

District Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Members

Kristopher Dahir, Chair
Devon Reese, Vice Chair
Mariluz Garcia
Dr. Reka Danko
Michael D. Brown
John Klacking, PhD
John Novak, DMD

Thursday, December 14, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Northern Nevada Public Health
Conference Rooms A&B (Building B)
1001 East Ninth Street
Reno, NV

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.

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

Members present: Kristopher Dahir
Mariluz Garcia
Devon Reese (excused at 1:45 p.m.)
Michael D. Brown
Dr. John Klacking (via zoom)

Members Absent: Dr. John Novak
Dr. Reka Danko

Ms. Valdespin verified a quorum was present.

Staff present: Kevin Dick, District Health Officer
Craig Petersen
Matt McCarthy
Jack Zenteno
Laurie Griffey
Francisco Vega
Lisa Lottritz
Robert Fyda
Dr. Nancy Diao

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael D. Brown led the pledge to the flag.

3. Approval of Agenda.

December 14, 2023

Councilman Reese moved to approve the agenda for the December 14, 2023, District Board of Health regular meeting. Michael D. Brown seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

4. Recognitions.

New Hires

- i. Noak Glick, Media & Communications Support Specialist, November 6, 2023 – ODHO
- ii. Jennifer Mendez-Lemus, Public Health Nurse II, December 4, 2023 – CCHS

Mr. Dick invited Scott Oxarart, Communications Program Manager, to introduce CCHS staff to the Board.

Mr. Oxarart shared that a thorough search was done to recruit for Mr. Glick’s position. He highlighted that Mr. Glick was selected out of 90 applicants. He briefly shared Mr. Glick’s background and experience; and welcomed him to the ODHO Division.

Mr. Glick said he was happy to be at the Health District.

Chair Dahir welcomed him to the team.

Mr. Dick invited Lisa Lottritz, CCHS Director, to introduce Ms. Mendez-Lemus.

Ms. Lottritz welcomed Ms. Mendez-Lemus and briefly shared Ms. Mendez-Lemus’ education and experience.

Ms. Mendez-Lemus said she was excited to be at the Health District.

Resignations

- i. Saba Wube, AQM Trainee, resigned October 31, 2023 – AQM
- ii. Tammey Carpitcher, Office Assistant, resigned November 1, 2023 – AHS

Mr. Dick acknowledged Ms. Wube and Ms. Carpitcher on their resignations.

Transfers

- i. Rachel Cord, Account Clerk II from FCO at HSA, effective November 6, 2023 – AHS
- ii. Rachell Ladd, Office Specialist from Medical Biller at CCHS, effective November 6, 2023 – AHS

Mr. Dick welcomed and congratulated Ms. Cord and Ms. Ladd. He added they were happy to have Ms. Cord return to the Health District.

Reclassifications

From Community Health Aide to Clinic Assistant effective October 9, 2023

- i. Elizabet Munoz – CCHS
- ii. Nancy Ramirez-Partida – CCHS
- iii. Alejandra Rosales-Garcia – CCHS
- iv. Janeth Jordan – CCHS

From Storekeeper to Clinical Procurement Coordinator effective October 9, 2023

- i. Lauren Huntsman – CCHS

Mr. Dick acknowledged and congratulated all reclassified staff.

Health Heroes

- i. Scott Oxarart – ODHO
- ii. Lauren Huntsman – CCHS
- iii. Maricruz Schaefer – CCHS
- iv. Marisol Martinez-Avila (x2) – CCHS

Honorable Mentions

- i. Dawn Edwards – CCHS
- ii. Laurie Griffey – AHS
- iii. Susie Deller – AHS

Mr. Dick acknowledged Mr. Oxarart for his Health Hero nomination for the values of adaptability, trustworthiness, and collaboration.

Additionally, he shared that Ms. Huntsman was recognized for adaptability and collaboration, Ms. Schaefer for adaptability, trustworthiness, and compassion, and Ms. Martinez-Avila with two recognitions for adaptability, trustworthiness, and compassion.

In addition, he acknowledged all staff for their honorable mentions.

Chair Dahir noted that being a Health Hero is significant, since these recognitions highlight the values that help the Health District function effectively.

5. Proclamations.

A. National Radon Action Month Proclamation.

Staff Representative: Craig Petersen

Accepted by: Christine Kelly

Mr. Dick read the National Radon Action Month Proclamation unto the record and invited Ms. Kelly and Mr. Petersen to join him at the podium.

