working on bringing nurse staffing on to the CARES campus to alleviate this issue.

Dr. Danko asked if there was data available on the percentage of calls that result on transport to the hospital, for this facility.

Mr. Abbott informed he did not have the data, but he can easily access it.

Mr. Abbott reported on the Immediate Life Support (ILS) Unit Responses. He showed how it increased from 34 in July to 129 in November. Mr. Abbott clarified that REMSA Health does not supplant Advanced Life Support staffing with ILS but rather supplements it.

Mr. Abbot concluded by providing a summary of his report, reporting on 8 action items within the last 6 months.

Michael Brown asked if he could see the TM Fire contract, in an effort to allow the Board to see what is transpiring with those contracts.

Mr. Abbott clarified that TM Fire is no longer considered mutual aid as of November, but Reno and Storey County are mutual aid agreements.

Mr. Brown continued to request that REMSA Health bring other contracts to the Board, to allow the Board to be informed of additional contracts.

Chair Delgado reiterated that moving forward, contracts will be brought to the Board in a clearer and separated manner. Additionally, Chair Delgado inquired about a comment in the REMSA report regarding the size of an ambulance.

Mr. Abbott reported that one comment would not merit a change on ambulance acquisitions. He also added that the availability of ambulances is out by 9-12 months.

**C. Update of REMSA's Public Relations during October and November 2021.**

Presented by: Alexia Jobson

- i. October 2021**
- ii. November 2021**

Ms. Alexia Jobson presented the Public Relations report for October and November 2021. Ms. Jobson provided updates since the writing of her report. She reported REMSA Health's Center in conjunction with end of daylight-saving time partnered with the Health District to donate LED flashing lights, arm bands, and lanyards to community groups in an effort to increase awareness about pedestrian safety. She added that Adam Heinz gave interviews to KOLO and KRNK when temperatures fell, advising of ways to stay safe and warm during winter weather.

Ms. Jobson continued by stating that as a private nonprofit organization in the community, REMSA Health supports other nonprofit organizations. Examples of such events include participation in the Share Your Christmas drive-by food event and cupcake delivery in a decorated ambulance to the residents of Eddy House.

Ms. Jobson concluded by sharing a video concerning the changes to the 9-1-1 calls.

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

Councilman Dahir asked where the presented video would play.

Ms. Jobson reported that it took a creative team to put the video together. She continued to report there would be a full promotion around the presented video and it would be made available in social media, e-news, Board of Health, and REMSA Health website.

Chair Delgado asked if it would be available in Spanish.

Ms. Jobson affirmed.

**D. Discussion and possible approval of REMSA implementation of an "Assess and Refer" protocol designed to assist patients with understanding their medical needs and refer them to appropriate care.**

Staff Representative: Dean Dow

Mr. Dow opened his item by stating it goes back to a meeting a couple of months ago in relation to the pre-hospital care system conversation. Mr. Dow introduced Adam Heinz to report on the Assess and Refer protocol details.

Mr. Heinz began by stating that the idea of a nurse health line to safely triage patients out of the 9-1-1 system is not something many other communities are doing. He reported that last month 90 patients were safely triaged, which represents around 90 hours that can be injected back into the emergency system for potential emergencies.

Mr. Heinz explained that presently there are only two options for accessing care, one is to transfer the patient to an ED or on the alternatives patients must refuse care. He explained this situation presents an opportunity to implement a Assess and Refer protocol as it offers a variety of options to access care.

Mr. Heinz continued to describe the process that REMSA Health had to follow in order to request implementation of this new protocol. He added that this protocol was accepted at the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) on November 10, 2021, and they intend to move forward in January, unless this Board has concerns, questions, or reservation.

Councilman Dahir asked whether implementation or the education on the new process will begin January 1.

Mr. Heinz reported that REMSA Health's crews were trained in the month of November. This training was also offered to the fire service, which included Dr. Wilson.

Councilman Dahir opined it would be wise to advise the community of this new process prior to implementing.

Mr. Heinz reiterated this information has not been communicated to the community at the risk of providing inaccurate information, as this protocol is not yet approved. However, Mr. Heinz assured the Board that REMSA Health's message has always been to expect care navigation pathways when you call 9-1-1.

