



MINUTES

SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

January 26, 2023 – 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*)
Scott Black – Council Member, City of North Las Vegas (*in-person*)
Bobbette Bond – At-Large Member, Regulated Business/Industry (*via WebEx*)
Nancy Brune – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*via WebEx*)
Pattie Gallo – Council Member, City of Mesquite (*via WebEx*)
Joseph Hardy – Council Member, City of Boulder City (*in-person*)
Brian Knudsen – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*in-person*)
Tick Segerblom – Commissioner, Clark County (*via WebEx*)

ABSENT: Michelle Romero – Mayor, City of Henderson

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Ainsworth, Linda Anderson, Georgi Collins, Harold Collins, Taylor Hagans,
(In Audience) Cheryl Malone, Bradley Mayer, Tamara Miramontes, Mike Palmer, Rick Rodrigo,
Stacie Sasso, Richard Walker, Cassidy Wilson

LEGAL COUNSEL: Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer

STAFF: Adriana Alvarez, Jonna Arqueros, Maria Azzarelli, Tawana Bellamy, Haley Blake, Murphy Boudreaux, Amanda Brown, Mary Bulloch, Nicole Bungum, Cory Burgess, Daniel Burns, Nikki Burns-Savage, Victoria Burris, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Shea Crippen, Aaron DelCotto, Brandon Delise, Daniele Dreitzer, Regina Ellis, Emily Elzeftawy, Jason Frame, Kimberly Franich, Robert Fyda, Joe Ginty, Jacques Graham, Stephen Guinea Griffin, Arpana Gupta, Ryan Kelsch, Heather Hanoff, Amineh Harvey, Richard Hazeltine, Carmen Hua, Chris Johnson, Michael Johnson, Matthew Kappel, Theresa Ladd, Fernando Lara, Kendra Lett, Cassius Lockett, Cort Lohff, Josie Llorico, Sandy Lockett, Kim Monahan, Gabriela Montaldo, Deborah Moran, Christian Murua, Semilla Neal, Verallynn Orewyler, Kyle Parkson, Melanie Perez, Luann Province, Jacquelyn Raiche-Curl, Larry Rogers, Alexis Romero, Ruby Rosano, Christopher Saxton, Herb Sequera, Dave Sheehan, Karla Shoup, Jennifer Sizemore, Randy Smith, Will Thompson, Randall Ulrich, Shylo Urzi, Leo Vega, Jorge Viote, Donnie Whitaker, Edward Wynder

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

The Chair called the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Andria Cordovez Mulet, Executive Assistant, administered the roll call and confirmed quorum.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. OATH OF OFFICE

- Elected Members – Joe Hardy, Nancy Brune, Pattie Gallo

The Oath of Office was administered to members Joe Hardy, Nancy Brune, Pattie Gallo by Andria Cordovez Mulet, Executive Assistant.

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.

Harold (Hal) Collins stated that he was a resident of Clark County and the City of North Las Vegas. He was here to address issues in Agenda Item 11: specifically, December 2022 Administrative Division Monthly Report. Mr. Collins stated that he had more than 45 years public service that includes over 20 years as a commissioned officer in the US Air Force. He was a disabled veteran and a prostate cancer survivor. Mr. Collins stated that at issue was organizational development strategy starting on page 7 of the Administration Division Monthly Report. The Southern Nevada Health District has plans to engage contractors for organizational development and strategic planning. He believed this was not good stewardship of public funds. After SNHD leadership rejected strategic planning developed by internal staff, which included a staff with advanced degrees and other highly experienced and knowledgeable staff, leadership wants to spend 10's of thousands of dollars on extensive leadership development and strategic planning. Mr. Collins stated that any reasonable person would ask is there a problem with training and knowledge or is there an issue with leadership being able to embrace diverse thoughts and ideas and be inclusive in their leadership style? Mr. Collins stated that SNHD's leadership style leads to a lack of effective and up-to-date policies and procedures for SNHD. He stated that a lack of effective policies and procedures result in misunderstandings and non-compliance. Such non-compliance with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) is listed on page 64 of the June 30, 2022 Draft Financial Statements of Southern Nevada Health District (...the Health District's Special Revenue Fund expenditures exceeded the available budget appropriations by \$1,697,446.). Mr. Collins stated that additional issues were addressed in his letter, dated 16 December 2022, sent to the SNHD Chair and member Scott Black and submitted the letter for the public record.