Ms. Kelly accepted the proclamation and reported that new information had come to light about testing for radon. She highlighted that testing is not regulatory in Nevada and residents only know to test through public education. She added that Nevada is 14th in the United States in testing for radon. She highlighted her appreciation for the opportunity to bring awareness to the issue every year.

Mr. Petersen reported that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer next to smoking, so he opined that it was important for citizens in the community to test for radon on their own.

Vice-chair Reese moved to approve the National Rado Action Month proclamation. Michael D. Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Vice-chair Reese commented on Mr. Glick's hiring. He stated that he has followed Mr. Glick's work for the past 10 years and expressed he was proud that Mr. Glick chose to work with Northern Nevada Public Health.

6. Public Comment.

Chair Dahir opened the public comment period.

Ms. Valdespin noted for the record that public comment via email was provided and was made available to the Board from Byron Collins and all the Seniors at EHS, a division of Northern Nevada Public Health.

At the call for public comment, Ms. Tammy Holt-Still speaking for Lemmon Valley residents stated that they have a community health issue that needed to be addressed by the Board of Health and the SWS Board. She continued to report that people are getting sick due to the discharges from the City of Reno and Washoe County into a public playa. Ms. Holt-Still stated that part of the affluent is high in Caliphluor, E. coli, and arsenic. She continued to state that there are cancer clusters starting in that area and opined that it was time for the Board of Health, Washoe County, and the City of Reno to manage the situation and added that it was their processes that have created the issue. Ms. Holt-Still stated she had proof that when the City of Reno de-watered Swan Lake, it affected another resident by making the family and their horses sick. She continued to express her disappointment with the actions she has received from people regarding a health issue and stated that Swan Lake needs to be cleaned up. She concluded by saying that she had spoken to Congressman Amodei's office and affirmed he is willing to work with the city and the county to get funds to clean up the lake. Ms. Holt-Still provided a handout containing a request for a SWS Appeal Board hearing, a report from Nevada Analytical Services regarding the water panel, two theses from students at the University of Nevada Reno, and an email from the Congressman Amodei's office.

The following individuals spoke in opposition of the Korn Ferry process that was recently processed through the Washoe County's Human Resources and Managers office: Mia Gzebb, Olivia Alexander-Leeder, Ian Check, Erin Myers, Kristen deBraga, Mike Touhey, Luke Franklin, Jim English, Wes Rubio, Amber English, Brendan Schnieder, and Jessie Latchaw. Mr. English made note of a graph that was provided by the EHS seniors. The graph will be added to the record.

The above individuals' concerns included: inequities, wage compression, violations of the pay and merit structure, decreased productivity, low morale, and negative effects on the community. The conversation was led by a consensus opinion that employees were not being compensated and/or treated equitably. They spoke about senior staff members being asked to perform supervisory roles, but their wages were not matched to that of supervisors as well as concerns and requests for clarification continued to be ignored. Additionally, there were expressions of concern about newer employees being compensated at higher rates than staff holding similar positions for a longer period of time all, which was a result of the Korn Ferry adjustments. There were also concerns that these adjustments would not incentivize people to seek employment at NNPH or current staff to seek promotions into senior positions which could inadvertently result in less staff and loss of field capabilities. There was a request for senior staff to be paid as supervisors and current supervisors to be paid as program managers in an effort to compensate for the work equitably. There were also comments that reflected a lack of trust in management, human resources, and leadership overall. In conclusion, individuals articulated that they have exhausted all methods of resolution, so coming to the Board was a last resort and hoped that the Board would analyze all the evidence provided and support staff by promoting transparent communications, mutual respect, and understanding.

Scott Finley spoke about jingoism which he opined was defined as belligerent nationalism or a blind adherence to the rightness or virtue of one's own nation, society, or group and provided a few synonyms and opined that jingoism and racism are semantically related; and suggested these were terms that may have been used by Councilman Reese. Additionally, he opined that the meeting was in violation of Article 3 of the NNPH Rules, Policies, and Procedures and stated that the public Board must comply with the laws of Nevada regarding public and open meetings. He further stated that Item 3 on the agenda should be public comment and that noticing of the agenda must occur at least 3 working days before the meeting and stated that the current agenda was roughly posted 24-hour prior to the meeting. He asked about an emergency justification and opined that requesting for zoom comment to be submitted by 4:00 p.m. prior to the meeting effectively banned zoom attendees. He concluded with a request for the meeting to be adjourned.

Having no further public comment, Chair Dahir closed the public comment period.

