



MINUTES

Southern Nevada District Board of Health Emergency Meeting

March 31, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

**Southern Nevada Health District, 280 S. Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89107
Red Rock Trail Conference Room A and B**

**BOARD:
(Present)** Scott Black – Chair, Mayor Pro Tempore, City of North Las Vegas
James Adams – Council Member, City of Boulder City
Olivia Diaz – Council Member, City of Las Vegas
Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Vice Chair, Commissioner, Clark County
Brian Knudsen – Council Member, City of Las Vegas
Frank Nemecek – At-Large Member, Physician
Scott Nielson – At-Large Member, Gaming
Tick Segerblom – Commissioner, Clark County
Dan Stewart – Council Member, City of Henderson
Brian Wursten – Council Member, City of Mesquite

(Absent): Nicole Brisson – At-Large Member, Regulated Business/Industry

**ALSO PRESENT:
(In Audience)** None

LEGAL COUNSEL: Annette Bradley, General Counsel

**EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY:** Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, Acting Chief Health Officer

STAFF: Heather Anderson-Fintak, Ernest Blazzard, Michelle Cintron, Andrea Green, Amy Hagan, Michael Johnson, Joann Rupiper, Christopher Saxton, Jennifer Sizemore, Leo Vega

I. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL/ SCOTT BLACK, CHAIR

Chair Black called the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Emergency Meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. All Board Members joined the meeting by teleconference and the roll call was administered by Michelle Cintron, Executive Assistant.

Chair Black stated when an emergency like this arises, over the last few weeks the amazing aptitude, capability, and commitment from the public health professionals is visible. He thanked staff for their leadership and noted there are many who have gone above and beyond to serve the community during this challenging time.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: A period devoted to comments by the general public about those items appearing on the agenda. Comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker. Please step up to the speaker's podium, clearly state your name and address, and spell your last name for the record. If any member of the Board wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this may be done by the Chairman or the Board by majority vote.

Mr. Scott Davis, 7475 Desert Wildflower St. Las Vegas. Mr. Davis thanked staff for the outstanding job and the Administration from Governor all the way down. He noted his question pertains to the article in the Review Journal from this morning about a group setting and not being able to isolate. His father is a

Veteran in the Veteran's home in Boulder City, and he relayed this information. There are three confirmed COVID cases and they are being isolated. Residents there are being tested and will be submitted in a bulk order for testing. Results will come in four-five days and hopes the patients will not be moved to the facility being talked about. His question was in reference to this.

Chair Black noted this period was dedicated to public comment and the answer to the question may be covered during the presentation of the agenda item for the facility.

Caller [Name inaudible], 4030 Acapulco Ave. Las Vegas. The individual is a partner in a small business and questioned how to submit a proposal or bid to provide the requested services to the county or the city. Chair Black replied the CFO would give a presentation on the agenda item, and he would speak about the procurement procedure being utilized during this emergency; the mechanism being used to facilitate the acquisition.

Rose Mada, 84 St. Johns Wood Ave., Henderson. Ms. Mada referenced building the gate facility and question whether consideration had been given to using hotel space that is currently unoccupied, like the old Lady Luck. If nursing homes were presenting a problem, could they be consolidated and maybe one nursing home be dedicated to overflow, so the seniors remain in a similar environment.

Chair Black reiterated the majority of questions will be answered during the presentation.

Victoria Harding, SNHD/SEIU, requested when reviewing the presentation for this item, can context be given for the bigger picture as internally she doesn't hear what's going on. She was interested in short term and long-term goals. What is it going to accomplish? What other things in the future will be looked into? Is FEMA helping with PPE, which is another shortage.

Seeing no one further, Chair Black closed this portion of the meeting.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE March 31, 2020 EMERGENCY MEETING AGENDA (for possible action)

A motion was made by Member Stewart seconded by Member Segerblom and carried unanimously to approve the March 31, 2020 Agenda as presented.

V. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. PETITION #42-20 APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT OF COVID-19 ALTERNATE CARE FACILITY AT 280 S. DECATUR BLVD.: January 23, 2020 (for possible action)

Ernest Blazzard, Chief Financial Officer, presented the petition for the alternate care facility. The proposed building structure would be built on the current Health District premises to provide a treatment facility in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be funded by FEMA with a 75% - 25% federal cost sharing. The required facility would cost approximately \$3 Million and the Health District's cost would estimate \$750K-800K.

Dr. Leguen added the main goal is to facilitate isolation and quarantine of patients who don't meet the initial criteria for Coronavirus even though they have tested positive, or patients who have been admitted even after discharge and still need to be maintained in isolation for a short period of time. The patients can consist of homeless patients, residents of nursing homes or assisted living facilities or visitors to the area.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick explained the Cares Act Senate Bill reduces the time frame for reimbursement. Member Knudsen inquired about staffing the facility. Dr. Leguen responded it would be a combination of Health District staff, temporary staff and volunteers. Member Nielson requested confirmation all options had been exercised and the option being presented is the most effective. Dr. Leguen responded the services to be delivered are limited to a very specific scope, which differ from the facilities in the area offering hospital type services

Dr. Leguen stated the petition would be modified to reflect a non-congregate medical shelter. The facility proposed will fall within a different area of FEMA, emergency medical care and temporary facility to take care of isolation and quarantine patients and helping decompress medical facilities.

A motion was made by Member Stewart seconded by Member Knudsen and carried unanimously to approve the agreement of COVID-19 alternate care facility with the modification as noted.

- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:** A period devoted to comments by the general public, if any, and discussion of those comments, about matters relevant to the Board's jurisdiction will be held. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of this Agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken pursuant to NRS 241.020. Comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker. Please step up to the speaker's podium, clearly state your name and address, and spell your last name for the record. If any member of the Board wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this may be done by the Chairman or the Board by majority vote.

Dr. Kathleen Peterson inquired who will be furnishing food and where is it going to be done.

Chair Black thanked Ms. Peterson for this critical question and responded the first step is the procurement to activate the facility. When this is complete then the information will be conveyed to the community.

Victoria Harding, SNHD/SEIU, commented the District has suffered from communication internally. There is a great opportunity to work on those skills. The staff is often the last to hear on what's going on so requested to having this in a bigger context because unaware of what is happening across Las Vegas, and unaware of what is coming out of the MAAC. Internally an email is received every Friday from the ICS team which states what occurred during the week. The retrospective case count is already known because it's being watched every day. She would rather hear proactively, what is being done for the future. What is being worked on as projects to procure. Most of the information received has been from Commissioner Kirkpatrick. When there's radio silence there's a tendency to think nothing is going on. This is a great opportunity to figure out a way of communicating better within the District, especially since so many are remote working. She requested the District become forthcoming with information because staff are first responders in this type of scenario. People should not be talking amongst themselves and noting not certain of what's going on.

Chair Black thanked Ms. Harding for pointing this out and work will be done with Dr. Leguen to make sure information is going out. The City of North Las Vegas has implemented communication on a daily basis and it's the perfect time to harness and capture this opportunity.

Feven Kay, Fox 5, inquired if it was the appropriate time to ask questions they have.

Chair Black responded the Board is taking public comment from the community and stakeholders. He anticipates daily information is being sent out to the media for dissemination to the public. The media partners have been remarkable in helping get the current information out to everyone throughout the community. The details of the procurement will be discussed; how it will be rolled out and how it will be operated to benefit our community. He explained this is not an opportunity for questions and answers.

Chair Black thanked everyone for their participation.

Seeing no one further, Chair Black closed this portion of the meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH
Acting Chief Health Officer/Executive Secretary

/mc