Councilman Dahir asked if REMSA Health would look at communicating with the community before implementing.

Mr. Heinz affirmed and offered to share the ways in which REMSA Health intends to do that.

Chair Delgado asked if REMSA Health was able to meet with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (EMSAB).

Mr. Heinz reported the meeting was cancelled and not rescheduled until next month.

Mr. Dick informed the EMSAB was reset for February; however, County Manager Brown organized a meeting the Friday, December 10, in which fire chiefs, hospital CEOs, Mr. Dow, city and county managers discussed the Assess & Refer protocol, and a unanimous decision was made to move this forward to the District Board of Health for consideration during this meeting.

Chair Delgado asked if a measurement report would come forward to update the Board regarding the Assess & Refer protocol.

Mr. Heinz informed he intended to report to the EMSAB; however, if this Board requests a concurrent report, he would be able to facilitate updates on utilization, repatriation, etc.

Chair Delgado reiterated this reporting would allow the different electeds on this Board to share with their cities and look at the issues and address them accordingly.

**Councilman Dahir moved to approve REMSA Health's implementation of an "Assess and Refer" protocol. Dr. John Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**10. PUBLIC HEARING to review, discuss and possibly adopt the Washoe County District Board of Health Permitting and Fees for all Underground Storage Tank Facilities beginning January 3, 2022 with all facilities permitted no later than June 29, 2022.**

Staff Representative: Luke Franklin

Chair Delgado opened the hearing by asking if everyone has received public communication regarding this item.

Luke Franklin began his presentation by stating the purpose of this item and continued to affirm he has included the supporting information on the Board's packet, including workshop notifications and invitations. Mr. Luke reported that at the time of the report, there was not much interaction with the petroleum industry; however, that had changed in the recent weeks.

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

Wes Rubio clarified that Business Impact Statement was approved at the October meeting, so this item represents the Public Hearing.

Chair Delgado opened public comment for this item.

Ms. Valdespin called Peter Krueger.

Mr. Krueger, representing Nevada Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association, expressed gratitude for the transparency and work Mr. Rubio, Mr. Franklin, and Mr. Vega had put into this item. Additionally, he stated he was not at this meeting to oppose this action; however, he believed a phased-in approach is more appropriate and that is what his group is proposing. Mr. Krueger provided documentation supporting his request.

Ms. Valdespin provided the Board with Mr. Krueger's document and placed it on the record.

Councilman Dahir commented regarding the document Mr. Krueger provided during this meeting and stated this is the first he has heard of this proposal and noted it would have been of benefit to receive this document earlier. Additionally, he opined he would be more comfortable if further discussion with the State took place as opposed to deciding at this meeting. Councilman Dahir recommended this item be paused.

Chair Delgado asked if this is an opportunity to receive a grant.

Mr. Rubio affirmed that the grant from NDEP will enable his division to have a lower fee. If this item was instituted without the grant the division will no longer be able to support the action with staffing resources and other actions tied to this program.

Chair Delgado affirmed outreach via hearing has happened and continued to note the individual in the public did not support this item.

Mr. Rubio reiterated every facility received a post card and/or emails or phone calls to attend all meetings in person or zoom and added the group present in the public was present.

Councilman Dahir asked if there's a timing on the grant.

Mr. Rubio affirmed there is a time crunch for implementation. He added that if the item was approved the division would be able to initiate work for the first half of the 2022 year. However, if it's not approved this process cannot move forward until an alternate in sustaining the program could be identified.

Councilman Dahir asked if this item could potentially be held for another month.

Mr. Rubio stated if not approved, this item would have to be moved to the next Board of Examiners meeting with the State, which is not scheduled until April, as such there would be no time to finish the work in time to utilize the money for the first half of the year.

Mr. Dick reported that the department is up against a deadline to get the contract to the Board of Examiners meeting. He also added that staff is being fiscally responsible in trying to minimize cost burden to industries.