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. Approval of minutes for the regular District Board of Health meeting for October 26, 2023 and find that good cause has been shown for the delayed approval.
- ii. November 9, 2023.

B. Budget Amendments/Interlocal Agreement.

- i. Authorize the FY24 Sole Source Purchase Order to Nihon Kohden in the amount of \$344,895.00 to purchase 22 NKV-330 Ventilator Systems for the Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness Program.
Staff Representative: Andrea Esp and Kristen Palmer
- ii. Authorize the FY24 Sole Source Purchase Order to International Biomedical in the amount of \$269,254.64 to purchase Nxtgen Transport Incubator and accessories for the Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness Program.
Staff Representative: Andrea Esp and Kristen Palmer
- iii. Approve the Notice of Subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health in the total amount of \$6,166,692.00 retroactive to November 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024 in support of the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Program and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward and any future amendments
Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer

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

Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

- i. Recommendation for the Board to uphold a settled penalty issued to Sierra Packaging and Converting, LLC, Case No. 1444, Notice of Violation No. AQMV23-0020 with a \$18,000.00 total fine, for operations contrary to Permit to Operate No. AAIR16-0784, specifically related to the operating temperature of the Thermal Oxidizer, which is a major violation of the District Board of Health Regulations Governing Air Quality Management.

D. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for October through November, Fiscal Year 2024.

Staff Representative: Jack Zenteno

Michael D. Brown moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

8. Presentation of the OneWater NV Project.

Presented by: John Enloe, Director of Natural Resources Planning and Management, TMWA

John Enloe, Director of Natural Resources Planning and Managements with TMWA provided a presentation that explained the Advanced Purified Water project; he explained in began about a decade ago.

Mr. Enloe explained that Advanced Purified Water is wastewater that is treated to be better than drinking water standards and explained that the regulations were adopted in 2016 by NDEP. He continued to explain that regulations require applicants to seek approval from the local Board of Health to support the “indirect potable reuse”. Mr. Enloe provided details on the Category A+ requirements which included meeting federal and state drinking water regulations, removing unregulated constituents to below health guidance levels, and an environmental buffer. He reported on a pilot system that was located at the Reno-Stead water reclamation facility that was operated for nearly a year and shared a summary of the studies. He stated that this process was monitored for a 6-week period and studies showed that all water quality regulations and objectives were met. Mr. Enloe gave a brief explanation of the carbon/biological treatment process vs. membrane (reverse osmosis) process and stated that the City of Reno and others have investigated the biological process since 2008 and found that it does not create a concentrated waste stream.

Mr. Enloe explained that the American Flat Project is the first A+ large scale project and explained the cost as well as its implementation process. He provided a graph that demonstrated the Advanced Purified Water Technology. He reiterated that TMWA and Reno had support from a variety of professionals and entities including Nevada Water Innovation Institute and National Water Research Institution. Mr. Enloe explained they had been undertaking an aggressive public outreach and education program by holding a series of public workshops and informational meetings and interviews. Mr. Enloe concluded by providing a project schedule that demonstrated a long-time process that led to a 2030 timeframe when they might be able to use the water for potable purposes.

Chair Dahir stated he encouraged Mr. Enloe and TMWA to present to the Board and disclosed he serves as Chair for TMWA. He asked for this to be looked on as an investment into the future.

Commissioner Garcia commended TMWA for the outreach and communication. She noted that in researching the website for funding she found that there was a discrepancy between the steps in the purification process. She asked Mr. Enloe to address funding.

Mr. Enloe reported that Reno is paying 70% of the construction cost and TMWA is paying 30% and they would share the operation and maintenance costs at 50/50. He shared that they have submitted applications for grant funding and have received \$3 million from EPA and other smaller contributions. He added that if this water is used for potable purposes, 2,000 acres feet in new water and new water rights will be produced and those have significant value and can be used to offset the construction costs.

Michael D. Brown asked how many acres are utilized at American Flats.

Mr. Enloe responded that they use about 450 acres total and stated that was established to help dewater Swan Lake; however, that use has ceased. The irrigation was active as they had been supplying a contracted farmer with local ground water to keep him active but due to concerns with the constituents in Swan Lake irrigation was also ceased. He further explained that site would be used in the testing of Advanced Purified Water and reiterated the plan to test the water before it is recharged into the ground.

Chair Dahir stated a field trip was planned for the Board and staff to learn more.

