



## MINUTES

### SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER (DHO) ANNUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

January 21, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting was conducted via Webex Event

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Scott Black – Chair, Council Member, City of North Las Vegas  
Olivia Diaz – Council Member, City of Las Vegas  
Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Commissioner, Clark County  
Brian Knudsen – Council Member, City of Las Vegas  
Frank Nemeč – At-Large Member, Physician
- ABSENT:** N/A
- ALSO PRESENT:** Karen Dutkowski, Sabrina Santiago, Virginia Valentine  
(In Audience)
- LEGAL COUNSEL:** Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel
- EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer
- STAFF:** Andria Cordovez Mulet, Cory Burgess, Ace Castro, Stephanie Cortes, Jennifer Fennema, Michael Johnson, Cassius Lockett, Cortland Lohff, Kyle Parkson, Chris Saxton, Brenda Welch, Karen White

#### I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Black called the District Health Officer (DHO) Annual Review Committee Meeting to order a 2:05 p.m. Andria Cordovez Mulet, Executive Assistant, administered the roll call and confirmed a quorum was present.

#### II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- III. **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.

Virginia Valentine, President & CEO, of the Nevada Resort Association, submitted a comment in writing regarding the support and guidance received from Dr. Leguen and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. (**Attachment #1**)

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

#### IV. **ADOPTION OF THE JANUARY 21, 2022 MEETING AGENDA (for possible action)**

*A motion was made by Member Knudsen, seconded by Member Nemeč and carried unanimously to approve the January 21, 2022 Agenda as presented.*

## V. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. **Nomination of Chair of the District Health Officer (DHO) Annual Review Committee**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)

*A motion was made by Member Knudsen, seconded by Member Nemeč and carried unanimously to approve/retain Chair Black as Chair of the District Health Officer (DHO) Annual Review Committee.*

2. **Approve DHO Annual Review Committee Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2019**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)

*A motion was made by Member Knudsen, seconded by Member Nemeč and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2019 DHO Annual Review Committee meeting, as presented.*

3. **Receive and Discuss DHO Report of Accomplishments and Discuss Proposed Goals for Next Review Period and Approve Recommendations to the Board of Health on January 27, 2022**; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)

In additional to the Report on District Health Officer and Division Accomplishments for 2021 and Proposed Goals (**Attachment #2**), Dr. Leguen provided a summary on the accomplishments and next steps. (**Attachment #3**)

Dr. Leguen highlighted the following significant accomplishments:

- Successful Implementation of the COVID-19 surveillance and mitigation activities in Clark County such as:
  - COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign
  - Community-based COVID-19 testing
  - Surveillance and Contact Tracing
  - Guidance and technical support to CCSD, resort industry, and other local partners
- Delivery of expanded COVID-19 services at the Southern Nevada Community Health Center main location:
  - COVID-19 isolation facility (October 2020 – March 2021)
  - COVID-19 mass vaccination site (April 2021 – current)
  - COVID-19 mass testing site
- Negotiated successful 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreements with SEIU
- Published the Southern Nevada Health District Community Health Assessment (CHA)
- Submitted application and supportive documentation for SNHD Public Health Accreditation
- No audit findings for the June 30, 2021 Financial Audit
- Created a billing team that includes a Revenue Cycle Manager, and 4 biller/coders
- Secured agreement with City of Las Vegas for new clinical facility at Bonanza Road
- Build-out new health center facility at East Las Vegas location (Fremont)
- Assisted UNLV with the passage of a tobacco-free campus policy effective Fall 2022
- Completed the Restaurant Risk Factor Study and submitted the final report to the FDA
- Initiated well water testing in rural Clark County
- Held an Employee Appreciation Day

Dr. Leguen highlighted the following goals/next steps for 2022:

- Improve SNHD internal environment
  - Improve employee morale, measured through employee satisfaction surveys in early 2022, and last quarter of 2022
  - Improve hiring and retention practices
  - Institute the SNHD “Employee Appreciation Day”, annually, second week of December
  - Deploy a plan to address needs for specialized management/leadership training for all SNHD supervisors, managers, and directors

- Continue COVID-19 surveillance and mitigation activities
- Prepare the organization for post pandemic period
- Advocate the legislature and federal delegation for approval of sustainable public funding
- Advocate for funding to build a new, larger Southern Nevada Public Health Lab (SNPHL)
  - Enhance SNPHL COVID-19 diagnostic capabilities
  - Increase ability of SNPHL to properly respond to new pandemic, bioterrorism, and public health threats
  - SNPHL to become an academic partner of UNLV and other local institutions
- Advocate for funding to expand SNCHC clinical area at Decatur Blvd
  - Enhanced Behavioral Health Services
  - Implementation of Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT)
  - Dental Health Services
  - Additional examination rooms for primary care, implementation of service to follow up on patients suffering long term effects from COVID
- To achieve Public Health Accreditation in 2022
- Complete transition of all FQHC billing transactions to the newly created SNHD billing unit
- Credential the SNPHL with CMS and managed care organizations
- Expand SNPHL clinical section capacity and testing equipment to support SNCHC as well as other clinical areas at SNHD

Chair Black recognized the list of accomplishments and commended staff on their commitment to the community, ability to improve, create efficiencies and expand services, while dealing with COVID-19 pandemic. Chair Black recognized Dr. Leguen's leadership and expressed pride in the Health District. Chair Black further stated that as the Health District gain a great deal of visibility as a public health agency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he hoped that the upcoming marking efforts will keep the Health District in the forefront.

Member Knudsen thanked Dr. Leguen and advised that, in his interaction with staff, he found everyone to be knowledgeable, thoughtful, and committed to the Health District, which is a representation of the leadership. Member Knudsen requested that Dr. Leguen provide an update on the goals outlined, not at every Board of Health meeting, but at certain intervals.

Member Kirkpatrick noted that Dr. Leguen recognized the efforts of staff but did not 'give himself enough credit'. Member Kirkpatrick recognized Dr. Leguen's commitment to staff and the community and remained calm under pressure. Member Kirkpatrick noted that the Health District was in a better place than it was two years ago and continues to thrive.

Member Nemeč congratulated Dr. Leguen and staff for all the accomplishments, even during the COVID-19 pandemic with providing guidance on the evolving science, contact tracing, mask mandates/requirements, quarantine and isolation, and implementing the vaccination program.

Member Diaz commended Dr. Leguen on an amazing job over the last two years and stated that it was evident that Dr. Leguen has a passion and vocation for public health. Member Diaz noted that Dr. Leguen was always accessible to the community and participated in many events/interviews, even with the Spanish speaking community. Member Diaz noted that she would like to see staff recognized more than once a year.

The Committee discussed financial compensation of a one-time bonus and/or salary increase.

Following discussion, the following motion was made:

*A motion was made by Member Knudsen, seconded by Member Diaz and carried unanimously to recommend that the Board of Health (1) accept the District Health Officer and Division Accomplishments & Goals, (2) approve a 5% one-time bonus and contemplate a salary increase commensurate with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and (3) request staff to provide, at the Board of Health meeting on January 27, 2022, confirmation of availability of funds for a salary increase.*

- VI. **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 this portion of the meeting.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

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

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