

## **MINUTES**

Clark County District Board of Health Meeting  
625 Shadow Lane  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106  
Clemens Room - 8:00 A.M.  
*Thursday, October 23, 1997*

The regularly scheduled meeting of the District Board of Health was called to order at 8:00 A.M. by Vice-Chairman Colquitt and the Pledge of Allegiance held. Vice-Chairman Colquitt noted that she had been provided with Affidavit of Posting of Agenda and the public notice, as required by Nevada's Open Meeting Law. The Affidavit will be incorporated into the Official Minutes.

Present:

Sherry Colquitt, RN	Vice-Chairman, Appointee, Las Vegas
Paula Brown	Councilman, North Las Vegas
Kirk Cammack, M.D.	Physician Member At Large
Susan Crowley	Appointee, Henderson
Amanda Cyphers	Councilman, Henderson
Mary Kincaid	Commissioner, Clark County
Donalene Ravitch, RN	Appointee, Boulder City
Gary Reese	Councilman, Las Vegas

Absent:

Robert Ferraro	Councilman, Boulder City
Erin Kenny	Commissioner, Clark County
Stephanie Smith	Councilman, North Las Vegas

Executive Secretary:

Otto Ravenholt, MD, MPH

Legal Counsel:

Ian Ross, Esquire

Staff: Donald S. Kwalick, MD, MPH; David Rowles; Mike Naylor; Fran Courtney, RN; Karl Munninger; Mike Sword; Ed Wojcik; Lonnie Empey; Jane Shunney, David Lee and Recording Secretaries Diana Lindquist and Montana Garcia

**PUBLIC ATTENDANCE:**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>REPRESENTING:</u></b>
Mark Cathey	Sandy Valley Citizens Advisory Council
Steve Hanson	Clark County Fire Department
Tuesday James	Clark County Commissioners Office
Lori Wohletz	City of Las Vegas

**II. CONSENT AGENDA:**

These are matters considered to be routine by the District Board of Health which may be enacted by one motion. Any item, however, may be discussed separately per Board Member request.

David Rowles stated that corrections were needed on the September 25, 1997 minutes. On page 7, the first two sentences in the fourth paragraph should read: "There are approximately 480 gasoline dispensing facilities in the Valley that are not covered by the Clean Air Act. Collectively they represent one of the largest VOC emissions."

*Member Reese moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the corrected amendments to the September 25, 1997 minutes. Member Crowley seconded the motion and carried unanimously approving the following Consent Agenda:*

1. Minutes/Board of Health Meeting - 9/25/97
2. Payroll/Overtime for Periods of 08/23/97 - 09/05/97 & 9/06/97 - 09/19/97
3. Accounts Payable Register - #721: 09/19/97 - 10/02/97; #722: 10/03/97 - 10/16/97

**II. PUBLIC HEARING/POSSIBLE ACTION (Approximately 8 A.M.)**

1. **Variance Request** - Request for Extension of a Variance to Construct an Individual Sewage Disposal System on an Undersized Lot Served by a Public Offsite Water Supply

Vice Chair Colquitt opened the public hearing.

Ed Wojcik explained that on October 24, 1996, the District Board of Health to the owner, Mr. Philip Courtney. To construct an individual disposal system on an undersized lot served by Public Offsite water. The lot is 2,500 square feet and located at 1169 Aspen Avenue, Charleston Park Resort, Mt. Charleston. The Old Town Mt. Charleston Park Resort is an unrecorded subdivision originally divided in 1935 into what are now undersized lots. Approximately one-half of the 86 lots in Old Town are undeveloped. Mr. Courtney is requesting an extension of time because he is required to obtain two (2) other variances from the Building Department. Besides delays in engineering, he does not have time to install the septic system until spring.

Since the Board approved the variance on October 24, 1996, Staff recommended approval of the extension for one year to expire on October 23, 1998, with the following conditions:

- a. The system be installed to comply with all other requirements of the District Board of Health Regulations Governing Individual Sewage Disposal Systems and Liquid Waste

- Management.
- b. Construction of the ISDS must commence within one (1) year of the date hereof.
  - c. The applicant and his successors in interest shall abide by all local government regulations requiring connection to community sewage systems.

Vice Chair Colquitt asked if Mr. Courtney or his representative were in attendance.

Mr. Philip Courtney commented that temporary power had been installed but at this point he will apparently not have enough time to install the septic tank.

Vice Chair Colquitt asked Mr. Courtney if he understood and accepted the conditions of the variance. Mr. Courtney stated, "yes."

