



MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

October 27, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was conducted In-person and via Webex Event

Southern Nevada Health District, 280 S. Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89107

Red Rock Trail Rooms A and B

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)
Scott Nielson, Vice-Chair – At-Large Member, Gaming (*in-person*)
Frank Nemec, Secretary – At-Large Member, Physician (*in-person*)
James Adams – Council Member, City of Boulder City (*in-person*)
Scott Black – Council Member, City of North Las Vegas (*via WebEx*)
Bobbette Bond – At-Large Member, Regulated Business/Industry (*in-person*)
Olivia Diaz – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*via WebEx*)
Karen Dutkowski – Council Member, City of Mesquite (*via WebEx*)
Brian Knudsen – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*in-person*)
Michelle Romero – Council Member, City of Henderson (*via WebEx*)
Tick Segerblom – Commissioner, Clark County (*via WebEx*)
- ABSENT:** N/A
- ALSO PRESENT:** Linda Anderson, Georgi Collins, Dawn Christensen, Cara Evangelista, Tim
(In Audience) Grigsby Maya Holmes, Pam Johnson, Cheryl Malone, Bradley Mayer, Javier
Rivera-Rojas, Lisa Rogge, Katie Ryan, Virginia Valentine, Cassidy Wilson
- LEGAL COUNSEL:** Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer
- STAFF:** Jason Agudo, Maria Azzarelli, Tawana Bellamy, Sherhonda Brathwaite, Amanda
Brown, Cory Burgess, Nikki Burns-Savage, Victoria Burris, Steve Calmy, Nicole
Charlton, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Stephanie Cortes, Rebecca Cruz-Nañez,
Aaron DelCotto, Brandon Delise, Harold Collins, Jason Frame, Kimberly Franich,
John Hammond, Heather Hanoff, Richard Hazeltine, Carmen Hua, Brenda
Jamison, Jessica Johnson, Michael Johnson, Fernando Lara, Kendra Lett, Josie
Llorico, Cassius Lockett, Cort Lohff, Sandy Luckett, Hetal Luhar, Chris Elaine
Mariano, Cassondra Major, Roni Mauro, Kim Monahan, Christian Murua, Semilla
Neal, Verallynn Orewyler, Laura Palmer, Kyle Parkson, Neleida Pelaez, Melanie
Perez, Rae Pettie, Luann Province, Katarina Pulver, Alexis Romero, Larry
Rogers, Christopher Saxton, Herb Sequera, Karla Shoup, Candice Sims,
Jennifer Sizemore, Ronny Soy, Daniele Staple, Will Thompson, Shylo Urzi, Leo
Vega, Jorge Viote, Donnie Whitaker, Edward Wynder, Merylyn Yegon, Ying
Zhang

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

The Chair called the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Andria Cordovez Mulet, Executive Assistant, administered the roll call and confirmed quorum.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECOGNITION

1. Merylyn Yegon (Community Health Nurse Supervisor)

- Champion of Health Equity and Justice Award – Nevada Primary Care Association

On behalf of the Board of Health, the Chair announced that Merylyn Yegon, Community Health Nurse Supervisor, was awarded the Champion of Health Equity and Justice Award from the Nevada Primary Care Association. Ms. Yegon was nominated for this award by her peers. Ms. Yegon oversees the COVID-19 and Monkeypox vaccination clinic at the FQHC while also managing the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Care Services team. Her tireless efforts, cheerful personality and can-do attitude make her a well-deserving recipient of this honor. The Board of Health congratulated Ms. Yegon for this recognition.

Member Segerblom joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

2. Brandon Delise (Epidemiologist), Jessica A. Johnson (Senior Health Educator), Ying Zhang (Senior Scientist)

- Coauthored *Evaluating the impact of naloxone dispensation at public health vending machines in Clark County, Nevada* which was published in the *Annals of Medicine*

On behalf of the Board of Health, the Chair announced that Brandon Delise, Senior Epidemiologist; Jessica A. Johnson, Senior Health Educator; and Ying Zhang, Senior Scientist, coauthored a paper titled '*Evaluating the impact of naloxone dispensation at public health vending machines in Clark County, Nevada*' which was published in the *Annals of Medicine*. In 2019, naloxone dispensation was launched at public health vending machines in Clark County. The article concluded that naloxone dispensation at public health vending machines was associated with immediate reduction in opioid-involved overdose fatalities. We hope this finding may increase the adoption of public health vending practices in places at risk for drug overdose. The Board of Health congratulated Mr. Delise, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Zhang for this recognition.