9. Presentation on Air Quality Management Division's PM₁₀ Exceptional Event Demonstration Project.

Staff Representative: Matt McCarthy

Matt McCarthy, AQM Environmental Engineer, provided a brief introduction to the item and explained that a PM₁₀ is a criteria air pollutant and is defined as particulate matter that is 10 micrometers and smaller.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the goal was to communicate the work that AQMD does to mitigate wildfire impacts and maintain the area in attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. He continued to define an Exceptional Event and explained that the main Exceptional Event the region deals with is smoke that is transported from wildfires and explained why an exceptional event needed to be completed.

Mr. McCarthy shared a timeline of the project and reiterated that it exemplified the length of time exceptional events can impact their program and how long the drafting of the demonstrations take. He continued to provide a fire summary, which include 5 fires that cause exceedances in 2021-2022 and explained that these fires caused 15 days of PM₁₀ air quality exceedances and those were the days of data that needed to be excluded from regulatory decision making.

Mr. McCarthy provided details on their strategy to prove that wildfires were the cause of the exceedances. This strategy included statistical evidence, weather data, and observational data, and Mr. McCarthy shared drafts that provided examples of the listed data.

Mr. McCarthy shared final thoughts by reporting that the project took over 400 hours of staff time to complete and 559 pages of documentation. In addition, he stated that AQMD continued to work with EPA to try and streamline the process in order to use less of AQMD's resources. He continued to report that although confident that the EPA will concur with their analysis in the event that the EPA does not concur AQMD would have to enforce emission reductions on citizen and industry, which would affect the economic development.

Mr. McCarthy concluded by noting that this process is not a get-out of jail free card as residents do experience adverse health impacts during these events.

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

Dr. Klacking commended Mr. McCarthy in his presentation and asked if it was known when the EPA would respond.

Mr. McCarthy responded that this project was being considered concurrently with the PM₁₀ Maintenance Plan, which was not required for formal action from the EPA until January 2026.

Dr. Klacking asked if the outcomes were black or white.

Mr. McCarthy replied that generally the outcome is either you are in attainment, or you are not in attainment; however, he affirmed that if there were any issues with the analysis, they would be in contact with the EPA to determine the necessary evidence.

Dr. Klacking asked if there had been contact with other counties that had gone through similar processes.

Mr. McCarthy affirmed that they take part in a working group that is across multiple jurisdictions including Clark County, whose recent Ozone Exceptional Event was not concurred with. In addition, he stated they have been in contact with people across the country at conferences and assured him that AQMD has had successful Exceptional Events in the past.

Chair Dahir shared that a plan of motion would have to be put in place and submitted for approval. The Health District would have to show that they are working on the plan.

10. Review, discussion and approval of Business Impact Statements regarding Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) Air Quality Management and Environmental Health Proposed Fees, with a finding that the proposed Air Quality Management and Environmental Health fees do not impose a direct and significant economic burden on a business, and do not directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business; and set a public hearing for possible adoption of Proposed Fees for January 25, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Staff Representatives: Robert Fyda, Francisco Vega, and Jack Zenteno

Chair Dahir stated that for the sake of time Item #12, Succession Planning, would be tabled until the next meeting.

Erin Dixon, Deputy District Health Officer, briefly introduced the item and then introduced Robert Fyda, EHS Division Director and Francisco Vega, AQM Division Director to present to the Board. Ms. Dixon provided a history of Health AQM and EHS fees beginning in 2015. Ms. Dixon reminded the Board that the methodology was changed in 2015 and divisions were directed to look at cost recovery. She reported that as part of the 2015 board item an annual CPI increase on an annual basis was put in place, that would start every July 1. She highlighted that other jurisdictions followed the Health District's lead. Additionally, she stated that the methodology includes staff time to complete time studies, leave time, administrative tax, and training as well as expenses by program, and indirect costs. All these factors are calculated in the fees. She reported that their proposal was to update the fees annually through the Western Region CPI. Ms. Dixon spoke about their outreach efforts which included post cards, press releases, emails, and workshops that were made available via Zoom and in Spanish as well. Ms. Dixon stated in addition to the listed efforts, a survey was made available to obtain feedback; however, there wasn't much response. Ms. Dixon concluded by providing a timeline of the proposed changes and reiterated that they were presenting their business impact statement and not asking for a vote on the fees, which was scheduled for January 2024 and if approved they would go into effect in July 2024.