Vice Chair Colquitt asked if any member of the public wished to speak. There being no response, she closed the public hearing.

*At this time Member Cyphers moved to approve extension of the variance with the conditions noted by Staff. Finding that there are circumstances of conditions that are unique to the applicant that does not generally affect other persons subject to the regulations. Compliance with the regulations would be unduly burdensome and cause a hardship to and abridge a substantial property right of the applicant. Granting extension of the Variance is necessary to render substantial justice to the applicant and enable him to preserve and enjoy his property and will not be detrimental or pose a danger to public health and safety. Motion was seconded by Member Kincaid and carried unanimously.*

### **III. REPORT/DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION:**

#### **1. Appointment of Nominating Committee for Board of Health Calendar Year 1998 Officers**

Vice Chair Colquitt appointed the following to the committee: Member Ferraro, Committee Chair; Member Reese and Member Brown

#### **2. Petition #53-97 - Request to Set a Public Hearing on Proposed Regulations to Section 19 (Part 70 Upgrade Permits) of the APC Regulations**

Michael Naylor explained that the request pertained to the Title V program (Part 70 Operating Permits). Title V of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments requires each State or local agency to develop a Part 70 regulatory program for issuing operating permits to major stationary sources of air pollution. The District is implementing these requirements through Section 19 of the Air Pollution Control Regulations. Subsection 19.5.1.4 requires that the Control Officer take final action on a complete application with 18 months, including initial applications, revisions and renewals. We are finding that the deadline is extremely difficult to meet on the initial application. Furthermore, the Clean Air Act does not mandate that deadline. Therefore, based on the past year's experience, Staff is requesting that the Section 19 regulatory deadlines for acting on a permittee's application be limited to revision or renewal. EPA advises that this change would be acceptable. Staff asked that the Board of Health schedule a public hearing on December 18, 1997 to address the proposed amendments to Section 19.

*Member Kincaid moved to set the public hearing for December 18, 1997 at 8 a.m.*

Member Crowley remarked that for a source that wants to locate in the City of Las Vegas or Clark

County, to be able to do that they would go through the Authority to Construct process and once that is completed an Operating Permit is obtained. Obtaining a Title V permit is more a paper work issue. She wondered if there was not a time limit for a new source to be assured that they will have a Title V permit. She asked if that would delay indefinitely the source from being able to locate.

Michael Naylor stated there would be no delay due to Title V. Under Section 12, the company would apply for an Authority to Construct that would allow them to build. One year after they start operating. They would apply for the Title V permit.

Dr. Ravenholt added that the Title V permit component was added in the latest revision of the Clean Air Act. The Title V permit component is a global audit of the business enterprise of all of its air pollution sources. Although they may have been individually permitted, it requires that they be comprehensively reviewed. This is a very laborious and time-consuming process.

Michael Naylor remarked that within the United States there are tens of thousands Title V sources and approximately 2 percent have gotten their Title V permit. The applications are in the mill but the timing for processing them is taking much longer than originally envisioned.

*There being no further discussion, Member Crowley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.*

### **3. Petition #54-97 - Award of Bid for Digital Controls System**

David Rowles commented that Staff and the District's Contract Architect and Mechanical engineers have reviewed the following bids received in detail:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bishop Air Service			
Automated Logic	\$94,379	None	\$94,379
Yamas Controls			
Southwest, Inc.	\$252,800	Deduct \$87,300	\$165,500
Honeywell Home & Building			
Control, Honeywell, Inc.	\$231,888	Deduct 433,864	\$198,024

Staff recommended that the board select the firm of Bishop Air Service/Automated Logic as the most responsive and responsible bidder for its Main Facility Direct Digital controls system. authorize incorporating by reference their proposed Automated Logic System 20/20 as part of the bid specifications in the District's Main Facility Reroofing and Rotunda Remodel project.

Member Cyphers suggested that since the next bidder is almost double of the lowest responsive responsible bidder, Staff should double check with the lowest bidder and make sure that they understand that the Board would not be happy with change orders and once they get paid this is it.

David Rowles stated that Staff understands that Automated Logic has a very good track record with regard to this device. Staff was also surprised with the price differences of the bids

*Member Kincaid moved for approval of Bishop Air Service/Automated Logic in the amount of \$94,379. Motion was seconded by Member Cyphers and carried unanimously.*

### **4. Petition #55-97 - Permission to Solicit Bids for Computer Super Server**

David Rowles explained that in order to stay abreast of the rapid pace of technological development in the storage and use of our various program databases and to implement new Graphics Information Software, we propose upgrading and augmenting our central computer capability. It will reduce overhead costs by allowing consolidation of several smaller local area network servers now in use. This will also allow us to go to a fault tolerant system which features a built in redundant capacity necessary to provide increased reliance of computerized programs. We estimate the cost of the system will be approximately \$85,000 and have budgeted sufficient amounts to accommodate this proposed action.