3. Information Technology Department

- District of the Year 2022 – AT&T and Government Technology Magazine

On behalf of the Board of Health, the Chair announced that the Information Technology Department was named the District of the Year for 2022 from AT&T and the Government Technology Magazine, which recognizes and shares bright ideas across transit, transportation, libraries, fire districts, parks and recreation, airports, ports and more. The Board of Health congratulated the IT Team for this recognition.

Member Black joined the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

4. Information Technology Department and Health Cards Department

- Special District Award – Citizens Category – Online Renewal for Food Handler Card – AT&T and Government Technology Magazine

On behalf of the Board of Health, the Chair announced that the Information Technology and the Health Cards Departments were awarded the Special District Technology Innovation Award in the Citizens Category for the Online Renewal for Food Handler Cards from AT&T and the Government Technology Magazine. The process to renew food handler cards was moved online which allowed individuals to complete the renewal process on their own time, eliminating the need to wait for a physical appointment. The online renewal process can be completed within 10 minutes. Since the deployment of this project during the summer, approximately 6,000 cards have been renewed online. The Board of Health congratulated the IT and Health Cards Teams for this recognition.

Dr. Leguen introduced Harold (Hal) Collins, the new Administrative Workforce Director. As the Administrative Workforce Director, Mr. Collins will oversee the implementation of the CDC Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Grant across all aspects of the organization, and will assure the efficacy of grant funded projects. In addition to providing

leadership in workforce development strategies and serve as the liaison to the grantor, this position will oversee the following areas: (i) Facilities (including Security), (ii) Health Cards, (iii) Information Technology, and (iv) Human Resources. The Board of Health welcomed Mr. Collins to the Health District.

IV. FIRST 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 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 Chair or the Board by majority vote.

Cara Evangelista, owner of a food safety and environment health consulting business, advised that they represent approximately 2,000 food permits, from large stadiums and casinos to small local restaurants. Ms. Evangelista advised that they have the same certification license that Health District inspectors and managers are required to have. Ms. Evangelista was commenting on the agenda item related to the proposed food regulation. Ms. Evangelista wanted to thank the Environmental Health Division for working with industry, specifically thanking Candice Sims, who was the lead on the re-write and a real and honest partner with industry during the process. Ms. Evangelista advised that they only have one concern left and were requesting a compromise. Ms. Evangelista advised that in the current draft of the new regulation, in Chapter 2, there was a requirement that every restaurant or food permit have a certified manager or chef with a manager in food safety certification at the restaurant at all times, which was not a current requirement. Ms. Evangelista stated that the current regulation allowed a chef and a manager to show that they knew food safety by having a good inspection with the Health District and answering the inspector's questions. If a chef or manager had a bad inspection and could not answer the inspector's questions, it was very serious and had high points written against them on the inspection. Ms. Evangelista stated that the new regulation, the way it was currently written, could award the high demerit points to a facility for not having a certificate. Ms. Evangelista reminded the Board of Health that only 1% or 2% of restaurants do so bad during an inspection that they would have this kind of violation written against them. Ms. Evangelista advised that the industry was highly concerned about how the new section was written because of multiple reasons. First, the new certification that would be required would take a training class, textbook, test, instructor, approved proctor to administer the test, owners having to pay the salary of employees and employees being required to pass the test. Due to these requirements, the certificate could cost \$800 to \$1,000, per person, and only if the employee passed the test on the first try. Second, due to the way the draft Regulations were written, the Health District could require a certified manager in each food permit. As an example, in the large casinos there are approximately 250 permits with approximately 100 food permits. With days off, sick days, and shift that could potentially require a facility to have 200 certified managers. Ms. Evangelista advised that they could not get 200 certified managers in a casino. For a smaller, casual restaurant, that had approximately 12 employees, with days off, sick days, and shifts, that would require them to have four certified managers. Third, Ms. Evangelista advised that they have had multiple issues with highly trained people taking and passing the certified manager test in different languages, due to poor translations of the test and poorly written tests. Fourth, Ms. Evangelista stated that was the biggest reason, the turnover rate and severe employee shortages. Ms. Evangelista indicated that the number of entry-level employees entering the workforce would make this section unachievable, as written, and stated that it probably would have been unachievable prior to COVID-19. Ms. Evangelista advised that they were requesting potential compromises to be written into the Regulation. First, they requested that there was one certified manager at the restaurant, and then the restaurant or facility would designate who it was to the Health District. Other chefs and managers would work under that one certified manager and if the chef or manager could not answer food safety questions, or did bad on an inspection, then they would receive the high violation. Second, that, like many professions that required certification, a chef or manager would be provided a 12-month from their hire date to obtain the certification. Ms. Evangelista advised that when she received her REHS, which was what the inspectors had, she was provided with three years to obtain her certification. Third, Ms. Evangelista stated that the Health District advised that they would be open to writing the lack of a certificate as a low violation if the chef and manager could pass the inspection. She requested that be documented in the new Regulation. Ms. Evangelista summarized that they were requesting for a compromise for the certified manager requirement due to the high cost, high percentage number of people that would be required to have it, employee shortages,