Mr. Fyda provided a summary of changes in the fees and highlighted development fees, food fees, and standardization of fees. Mr. Fyda continued to report on the food program changes to include a new event organizer permit that was designed to appoint a point of contact for any onsite infrastructure, a new annual itinerant food vendor permit that allows a food vendor to operate at multiple temporary events, and a new food establishment risk level fees. Mr. Fyda stated that some of the food program benefits included money and resource savings and streamlining special event infrastructure. He spoke about re-inspections only being charged if

facilities required additional inspections and risk categories would be assigned by inspector or plan review team based on the menu and food processes, which would be fluid. He concluded by stating that inspections addressing the 5 major foodborne illness risk will result in an overall reduction of those illnesses in the community.

Chair Dahir asked if federal grant funding for inspections in school kitchens was investigated, since schools are federally required to have 2 inspections.

Mr. Fyda stated he was not aware of funding for inspections services.

Chair Dahir expressed concern about the term fluid as it relates to measuring risk. He asked if there was a clear process to be followed by staff when determining risk categories.

Mr. Fyda explained that risk categories were determined based on the menu and how the food items are being prepared.

Chair Dahir encouraged oversight of the process.

District Health Officer, Kevin Dick, intervened and explained the term fluid was reflective of the risk level changing at a facility depending on how the menu changes and what they do to prepare food. He reiterated the fluidity was on how the risk level would change based on the change in operations at a food establishment.

Mr. Fyda reiterated that the risk levels are defined.

Commissioner Garcia commended staff on their outreach and expressed she was jarred with the increase on the school kitchen inspections as she felt that things could add up with the 2 visits per year. She continued to ask about the kind of outreach was done to the large employer/organization like the school district that doesn't have the benefit of collecting revenue from their clients.

Mr. Fyda stated he reached out to the School District and provided information regarding the increase based on the time required to perform an inspection.

Mr. Vega shared a slide of the revised fees and explained they were all broken down by program and explained that the majority of the changes were within the stationary source applications. He continued to explain that the increases were tied to staff time, processing applications, providing the service, and increase costs associated with staff time. Mr. Vega stated that they were trying to better align the fee with the service as well as ensuring that resources are tied to the areas of substantial risk. Mr. Vega stated that understanding how many new sources they are receiving vs. current sources expanding was critical to determine fees. He explained that the major changes were happening within their major sources and provided some examples and details to assist the Board in understanding the proposed changes. Mr. Vega shared that they would be adding a new Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD)/New Source Review (NSR) source, which usually represents large facilities such as utility scale power plant, gold mines, and chemical manufacturing, as they had been delegated the authority by the EPA to issue the permit. He briefly described annual emissions and reported that while applications fees were for processing permits annual emissions were for continued compliance assistance and inspections. He reiterated that there was no significant change in fees for minor sources; however, major sources would have a major increase. Mr. Vega highlighted that EPA requires that fees be properly assessed to recover the cost for services.

Chair Dahir asked if all the fees were compared to other groups, like the PSD/NSR source. He asked if a comparison was part of the process.

Mr. Vega affirmed that particularly as it pertained to stationary sources, they compared themselves to the State, Clark County, and other jurisdictions across the country and shared that their fees compared to the State were about 50 percent in general.

Mr. Vega explained that the \$19 increasing to \$10,401.00 reflected \$19 per pound, which meant no increases. Mr. Vega continued to report on the remainder of the fees including a dealers affidavit of sale. Mr. Vega explained that this affidavit meant that if any member of the community added a wood burning device to their home, a building permit would be required as well as review of the device from AQM to acknowledge compliance with EPA. He reiterated there were no real major changes, increases were associated with staff time and increases in expenses. He concluded his report on fee changes by highlighting the added fees for confidentiality requests and applicability determination for bigger businesses.

Mr. Vega reported that upcoming in Spring of 2024 a proposal would be submitted to have a regulation revision to their stationary source program which included increasing their minimal emissions threshold for permitting to 5 tons per year, which would allow AQM to focus their resources on higher emitters.

Chair Dahir asked if there was a goal for the government to have less control.

Mr. Vega reported that they continuously evaluate their understanding of how to better utilize their resources. He noted that the permitting requirements for some schools could potentially subside with the stated proposal.

Chair Dahir asked how soon they would know if permitting for schools would go away.

Mr. Vega stated the analysis was most likely completed.

Chair Dahir stated it would be helpful to have the information.

Commissioner Garcia reiterated her inquiry about the number of public entities that were surveyed and asked about these fee changes, as she opined it affected teachers, classroom, and the region. She expressed that it is important to recognize that a change of this sort is significant. She commended staff on the outreach and methodology process that was used and continued to ask that staff engage with the school district to explore exemptions or a delayed payment plan.