*Member Reese moved for approval of Petition 55-97. Motion was seconded by Member Kincaid and carried unanimously.*

David Rowles commented that in early 1980 the District was paying Clark County approximately \$200,000 a year for computer services. This included payroll processing, Environmental Health Inspection claims. We were not getting the services desired as changes to programs sometimes took 4 to 6 months. Rates would change without our knowledge or advanced warning. At that time it was decided that the District would use grant monies from the Emergency Medical Services to purchase a PDP 1170 VAX Digital, which had 10 megabytes of memory.

We have migrated to taking our computer destiny in house into our own hands. We know have a computer staff of approximately 7 individuals. Presently just about every aspect of the District is computerized. We have over 250 desktop PC's and lap tops that contribute to services. For instance some of the public health nurses can go into the field with lap tops and update the shot records from the field.

The only VAX 1170 have now become VAX 4550A, which are very high powered mini computers. We have a very large immunization data base and environmental health inspection file. Budget documents are now submitted electronically. Also, the computers are being used for data analysis. He added that some aspects of the State Health Division computer systems are 1 to 2 years behind the District in terms of reliable up-to-date morbidity and mortality information. The State Health Division does not have internal control of its own computer destiny.

Dr. Ravenholt remarked that it was important to computerize our immunization records. Fran Courtney was the trigger to get the program started and Karl Munninger wrote our program. In the last year, we have made this program useable by private physicians and HMO's for a single data base for all children in Clark County. Wherever a child gets immunized it is recorded and is available in our information system. The State has taken steps to accomplish the same thing. Recently, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is funding the State to develop a state-wide shared system. We have indicated our support of the project.

David Rowles stated that over the years had a number of State software systems on a "trust-me-this-will-work-basis" have not worked but caused problems. In some cases we had to re-engineer the software to make it work. We are cautious and concerned about accepting these programs. We want to test it and try it out on a computer isolated from our network system before we allow it to be programmed. In most cases the software leaves something to be desired. Recently, we took our own database, put it on a CD-ROM and sent it to the State and learned last week that it fit perfectly without yet putting the ACCLAIM software on our District computers. He further reviewed the District's computer capabilities, Website and added that the District became the year 2000 compliant two years ago. The entire layout for the annual report this year was done electronically in-house.

Dr. Ravenholt summarized that we are sharing our database with the State. Also, we are receptive to the use of ACCLAIM software when its capabilities are demonstrated. He reviewed with the Board the electronic transmittal of birth and death certificate information.

**5. Petition #56-97 - Request to Schedule a Public Hearing to Consider a Variance Request from Clark County Fire Department for Possible Part-time Paramedic Service**

*Member Kincaid moved to set a public hearing on November 20, 1997 at approximately 8 a.m. to consider a variance request from Clark County Fire Department and the Sandy Valley citizens Advisory Council to District Emergency Medical Services regulations. Further the Board authorizes the release of the variance for public review and comment. Motion was seconded by Member Crowley and carried unanimously.*

Steve Hansen, EMS Coordinator for Clark County Fire Department, explained that they had been working with District EMS Staff to take advanced life support service into the rural areas. There is a District EMS regulation that basically prohibits the start of an ALS service with less than 5 paramedic members. He agreed with the regulation but thought an exception could be made as Sandy Valley is a rural area with a smaller population and a volunteer service under County Fire Department supervision. We have had one EMTI from that service on her own time attend the current paramedic school. She will graduate in January and will be ready to be precepted in the field. This variance would allow them to provide paramedic service on a part-time basis in Sandy Valley when she is available. The part-time issue was discussed in a meeting with the Advisory Council in Sandy Valley. They understand it and felt that a part-time paramedic service was better than none at all as they are far from town. The Health District has required that the paramedic receive ongoing monthly training and in order to maintain skill levels by being brought into town to ride along with Clark County Fire department. They feel these are reasonable requests.

Mark Cathey, Vice Chair of the Sandy Valley Citizens Advisory Council and Member of the Sandy Valley Volunteer Fire Department remarked that when this information was presented to the Advisory Council in May, approximately 50 to 60 residents were in attendance and all were in favor of the Variance and having limited Paramedic service. The residents understand that this person will go on vacations, and will not be there on a 24 hour 7 day a week basis, but the feeling of the group was that they will take what they can get. They do have others who are supportive and wish to go through the program.