language issues and the current high level of food safety knowledge by chefs in 98% of restaurants. Ms. Evangelista stated that many counties have adopted the FDA Food Code, however they did not have the ability and the laws to enforce it like the Health District. Due to that, there was a high level of food safety in Las Vegas. Ms. Evangelista requested that, due to the high level of enforcement, that industry have some input in the writing of the new form after the Regulations was passed. Ms. Evangelista concluded by thanking Ms. Sims for taking many calls from their clients, big and small, and always answering her phone. Ms. Evangelista advised that their clients were very satisfied, and they would also want to thank Ms. Sims for always answering their calls, taking their concerns and being a real trustworthy partner.

Seeing no one further, the Chair closed the First Public Comment portion.

V. ADOPTION OF THE OCTOBER 27, 2022 MEETING AGENDA *(for possible action)*

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Nielson, seconded by Member Knudsen and carried unanimously to approve the October 27, 2022 Agenda, as presented.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA: Items for action to be considered by the Southern Nevada District Board of Health which may be enacted by one motion. Any item may be discussed separately per Board Member request before action. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

1. APPROVE MINUTES/BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING: September 22, 2022 *(for possible action)*

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Nielson, seconded by Member Adams and carried unanimously to approve the October 27, 2022 Consent Agenda, as presented.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING / ACTION: Members of the public are allowed to speak on Public Hearing / Action items after the Board's discussion and prior to their vote. Each speaker will be given five (5) minutes to address the Board on the pending topic. No person may yield his or her time to another person. In those situations where large groups of people desire to address the Board on the same matter, the Chair may request that those groups select only one or two speakers from the group to address the Board on behalf of the group. Once the public hearing is closed, no additional public comment will be accepted.

1. MEMORANDUM #03-23: Review/Discuss/Approve Environmental Health Business Impact Statement on Proposed Food Regulations; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

Candice Sims, Environmental Health Supervisor, presented the Business Impact Statement on the Proposed Food Regulations. Larry Rogers, Environmental Health Manager, and Aaron DelCotto, Environmental Health Manager, were also present. Ms. Sims outlined the process taken by staff in reviewing the regulations and how comments were collected from the industry. The Business Impact Survey was emailed to 12,269 recipients and posted on the Health District's website; 22 surveys were returned. Ms. Sims proceeded with a summary of the major changes in the proposed regulation.

Further to an inquiry from Member Bond, Ms. Sims advised of the requirement to perform one inspection per year per facility. If there are issues or a downgrade, then the re-inspection is prioritized so the facility does not have to wait a full year for the next inspection.