Chair Dahir advised that direction could not be provided; however, he stated that staff noted the request, and it would be a conversation he would also be interested in having.

Michael D. Brown noted that a lot of grants have like-kind contributions and wondered how many could be used to adjust the costs in an effort to ease the burden.

Mr. Vega stated the conversation is not over and staff has heard the comments and will continue to have those conversations. He concluded his presentation by summarizing the business impact survey results and stated that 16 responses were not statistically significant samples, but invited business to reach out to address their concerns.

Chair Dahir commended staff for their outreach efforts, despite the responses.

Ms. Valdespin noted for the record that public comment via email was provided and was made available to the Board from Adam Searcy, Chief Operating Officer in representation of the

Washoe County School District and from Peter Krueger in presentation of Nevada Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association.

At the call for public comment, Mr. Peter Krueger, speaking for Nevada Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association began to highlight some areas from his previously submitted public comment. Mr. Krueger noted that staff had been open to having a conversation with him. He continued to state that on the Underground Storage Tank (UST) fees recently increased to \$875 for each gas station permit; however, he noted that he was troubled to learn that the fees had moved to CPI on permits, as he opined a change to PPI can easily happen, which meant this Board would not have any input on increasing costs with no real review. He concluded by stating that clarification was necessary on the increase of UST fees, as he opined that basing the change on “worst case scenario” may provide a misunderstanding.

Having no additional public comment, Chair Dahir moved to a vote.

Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the Business Impact Statements regarding Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) Air Quality Management and Environmental Health Proposed Fees and set a public hearing on January 25, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. Michael D. Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Chair Dahir made note that this is a continuous conversation, so there would be more opportunity to discuss this item.

11. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority.

A. Recommendation to accept the REMSA Health Monthly Franchise Report for October of 2023 which includes REMSA Health Accounts Receivables Summary, Compliance by Zones, Average Response Times, Incident Details Reporting, Summary Penalty Fund Reconciliation, Ground Ambulance Operations Report, Patient Experience Report and Comments, Education Report, and Public Relations Report, and provide possible Board direction.

Presented by: Barry Duplantis

Barry Duplantis, REMSA Health CEO and President, opened his item by noting that REMSA Health has been fully compliant with the Franchise Agreement. He noted that their audit for FY23 was underway, and it would include the audit of their financial statements, penalty fund account, and their average bill.

3:15 p.m. - Chair Dahir called for a brief recess until quorum was regained.

3:17 p.m. – The Board reconvened.

Mr. Duplantis continued to report on two personnel items, the first one being healthcare costs. Mr. Duplantis reported that REMSA Health renegotiated a continuation with their current healthcare provider, and they were able to limit the increase to 3% as opposed to the national 9%. Additionally, REMSA Health will be covering the increase, which meant staff’s contribution would not change in 2024. Secondly, effective January 1, 2024, REMSA Health has increased their 401K match from 4% to up to 7%.

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

Chair Dahir commended REMSA Health for their efforts to take care of their employees.

Michael D. Brown moved to accept REMSA Health’s Operations Report for October 2023. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

12. **Presentation and Discussion of Succession Planning. Staff is seeking guidance regarding the Health District’s succession planning efforts and any recommendations for improvements or modifications.**

Staff Representative: Erin Dixon

Chair Dahir tabled this item to the January 25, 2023, meeting in an effort to save time.

13. **Recommendation to amend the Employment Agreement between Northern Nevada Public Health (Washoe County Health District) and Kevin Dick, District Health Officer, at Section 5(A) Leave: to allow for payment of unused vacation time upon separation of employment.**

Staff Representatives: Laurie Griffey

Laurie Griffey, Human Resources Representative, stated this item was seeking approval to amend the Health Officer, Kevin Dick’s contract to reflect the term “and vacation”. This amendment served the purpose to allow Mr. Dick to get paid for unused vacation upon separation of employment, just like health officers before him.

Commissioner Garcia moved to amend District Health Officer’s Agreement to allow for payment of unused vacation time upon separation of employment. Michael D. Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

14. **Recommendation to approve the proposed 2024 District Board of Health meeting calendar.**

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

Mr. Dick briefly highlighted the 2024 District Board of Health meeting calendar, noting that a Strategic Planning Retreat was proposed to be held on November 7, 2024, in the morning and potentially cancel the tentative regular meeting for November. Additionally, he proposed the regular meeting be held the third week in December.

Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the 2024 District Board of Health meeting calendar. Dr. Klacking seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

15. **Progress Update on the District Health Officer National search.**

Presented by: Kristopher Dahir, NNPH Board Chair

Chair Dahir provided some updates on the national search for a health officer. He reported that Berkley Search Consultants had been hired to go through the process. He stated that this agency has a lot of history in this niche. He continued to report that they are working closely with Washoe County Human Resources to help guide the process.

Chair Dahir shared that the beginning stage of targeting candidates would begin on the present week and assured everyone that this would be a transparent process that would finalize with 3 candidates being brought in front of the Board on the March 28, 2024 meeting. Additionally, he reported that a brochure would be available at the end of the year and the first wave of potentials by February 9, 2024. He reiterated that discretion is of the utmost importance, therefore, he advised the Board to avoid walking quorums.

Chair Dahir thanked Mr. Dick for joining him in the meetings as he opined his presence has been helpful.

16. Staff Reports and Program Updates.

- A. Air Quality Management** – DOE Announces Funding for 16 Hydrogen Hubs, EPA Makes Endangerment Finding for Aircraft Lead Emissions, Groups to Sue EPA Over Failing to Set NAAQS for GHGs, October 2023 EPA Small Business Newsletter, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.
Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

Mr. Vega opened his item by highlighting the Exceptional Events demonstration packet that his team had put on and he commended his staff for their work. He highlighted that a lot of work goes into keeping the community in attainment.

Mr. Vega added that they are soliciting for members on the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board, namely an At-Large position and a Registered Professional Engineer, and briefly added the efforts that his team had put forth to recruit for these positions. He invited the Board to pass the word and encourage constituents to submit an application.

Chair Dahir encouraged Mr. Vega to share with the cities and the county, so that he can have a regional approach.

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

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

Ms. Lottritz provided an update on the Sexual Health Team's participation in academic detailing training that will be used to educate providers on sexually transmitted diseases, testing, and treatment. Additionally, she shared that her Immunization leadership participated in a live Fox News broadcast to discuss the importance of respiratory vaccinations. The same team also participated in Immunize Nevada's Big Shot event, and received the 2023 Big Shots Award for most COVID doses administered in 2022 as well as a Silver Syringe Award for outstanding influenza provider. She concluded by reporting that CCHS had their onsite assessment from 330 Partners, and are waiting for their report.

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

- C. Environmental Health Services:** Environmental Health Services - Program Activities for: Consumer Protection (Food Safety Plan Review & Operations, Commercial Plan Review, Foodborne Illness, Permitted Facilities); Environmental Protection (Land Development, Safe Drinking Water, Vector-borne Disease Surveillance, Waste Management / Underground Storage Tanks).
Staff Representative: Robert Fyda

Mr. Fyda opened his item by highlighting that his team will be launching a Pilot Placarding program that is linked to WashoeEats. He added that this program would provide a physical placard for restaurants; however, the public and business owners will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the subject.

Mr. Fyda added that staff is working with Planning to address affordable housing issues. He shared that there was a strong push for detached accessory dwellings, but there are impacts

with septic and wells, so the team met with Planning to try to be preemptive regarding any potential issues.

Mr. Fyda concluded by reporting on the drone program and shared that they are in the process of submitting for the Certificate of Authorization as well as submitting a license for the agricultural piece.

Mr. Fyda opened his items for questions from the Board.

Commissioner Garcia asked if there had even been placards around town.

Mr. Fyda stated he had seen some old ones.

Chair Dahir shared that he met the new State Director and stated that he would like to meet Mr. Fyda.

D. Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness - Epidemiology, Public Health Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services, Vital Statistics.
Staff Representative: Dr. Nancy Diao

Dr. Diao began her presentation by highlighting recent updates regarding the increase in influenza like illness activities. She briefly reported that hospitalizations remained elevated and increasing nationally and shared that RSV is also increasing above the number that were seen during the 2021-2022 season but not as high as the 2022-2023 season. In addition, she reported the dominant strains are Flu A and H1N1.

Dr. Diao continued to report that outbreak numbers have increased in November with 12 mostly respiratory outbreaks open. She added that RSV outbreaks have opened in daycare and preschool facilities as of November. She reminded everyone that RSV vaccines are available for those that are 60 and older as well as infants entering their first season or those at severe risk entering their second season. She concluded by highlighting Epi News and reminded clinicians to notify public health if they have patients with Mpox systems with recent travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as submission of specimens for testing.