Chair Kirkpatrick inquired whether Mr. Collins was an employee or former employee. Mr. Collins advised that he was a former employee that released after 28 days of service at the Health District, with no cause, being an at-will employment state.

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

V. ADOPTION OF THE JANUARY 26, 2023 MEETING AGENDA *(for possible action)*

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Nielson, seconded by Member Black and carried unanimously to approve the January 26, 2023 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:** November 17, 2022 *(for possible action)*
2. **PETITION #14-23: Approval of an Amendment to the Lease Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and All Saints Episcopal Church;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

3. **PETITION #15-23: Approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the County of Clark, Nevada on behalf of its Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner related to the CDC's State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System ("SUDORS");** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*
4. **PETITION #16-23: Approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the County of Clark, Nevada on behalf of its Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner related to the CDC's National Violent Death Reporting Systems ("NVDRS");** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

PETITION #17-23: Approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the Southern Nevada Health District and the Clark County, Nevada on behalf of the Department of Family Services for services provided to the Thrive by Zero to Three Prevention Services Program for the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

A motion was made by Member Black, seconded by Vice-Chair Nielson and carried unanimously to approve the January 26, 2023 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. **Variance Request for an Application to Construct a Septic System located at 2727 S Bronco St, Las Vegas, NV, that would allow installation of a septic system on an undersized lot;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)*

Robert Fyda, Environmental Health Engineer/Supervisor, presented the variance request for an application to construct a septic system located at 2727 S Bronco St., Las Vegas, Nevada, that would allow installation of a septic system on an undersized lot. Mr. Fyda was accompanied by the applicant's representative, Richard Rodrigo of GDS Construction Design Build. Mr. Rodrigo stated that the cost to connect to public water is over \$250,000. The applicant has agreed to the investment of a well and use advanced treatment as well.

The Chair opened for Public Comment.

Seeing no one, the Chair closed the Public Comment.

Further inquiry from Member Bond, Mr. Fyda advised that staff recommended approval of the application and, if the waiver was denied, the applicants would not have any other recourse and the lot may be deemed unbuildable for development, which would be a substantial investment. Mr. Fyda further stated that the current workaround had been established with the counterparts at the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Nielson, seconded by Member Nemecek and carried by a vote of 9-1 to approve the Variance Request for an Application to Construct a Septic Systems located at 2727 S Bronco St., Las Vegas, Nevada with the following conditions:

1. *Petitioner will purchase the necessary non-revocable water rights for a single-family residence used as determined by the Nevada Division of Water Resources prior to issuance of the ISDS permit.*

2. *Petitioner will install an advanced treatment system in lieu of a conventional septic system.*
3. *Petitioner will meet all other requirements for septic installation as determined by staff and the SNHD ISDS Regulations.*
4. *Petitioner and their successors in interest must ensure the advanced treatment system will be maintained for the life of the system. Petitioner and their successors must maintain an active maintenance agreement and provide testing to SNHD annually for the life of system.*
5. *Petitioner and their successors in interest shall abide by all local governmental regulations requiring connection to the community sewage systems. Used of the ISDS shall be discontinued and the structure it serves shall be connected to any community sewage system constructed in the future to within four hundred feet (400') of the Petitioner's property line when connection can be made by gravity flow and the owner(s) are notified and legally required to do so.*
6. *This variance is non-transferrable shall automatically expire and be of no further force and effect should the property be sold or transferred.*
7. *Construction of the ISDS must be commenced within two (2) years of the date hereof. If the construction has not be commenced within that period, this variance shall automatically expire and be of no further force and effect, unless applicant is made and approved for an extension of time prior to the expiration date by Petitioner.*
8. *Requirement to stay on top of the water quality.*