Further to an inquiry from Member Knudsen, Ms. Sims advised that the proposed regulations allow for compromise for large events, for example, if an event had over 100 permits, they have the ability to meet with a supervisor to compromise on booth size, number of booths, and overall cost. Ms. Sims advised that the proposed regulations are not meant to discourage large events.

Member Nielson inquired as to the Certified Food Protection Manager and the concerns raised in the First Public Comment. Mr. Rogers advised that any issues with the Certified Food Protection Manager would be noted on the inspection report but would not result in a downgrade. Mr. DeCotto advised that the intention was that the first inspection, following implementation of the proposed regulations, would be educational with the anticipation of a one-year phase-in. Chair Kirkpatrick requested additional information related to the Certified Food Protection Manager. Ms. Sims advised that the certificate was valid for 5 years and belonged to the individual, who could use it at another facility. Online training and self-study were available, however, the exam had to be proctored. If an individual fails, they can re-take the test at a reduced cost. Ms. Sims advised that the certification was done through a third-party provider and available in 20-30 languages. Member Diaz inquired whether the Health District performed an evaluation on the exams administered by the third-party provider. Ms. Sims advised that individuals could request a translator to assist with the exam, however Ms. Sims was not aware of the cost for the translator.

Member Nielson thanked staff and indicated that the process was well done. Member Nielson advised that early information, the red-lined version of the changes, and the extension of the comment period, were all appreciated by the industry, which was raised during the final workshop.

The Chair opened the Public Comment.

Virginia Valentine, President of the Nevada Resort Association, thanked Ms. Sims and staff for the smooth process, including the red-line version of changes and side-by-side comparison of the changes where very helpful to the industry and analyzing all the changes in a lengthy document was very helpful. Ms. Valentine raised the certification that was currently not a requirement of if that was a change, it seemed that more would be required. Ms. Valentine stated that the resorts do a lot of their own very robust internal training and thought that because of the sophistication of the Las Vegas market, it had been mentioned how many people are fed here every year and nobody mentioned the employee dining rooms, but millions and millions of meals are served here every day. Ms. Valentine advised that they have a highly trained workforce in that area. Ms. Valentine stated that his certification was kind of a new requirement, so they were not concerned with the cost, but they do not want to close a venue or a restaurant because they do not have the position, which we could just put a pin in that for now if the problem materialized or not. Ms. Valentine advised that it was a concern because it was a new requirement. Ms. Valentine wanted to mention temporary event permits. Ms. Valentine advised that she was fortunate to be on the Superbowl Host Committee and they went to SoFi and looked at what was done in L.A., and as the chairman said, it looked like there is very little regulation that went on but these events, when you have that game day experience, they are taking the Superbowl that will happen here for Superbowl 58 in 2024 that will take the Superbowl not just at Allegiant but it would take all the events into the community. When you look at something like the game day experience, which was the largest tailgate on earth, there are commissaries, that are not like a bunch of little food booths, not like the Beautiful event that is done at the Epicurean every year where there is food, booze, individual vendors, people in charge. This would be a giant commissary that is under tents feeding a lot of people. Ms. Valentine appreciated that, as she understood, that they have been expanded to 400 square feet, which still sounded small in the scheme of things once you have seen them and that they would be able to apply for more than one permit for the venue because they would be much, much larger than what has been seen before. Ms. Valentine thought we were fortunate to be experienced in these kind of events, and do not know exactly what they would look like and there would probably be events that have not even been thought of that would be coming to Las Vegas. The last thing Ms. Valentine wanted to mention was the timeframe for getting everybody trained both on their end and the Health District's end on what the new requirements were and what the Health District would look for when inspecting the property or location. Ms. Valentine requested that there was a 12-18 month period, at least to allow individuals to train up, and to have the ability to have the training and have the mutual understanding of what is expected under the new food code. Ms. Valentine stated that it was a very important request. Ms. Valentine thanked the staff again for the information provided. Ms. Valentine advised that the process was pretty smooth and appreciated everything along the way. Ms. Valentine stated that, working on the COVID-19 hotel, in terms of value to the industry during the

pandemic, that was probably one of the more valuable things that anybody did to help the industry along the way, including all the great communication throughout the very long pandemic.