**Michael Brown moved to adopt the Washoe County District Board of Health Permitting and Fees for all Underground Storage Tank Facilities. Dr. John Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

Councilman Dahir added that he would support this item but stated that his ultimate goal is collaboration.

Chair Delgado called for a brief recess at around 3:00 p.m. for 5 minutes

**Michael Brown called the meeting back to order in representation of Chair Delgado at 3:05 p.m.**

- 11. Recommendation for appointment to the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board as the Nevada Registered Professional Engineer Member. Staff recommends: Mr. Anthony Dimpel for a two-year term beginning on December 16, 2021, and concluding on December 15, 2023; Applicants include Art O'Connor.**

Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

Mr. Vega opened his item by highlighting the new process of electing members to the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board (APCHB). He also provided a brief description of the functions and structure of said Board.

Mr. Vega reported the APCHB has 3 active members and currently does not have a quorum. Mr. Vega continued to report on the efforts in recruiting for Board members and the results of said efforts.

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

Councilman Dahir commended Mr. Vega, as this process was one of the requests from the Board.

**Dr. John Novak moved to appointment Mr. Anthony Dimpel to the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board. Councilman Dahir seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

- 12. Recommendation for appointment to the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board as an At-Large Committee Member. Staff recommends: The re-appointment of Ms. Yvonne Downs for a three-year term beginning on December 16, 2021, and concluding on December 15, 2024; the re-appointment of Mr. Lee Squire for a three-year term beginning on December 16, 2021, and concluding on December 15, 2024; the appointment of Mr. Phil Schweber for a two-year term beginning on December 16, 2021, and concluding on December 15, 2023; the appointment of Mr. Martin Brietmeyer for a one-year term beginning on January 27, 2022, and concluding on January 26, 2023; Applicants include: Alan Horvath, Cathy Fitzgerald, Dorothy Hudig, Ph.D., Hazel Brown, James Mitcheltree, Marcia Wilmes, Pierre Mousset-Jones, Scott Courier, William Grey, William Foster McCoy, Ph.D.**

Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

Mr. Francisco Vega began his presentation by explaining this item was intended to elect the at-large committee members for the APCHB.

Mr. Vega reported there were four positions open and needed appointment. Mr. Vega reported that although recommendations were being made, the Board could choose the appointee from the applicants.

**Councilman Dahir moved to reappoint Ms. Ivonne Downs, Lee Squire, and appoint Mr. Phil Schweber and Mr. martin Brietmeyer to the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board. Dr. John Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

- 13. Presentation and possible acceptance of the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan.**

Staff Representative: Julia Ratti

Ms. Julia Ratti presented the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan as discussed at the November Strategic Planning Retreat. Ms. Ratti explained this cycle is a refresh and not an overhaul. The Strategic Plan is attached to this posting on the District Board of Health website.

Ms. Ratti continued to list all the priorities included in the Strategic Plan, as well as the added goals as directed by the Board as it relates to recycling. Additionally, Ms. Ratti asked the Board to approve an addition to Priority One as goal number 1.3.3 which relates to access to health.

Ms. Ratti concluded by discussing planning to action and next steps in the process.

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

Councilman Dahir stated he enjoyed the process and opined is the best way he can do his job of helping the community and being held accountable to the goals.

Michael Brown shared Councilman's Dahir sentiments and added that he appreciated the interaction with staff during the retreat in November.

Ms. Ratti took a moment to thank Erica Olsen at OnStrategy as well as the Health Officer and the leadership team for their efforts.

**Councilman Dahir moved to approve the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan with the addition of goal 1.3.3. Dr. John Novak seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

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

Staff Representative: Laurie Griffey

Ms. Laurie Griffey provided a brief explanation of the process to perform the Health Officer's Annual Performance Evaluation.

Councilman Dahir opined these are some of the most tumultuous times; however, he opined he is concerned with the statements that have been said to the public. Councilman stated he looks at everything that has happened and commended Health Officer, Kevin Dick, on a great job.

Michael Brown expressed his appreciation for Mr. Dick's phenomenal work in directing his staff for the past couple of years under the current circumstances.

Dr. John Novak echoed Mr. Brown's comments and added that he is thankful to Mr. Dick for performing this job.