**IV. HEALTH OFFICER & STAFF REPORTS**

Dr. Kwalick commented on a recent article on multi-drug resistant Tuberculosis (TB). The Southern Nevada TB Coalition met for the first time a couple of weeks ago to address this type of situation. Some of the things discussed at the meeting included directly observed therapy services for homeless individuals. The TB Coalition will be meeting on a 2 to 3 month period. In attendance was Member Ravitch and representatives from the community, INS, various HMO's, the hospitals, and physicians to discuss how best to proceed with difficult issues that relate to TB. He invited Board Members to attend the next meeting.

The Poison Control Hotline group will meet on November 6, 1997 and he again invited the Board Members to attend. The group at this point is developing a name. A suggestion is the "Provider, Payer, Patient Public Private Poison Prevention Panel or P8". We have scheduled another meeting of that body and asked other members of the managed care organizations to attend. Columbia Sunrise had contracted with the Denver Poison Control Center for the past several years. Dr. Dart, Director of

the Denver Poison Control Center, will be in attendance at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. We are hopeful that we will get support from various members of the community to continue this program.

Dr. Ravenholt briefly reviewed the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and "Back To Sleep" Program. There has been a nationwide movement to encourage putting babies on their back rather than on their face in their cribs. The District has taken an active effort in this program. We have distributed a folder from the American Pediatric Society and a letter from the Chief Health Officer to every birth certificate applicant during the first year of life of the child (1,700 this year). This is part of the District's education effort in terms of maternal child education. Physicians and other agencies in the Valley are also participating in the program which has been undertaken for the last 3 years.

In England the outcome from this change to not having the babies sleep on their face, resulted in cutting their SIDS deaths in half. In Las Vegas we have gone from 30 deaths per year to 13 and 15 in the past two years. So far this year there have only been 4 SIDS deaths. It is a remarkable change in the number of SIDS deaths. There may be 20 children living who 3 years ago would not have survived.

He discussed the tragedy and stigma that has been associated with baby deaths over the years. The District also participates in a Child Death Review Committee that reviews all child deaths. This involves the Child Protective Services, the Coroner, Metro and a dozen other participants in reviewing such deaths.

### **Administration**

David Rowles remarked that in 1996 the total number of Health Cards processed were a 113,000 compared to 103,000 in 1995. We anticipate reaching 123,000 by the end of 1997. We have taken custody of the East Valley property and are beginning to get ready for the services that will be provided.

Details will be brought to Board at a later date. We are in the middle of obtaining bids for the District's Reroofing and rotunda remodeling project. The auditors have just completed their audit of the District. There findings will be presented to the Board at the November meeting.

### **Air Pollution Control**

Michael Naylor explained that the Clinton administration has pushed several environmental initiatives. In September, EPA promulgated a new 8-hour ozone standard. This will replace the current 1-hour standard. We are well within compliance of the 1-hour standard. A new method has been initiated to determine compliance of the 8-hour standard based on the fourth highest number per year. The EPA now allows 3 exceedances per year at any station averaged over 3 years. After review of ozone measurements for the 8-hour standard to date, during 1997 one station measured 2 exceedance (Lone Mountain) and 1 station measured 1 exceedance (Apex). Staff is concerned because 1997 has been considered a clean year compared to other years. Staff is monitoring the 8-hour ozone standard and discussing with other air quality planning agencies things that could possibly be done to make sure that the ozone remains in compliance.

Penalties assessed in 1997 year to date are \$190,975 compared to \$102,130 from the same time period in 1996. Our growth monitoring statistic is the Dust Control Permit as all construction in the Las Vegas Valley requires a permit. To date, we have permitted 13,629 acres compared to 10,205 acres over the same period of time in 1996. September was a clean month we had no exceedance of standards. However, we are getting close to the carbon monoxide season and we may have days approaching the carbon monoxide standard.

### **Clinics & Nursing**

Fran Courtney, RN, stated that for the last week Staff has been meeting with a representative from Clark County Community Development. Clark County has purchased a building called the Lorena Building in which they plan to locate community resources currently being provided at the Lowden

community center. The Lorena Building is located off Maryland Parkway between Desert Inn and Flamingo directly behind Big O' Tires. The new building is approximately 4 times the square footage of the Lowden facility and will allow for expansion of services by Social Services, Parks and Recreation, Nevada State Welfare and the Health District. The District will have up to 2,200 square feet in the Lorena Building. Staff has submitted floor plans for their review. In addition to the Lorena Building, the County is also planning on building a Senior Center, a Youth Center and a Police substation in that area.