Cara Evangelista stated that the FDA Food Code was put together for a normal restaurant everywhere in the country, and that one of the reasons that they put this certified manager requirement into the Food Code was because they found that, on other places, they may have to force compliance. Ms. Evangelista advised that here because the Health District was already so hard, that had created the food safety atmosphere, we were already so much higher with the chefs and managers. Ms. Evangelista stated that when she was an inspector, they would run circles around her. She stated that the chefs will go out of town to other states and when they come back in inquire if an inspector from the Health District can go to another place to shut them down and Ms. Evangelista advises that they cannot. Ms. Evangelista wanted to make a couple of comments and advised that the proctor was technically only allowed to take 20 people at a time, for a common test, so it was not possible to have a room of 100 people. Ms. Evangelista continued that the success rate was usually pretty good but, after an 8-hour class, they usually only have high-level executive chefs or big managers take it, and that it would not be the everyday person. Ms. Evangelista wanted to raise the language issue. She advised that they have had a number of people take the translated certified manager test in Spanish and Chinese, traditional simplified, and it was really bad. They have had high-level Spanish speaking chefs fail five, six and seven times, and give up, stop re-taking the test simply because of the way it was worded; that the questions, when translated, do not make sense. This was even in the national tests. Ms. Evangelista advised that they were open to the Health District do a good test, at a reasonable cost, for some kind of a certificate. Ms. Evangelista also wanted to say that they were not against the certified manager, however they were just concerned about the way it was written into the regulations, that technically the way it was written, it would require a 100 people. She advised that they would not get that and that they would like some, maybe if somebody could look at rewriting it a little bit, because in 2010, the last time the regulations were changed, they did not have any of the same management from 2010. She stated that people have good intentions but what if the people are not here in 5 years and someone else comes in and re-interprets. She wanted to say that with HACCP changes, because there were some questions about that, that the Health District was allowing those most regular HACCPs to now just be submitted, which is like cooking in a bag, so facilities could submit their plan and then start, whereas before it had taken 4-5 months to get approved. Ms. Evangelista stated that downgrades were the same, that facilities still had to fix everything. Ms. Evangelista wanted to make a comment about the larger events. Her company helps the food company that does the Electric Daisy Carnival (EDC). For example, they have 250 food permits at EDC. Ms. Evangelista stated that the with the new regulations, the first regulations were re-written, it would have required probably 1,000 permits instead of 250 permits and it would have literally been because it would have been a paperwork issue. Her company had their regional director talk to Ms. Sims and he was satisfied with the compromise. As it is one of the largest events in the city, they talked to their inspector four months in advance. They worked with the inspectors at the north office, and M. DelCotto has gone out and they have not had any issues with mega events and working with them. Ms. Evangelista stated that she thought it would be alright and their regional director was happy with the compromise, and he was the one that asked for the 100 temps. Ms. Evangelista stated that they do mega events and they have not really run into a problem with the inspector and they could always go to Mr. DelCotto or their regular inspector to ask for help with mega events.

Chair Kirkpatrick advised that the Health District was pretty accommodating to almost everything and that the EDC festival put public safety first, which is what everybody needed to do. Chair Kirkpatrick inquired about the specific sections being referred to by Ms. Evangelista. Ms. Evangelista was not sure exactly the section but that it was vague. Chair Kirkpatrick advised that vague was good as it allowed flexibility.

Member Nemeč left the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Ms. Evangelista stated that if it were a core violation, unless there were issues or major issues, or if the facility could designate the certified manager because in a major property they could have executive chefs, food safety, sanitary and third-party inspectors, that would still not be enough based on that, and they may need 100 certified managers. Chair Kirkpatrick stated that there was a