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

Chair Dahir noted a commercial on Mpox and commended Dr. Diao for her work.

E. District Health Officer Report - Northern Nevada Public Health Communications Update, COVID-19 Documentary, NNPH Name Change, Public Health Accreditation, Community Health Improvement Plan, Health Equity, Family Health Festival, CCHS Assessment, Academic Health Department, Bloomberg American Health Summit, and Public Communications and Outreach.
Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

Kevin Dick, Health Officer began his presentation by thanking the Board for the amendment on his contract. He continued to speak about their COVID-19 documentary that was submitted to the American Health Association for screening at their conference and noted that it was selected and posted on YouTube. He commended Scott Oxarart for the documentary, as he recognized the historical event within the pandemic.

Mr. Dick briefly highlighted Dr. Diao's write-up on their Academic Health Department partnership with UNR School of Public Health. Additionally, he shared that he had attended the Bloomberg American Health Summit at Johns Hopkins and stated they had

received a \$300 million endowment which allows them to support 17 faculty, in addition, they have 329 fellows across the country from over 200 different organizations. He noted that a lot of people outside of the public health agencies attended as they connect with public health and are part of the overall public health network and look for promising areas to promote public health policy. Mr. Dick added that he has shared his experience with Dr. Akpinar, Dean at UNR School of Public Health, and would be having discussion regarding some of the things that can be applied locally.

Mr. Dick wished everyone a safe and happy and joyful holiday season.

Chair Dahir shared that although Mr. Dick had requested to resign by the beginning of March, it appears as he would be with the Health District longer.

17. Board Comment.

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

Adjournment.

Chair Dahir adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.

Possible Changes to Agenda Order and Timing: Items on the agenda may be taken out of order, combined with other items, withdrawn from the agenda, moved to the agenda of another later meeting; moved to or from the Consent section, or they may be voted on in a block. Items with a specific time designation will not be heard prior to the stated time, but may be heard later. Items listed in the Consent section of the agenda are voted on as a block and will not be read or considered separately unless withdrawn from the Consent agenda.

Special Accommodations: The District Board of Health Meetings are accessible to the disabled. Disabled members of the public who require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify Administrative Health Services in writing at the Washoe County Health District, 1001 E. 9th Street, Building B, Reno, NV 89512, or by calling 775.328.2416, 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Public Comment: *Members of the public may make public comment by submitting an email comment to svaldespin@washoecounty.gov before the scheduled meeting, which includes the name of the commenter and the agenda item number for which the comment is submitted.* Reasonable efforts will be made to hear all public comment during the meeting. During the “Public Comment” items, emails may be submitted pertaining to any matter either on or off the agenda, to include items to be heard on consent. For the remainder of the agenda, public comment emails will only be heard during items that are not marked FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. All public comment should be addressed to the Board of Health and not an individual member. The Board asks that your comments are expressed in a courteous manner. All public comment is limited to three minutes per person. Unused time may not be reserved by the speaker nor allocated to another speaker.

Response to Public Comment: The Board of Health can deliberate or take action only if a matter has been listed on an agenda properly posted prior to the meeting. During the public comment period, speakers may address matters listed or not listed on the published agenda. The *Open Meeting Law* does not expressly prohibit responses to public comments by the Board of Health. However, responses from the Board members to unlisted public comment topics could become deliberation on a matter without notice to the public. On the advice of legal counsel and to ensure the public has notice of all matters the Board of Health will consider, Board members may choose not to respond to public comments, except to correct factual inaccuracies, ask for Health District staff action or to ask that a matter be listed on a future agenda. The Board of Health may do this either during the public comment item or during the following item: “Board Comments – District Board of Health Member’s announcements, reports and updates, request for information or topics for future agendas. (No discussion among Board Members will take place on the item)”

Posting of Agenda; Location of Website:

Pursuant to NRS 241.020, Notice of this meeting was posted electronically at the following locations:

Washoe County Health District Website <https://www.washoecounty.gov/health>

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

Under an emergency directive issued by Governor Sisolak on March 22, 2020, and extended by a subsequent directive issued on July 31, 2020, the physical location requirement has been suspended.

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at the Washoe County Health District and may be reached by telephone at (775) 328-2415 or by email at svaldespin@washoecounty.gov. Supporting materials are also available at the Washoe County Health District Website <https://www.washoecounty.gov/health> pursuant to the requirements of NRS 241.020.