**Dr. John Novak moved to approve the District Health Officer's Annual Performance Evaluation Results. Dr. Reka Danko seconded the motion which was approved unanimously with Dr. John Klacking abstaining from voting.**

Mr. Dick thanked the Board for their comments and expressed appreciation for the Board including the work of his staff as he feels it's a privilege and honor to lead the team.

**15. Possible approval of the proposed 2022 Washoe County District Board of Health Meeting Calendar.**

Presented by: Kevin Dick

Health Officer, Kevin Dick provided a brief description of his item, noting an exception on the date for the Strategic Planning retreat. He added the retreat will be discussed in the future in respect to how the Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board.

Mr. Dick reported staff will agendize a presentation on a proposal for the Strategic Planning Process.

**Councilman Dahir moved to approve the 2022 Washoe County District Board of Health Meeting Calendar. Dr. John Klacking seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**16. Staff Reports and Program Updates**

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

Long-Term Exposure to Even Permissible Levels of Air Pollutants Increases Risk of Mortality, EPA Staff Preliminarily Conclude Tightening of PM NAAQS Is Warranted, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: An Investment in Electric Vehicles, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

Mr. Vega open his item by stating he did not have additional updates for his report.

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

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

Divisional Update – World AIDS Day; 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. Lottritz began her report by adding that her division was awarded the grant for the opt-out syphilis screen of women and other individuals in jails. She also added that the federal WIC waiver was extended into January, so that clients can continue to be seen remotely.

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

Councilman Dahir asked what actions are taken when there's a notable increase with diseases.

Ms. Lottritz confirmed Councilman Dahir was speaking of the syphilis disease and reiterated it is a significant increase. She continued to explain the actions that are put into place including increased testing. Additionally, she reported that a Congenital Syphilis Review Board was recently started in Washoe County as well as the Health District received a supplemental STD grant, which allowed for staffing an epidemiologist in the Sexual Health Program.

Dr. John Klacking asked if this pattern is national.

Ms. Lottritz affirmed.

Dr. Klacking asked if she knew the reason for this increase.

Ms. Lottritz explained she is not aware of a set reason for this increase.

**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.

Ms. Dixon began her report by highlighting the Food Safety Program. She reported on the WashoeEats app, which provides easy access to food inspections for all food facilities. Additionally, Ms. Dixon reported on a Human Services Agency update to childcare facility regulations. She continued to report the new regulations disallow children under 12 months to sleep on anything except for a crib.

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. Diao began her report by speaking of a training regarding medical counter measures at the REOC that the public health preparedness team attended. This training focused on time sensitive events that would require community response and distribution of medical counter measures to the exposed population within the immediate and limited amount of time.

She continued to report that outside of COVID-19 and respiratory diseases, her division is seeing more confirmed flu cases specifically influenza A/H3N2 subtype. She added that the RSV numbers are on steady climb since November.

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

Dr. Novak commented on the mentioned course and opined it was an affirmation of Washoe County's elite work from the beginning of the pandemic. He concluded by inviting people to visit the last POD on December 17.

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

District Health Officer Report – COVID-19 Response, Joint Information Center, Strategic Planning Retreat, Government Affairs Update, Public Health Accreditation, Emergency Medical Services, CCHS Added Fee for vaccinations, and Public Communications and Outreach.

Health Officer, Kevin Dick opened his item by highlighting that the Accreditation Board has accepted section 2 of the Health District's Annual Report.

Mr. Dick reported that the approval granted by the Board to add new fee for CCHS, included fees for COVID administration in the clinical setting. He reported that CCHS will now have the availability to get reimbursed from insured patients for administration costs on the COVID-19 vaccination. He noted this process will not apply to community PODs or homebound services. Also, charges will not be imposed on patients that are not covered for reimbursement through insurance.

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

**17. Board Comment.**

Councilman Dahir sent holiday wishes.

Acting Chair, Michael Brown, resonated with Councilman's wishes and thanked everyone for the hard work.

## Adjournment.

### Chair Delgado adjourned the meeting at 3:45 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.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, 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.