lot of flexibility on that piece. Chair Kirkpatrick proceeded that revisions to the proposed regulations could still be made before the next meeting, or maybe there was an addendum. Chair Kirkpatrick advised that a little vagueness was good so that it could be adjusted. Ms. Evangelista advised that putting the discussion on the record was good and could be referred back to if required. Ms. Evangelista requested a one-year implementation, like the 2019 food regulations and the 2018 pool regulations. She advised that they received one year, staff provided training, visited the facilities to help before it went into effect. Chair Kirkpatrick advised that the Board of Health was being asked to either accept or not accept the Business Impact Statement and that at the next meeting there could be more discussion on implementation. Ms. Evangelista advised that they had 27 pages of comments, and after speaking with Ms. Sims, they only had one comment. Ms. Evangelista advised that her clients were happy and she was happy having this conversation with the Board of Health. Ms. Evangelista advised that Ms. Valentine was also very supportive. She concluded that it was hard as they had executive chefs working hotlines that could not contribute and it was mainly her and her partner. Ms. Evangelista thanked everyone.

Member Nemeč returned to the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Seeing no one further, the Chair closed the Public Comment portion.

Ms. Anderson-Fintak confirmed that staff was only requesting approval of the Business Impact Statement. If the Business Impact Statement was approved, the proposed regulations would be brought before the Board of Health at the next meeting for discussion and public comment, with a recommendation for approval.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Nielson, seconded by Member Adams and carried unanimously to approve the Business Impact Statement on the Proposed Food Regulations, as presented.

VII. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. Presentation on Behavioral Health Services for Youth; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)

Further to the last Board of Health meeting, Rebecca Cruz-Nañez, Health Educator, presented on Behavioral Health Services for Youth, specifically a broad overview of some services that are available and the efforts that are being initiated in Clark County. Ms. Cruz-Nañez advised that the 2023 State of Mental Health in America Report was released last week and she would share a copy with the Board following the meeting.

Member Adams advised that Boulder City, with their ARPA funds, would obtain a licensed healthcare professional to assist with mental health and he requested information on what the municipalities could do to be proactive. Ms. Cruz-Nañez advised that having individuals trained to learn the warning signs was the most important. The individual does not have to be someone in the field of mental health. Ms. Cruz-Nañez advised that training is offered at no-cost to community members, specifically through the Office of Suicide Prevention, and would share information with the Board following the meeting. Dr. Leguen suggested that resource information could be posted on the Health District's website.

Member Bond inquired as to the wait time at the Community Health Center to see a mental health provider. Ms. Cruz-Nañez advised that the Community Health Center has openings and, if needed, was able to direct individuals to other partners. Ms. Cruz-Nañez advised that the Health District also worked with Hope Means Nevada, that has a program that provides screening process assistance within 24 hours. Ms. Cruz-Nañez advised that, in an immediate crisis, individuals should be referred to 988, which is available 24, 7, 365 and able to provide immediate assistance.

Councilwoman Romero inquired as to resources that the municipalities could have that could be added to their webpage for residents to quickly access. Ms. Cruz-Nañez advised that staff was currently working on that internally and advised that the Office of Suicide Prevention has a

tremendous amount of resources. Ms. Cruz-Nañez advised that staff could work on a list of resources but did not believe that one existed currently.

- 2. Petition #06-23: Approve and Authorize the Extension of the Same Adjusted Work Schedule Pay Benefit to Non-Bargaining Unit Eligible Employees that Bargaining Unit Eligible Employees Already Receive;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

Sherhonda Brathwaite, Director Human Resources, presented on the extension of the same adjusted work schedule pay benefit to non-bargaining unit eligible employees that bargaining unit eligible employees already receive, along with the amendments to Section 55 of the Personnel Code.

A motion was made by Member Adams seconded by Member Bond and carried unanimously to approve and authorize the extension of the same adjusted work schedule pay benefit to non-bargaining unit eligible employees that bargaining unit eligible employees already receive and approve the amendments to Section 55 of the Personnel Code.

- 3. Approval of the 2023 Board of Health Meeting Schedule;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

The Board was advised that the proposed 2023 meeting schedule followed the timeline approved by the Board the previous year.

A motion was made by Chair Kirkpatrick seconded by Vice-Chair Nielson and carried unanimously to approve the 2023 Board of Health Meeting Schedule, as presented.

Member Black left the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and did not return.