Staff is anticipating moving into the Lorena facility within the next year and will provide the same level of services that are provided at the main District Health Center. Initially, the WIC program will be moved to the Lorena Building and hopefully, Family Planning, STD and other services will be added as space allows.

District staff has also been working with State representatives on the Family to Family Connection Program. The Health District's involvement is to develop and implement the home visitation component of the Family to Family Connection program for District #9.

The Family-to-Family Connection program was funded by the legislature for 9 million dollars. The State is currently in the process of implementing the program. The Governor's basic concept was a home visitation program for the first months of the first year of an infant's life to prevent child abuse and neglect. What seems to have become the central focus is a new baby center where parents of infants from birth to age 1 year can come to receive parent training and to network with other parents, including some 'respite' child care while the parents are at the center.

Dr. Ravenholt added that apparently the parents may only bring their newborns to share a Family-to-Family experience and will have to find other care for the siblings. Under the emerging rules this must be entirely independent of Public Health Nursing and other programs, in its own building, etc.

Fran Courtney, RN, added that there is to be no assessment or evaluation of the family by personnel involved in the Family to Family Connection program. They can only identify resources available to the family and refer them to other community resources for evaluation and treatment of problems. They will fund up to 2 home visits per family and want infants that are not co-located with other programs.

### **Environmental Health**

Ed Wojcik remarked that recently the media covered a problem with nitrate in a small water system within the city limits of Henderson. There are 30 homes on this water system serviced by 3 wells. All small water systems in the Valley are monitored routinely by the Health District on an annual and sometimes more frequent basis. We found that the trend in the nitrate levels in this Mayfield water system had jumped significantly in 1996 and at that time required additional monitoring because it had exceeded the reaction level of 5 ppm. In July 1997, we got results back that indicated average values above the maximum contaminant level of 10 ppm. At that point in time, the State advised the District that additional testing was needed to confirm that it was from the water source and not within the distribution system. Those results came back and confirmed that the samples taken directly from the wells indicated nitrate levels above 10 ppm. The health significance of this is that nitrate levels tend to reduce the oxygen levels in the blood. Infants are particularly vulnerable and those 6 months or less can become seriously ill exhibiting symptoms of shortness of breath and turning blue and in some cases death. As a result of this information, we advised the association that they would have to make public notice to the property owners. Staff took an additional step and sampled a nearby well about 600 feet down gradient or in the direction that the ground water flow would normally move, but that is not part of the Mayfield system and found that the nitrate levels have not increased. So the situation with the Mayfield water system seems to be very localized and does not affect anything outside of these 30

homes. Staff is working to have these 30 homes connected to the Henderson water system and close and abandon the wells.

Dr. Ravenholt remarked that the nitrate infiltration is presumably from above the impermeable layer overlying the aquifer. There is a 300 ft. deep-well system there but the water stands at 150 feet. In abandoning these wells, they will pull the casing and cement it all the down to preclude filtration to the aquifer.

In the past the only nitrate problem in the Valley has been in the Gilcrest Ranch area. These nitrates come from agricultural fertilizer or similar activity that can create nitrate as one of the by products.

Lonnie Empey commented that Staff has already started working on the New Year's Eve plans of providing portable toilets on the Las Vegas strip. We have found that through an existing contract that the County has with a provider, we can obtain 200 portable units for \$45 each. We have encouraged the Nevada Resort Association to become involved with us in the project. We are looking into getting lighting for the units, placing them in safe areas where they will be used and serviced by the same company.

We also met with the Nevada Resort Association to discuss Hepatitis A vaccine. Staff asked them to encourage their members to get at-risk employees immunized against Hepatitis A to prevent transmission of this disease through the food chain. The Association has been very supportive of the project.

**V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**DULY NOTED**

1. Financial Data
2. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes and Annotated Agenda, September 1997
3. Listing of Food Establishments in Plan Review for the Period of 09/01/97 - 09/31/97 Environmental Health Division
4. Air Pollution Control Monthly Report (Air Quality, Enforcement Activity and Permitting), September, 1997
5. Air Pollution Control Hearing Board Meeting Annotated Agenda 10/97 & Air Pollution Control Hearing Officer Meeting Annotated Agendas, 09/97
6. Letters of Appreciation

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Colquitt adjourned the meeting at 9:26 a.m.

**SUBMITTED FOR BOARD APPROVAL**

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Otto Ravenholt, MD, Chief Health Officer  
*Executive Secretary*

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