- VIII. BOARD REPORTS:** The Southern Nevada District Board of Health members may identify and comment on Health District related issues. Comments made by individual Board members during this portion of the agenda will not be acted upon by the Southern Nevada District Board of Health unless that subject is on the agenda and scheduled for action. ***(Information Only)***

Councilman Adams advised that Boulder City would have an agenda item at their first meeting in November regarding the availability of ARPA funds for the Health District. Chair Kirkpatrick advised that the City of Las Vegas would also have an agenda item at their meeting for discussion and wished to remind everyone of the importance of the Health District.

- IX. HEALTH OFFICER & STAFF REPORTS *(Information Only)***

- DHO Comments

In addition to his written report, Dr. Leguen advised that, on October 7th, Health District staff participated in the PRIDE parade and, along with Huntridge Family Clinic, offered the Monkeypox vaccination and promoted the COVID-19 vaccination.

Further, Dr. Leguen advised that, on October 4th, the Health District alerted the public about the ongoing risk of fentanyl. This was triggered due to six drug overdoses during a 36-hour period, from September 25-27, 2022, in Clark County. Between January and July 2022, there were 110 fentanyl overdose death among Clark County residents. Dr. Leguen advised that the Health District was working with community partners to offer free naloxone and fentanyl test strips as a way to help decrease the risk of fentanyl associated overdoses.

- COVID-19 Surveillance and Contact Tracing Update

Dr. Cassius Lockett, Director of Disease Surveillance and Control, advised that the percent test positivity rate was high, and the case rate was medium. Dr. Lockett advised that there was a concern with the percentage of emergency department visits related to COVID-19 moved to medium, which is a warning system of a potential increase in hospitalizations. Dr. Lockett advised that there was still a lot of COVID-19 in the community, however the demand for testing has declined due to the availability of the home test kits. As of October 26th, there were 2,700 COVID-19 cases, 200 hospitalizations and 39 deaths reported since the last Board of Health meeting. Dr. Lockett advised that the overall trend was starting to increase marginally and encouraged anyone over the age of 65 or immunocompromised to get the bivalent booster. Between October 9-22, the 7-day average of hospitalizations increased from 14.1 to 16.1, and the test positivity increased from 14.3 to 15.7. Further, Dr. Lockett advised that there is an average of one death per day and in the United States there are approximately 360 deaths per day related to COVID-19. Dr. Lockett advised that the Health District had 35 in-house contact tracers and his team continued to assist with testing at three CSN locations and services at METS. Dr. Lockett's team was also prepared, if necessary, to respond and send out strike teams in response to cluster outbreaks.

Dr. Leguen requested that Dr. Lockett provide an update on Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). Dr. Lockett advised that it was anticipated that there would be a triple-demic in the Fall, which was a combination of COVID-19, influenza and RSV. Dr. Lockett advised that there was a major increase in RSV cases, by comparing October 2021 that saw 483 cases, with 613 cases to-date for October 2022, mostly in children 0-4 years of age. Dr. Lockett advised that his team would be monitoring RSV very carefully. Chair Kirkpatrick inquired whether the increase in cases was seen in the entire western region. Dr. Lockett advised that California was also experiencing the same surge in RSV cases, along with the rest of the United States.

- Monkeypox Outbreak Update

Dr. Leguen advised that the Monkeypox numbers have been consistently decreasing across the community. Further, Dr. Leguen advised that the Health District continued to offer the Monkeypox vaccine at the Decatur location, along with a variety of community partners. Dr. Leguen confirmed that there were no issues with availability of the vaccine and the Health District was able to meet the community demand for the vaccine.

Member Nemeč left the meeting at 11:22 a.m. and did not return.

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Administration Division Monthly Activity Report
2. Community Health Division Monthly Activity Report
3. Community Health Center (FQHC) Division Monthly Activity Report
4. Disease Surveillance and Control Division Monthly Activity Report
5. Environmental Health Division Monthly Activity Report
6. Primary & Preventive Care Division Monthly Activity Report

XI. SECOND 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. Comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker. If any member of the Board wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this may be done by the Chair or the Board by majority vote.

Seeing no one, the Chair closed the Second Public Comment portion.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH
District Health Officer/Executive Secretary

/acm

DRAFT