AYES

1. Black
2. Brune
3. Gallo
4. Hardy
5. Kirkpatrick
6. Knudsen
7. Nemec
8. Nielson
9. Segerblom

NAYS

1. Bond

2. Variance Request for an existing septic system, SNHD Permit #ON0026656, located at 8620 Mustang St, Las Vegas, NV to allow existing trees to encroach on the septic system; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary (for possible action)

Mr. Fyda was accompanied by the applicant's representative, Scott Ainsworth of JDS Surfaces. Mr. Ainsworth stated that the applicant was requesting a variance regarding trees that were within 10 feet of the septic system. Mr. Ainsworth advised that there were 3-4 trees within 10 feet of the septic tank. He further advised that an arborist stated that the trees were 20+ years old, were fully mature trees that would not grow further, and could create more damage to the system if removed. Mr. Ainsworth advised that the applicant agreed that if and when the septic system fails, that she would remove the trees or would connect to the city sewer. Mr. Fyda advised that staff was recommending denial due to the age of the septic system. Further to an inquiry, Mr. Fyda advised that the city does not object to the variance. Mr. Fyda further advised that staff would support a one-time approval with a modification to Condition #4 in the material provided.

Dr. Nemec asked the full name of the owner of the property. He stated that he was personal friends with the individual and therefore, he felt compelled to abstain from voting on this matter.

The Chair opened for Public Comment.

Seeing no one, the Chair closed the Public Comment.

After discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Nielson, seconded by Member Hardy and carried by a vote of 9-3-1 to approve the Variance Request for an Application to Construct a Septic Systems located at 2727 S Bronco St., Las Vegas, Nevada with the following conditions:

1. *Petitioner and their successor(s) in interest shall abide by all local governmental regulations requiring connection to community sewage systems. Use of the ISDS shall be discontinued and the structure it serves shall be connected to any community sewage system constructed in the future to within four hundred feet (400') of the property line when connection can be made by gravity flow and the owner(s) are notified and legally required to do so.*
2. *Petitioner and their successor(s) will abide by the operation and maintenance requirements of the most current SNDH regulations governing individual sewage disposal systems.*
3. *No additional trees are allowed within 10 feet of the existing septic system.*
4. *The variance allows for the one-time approval of the proposed BBQ project and is in effect until the aforementioned project is completed or the building permit is inactivated. Any future development requiring building permits will require a variance pursuant to the SNHD ISDS Regulations. Applicant will voluntarily submit annual reports regarding the functionality of the septic system to SNHD for evaluation for a period of 3 years.*
5. *Petitioner and their successor(s) must provide a copy of the variance to potential buyers as part of the disclosure process per NRS 113.*

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
1. Black	1. Bond	1. Nemec
2. Brune	2. Knudsen	
3. Gallo	3. Segerblom	
4. Hardy		
5. Kirkpatrick		
6. Nielson		

VII. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION

2. **Review, Discuss, and Accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Audit Report from Eide Bailly and Recommendations from the January 24, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting;** direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)* [**Heard out of order**]

Dr. Leguen introduced Donnie (DJ) Whitaker as the new Chief Financial Officer, who has been with the Health District as the Controller since September 2022.

Richard Walker of Eide Bailly attended the meeting to present the Independent Auditor's Report and the Independent Auditor's Report under Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS Report). Mr. Walker advised that they issued an unmodified audit opinion, which is the highest and cleanest opinion that can be issued. Mr. Walker further advised that the Health District adopted the GASB Statement No. 87, which covers leases, which lead to the addition of a new lease liability and right of use assets on the balance sheet. This change resulted in something that would appear as debt on the financial statements that was not related to the pension or the OPEB. This was not due to a change in strategy by the Health District but a change in the GASB standard which was required for leases that had a term that extended past one year.

With respect to the Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters (GAGAS Report), Mr. Walker advised that there were three findings, as follows:

- 2022-001 – Material Weakness in Financial Close and Reporting Controls
 - Condition – During the course of performing the audit, it was identified that multiple year-end account reconciliations, accruals, and adjustments had not been completed prior to the start of the audit.
 - Cause – This was due to significant management turnover in the Finance Department which resulted in the Health District not being ready to commence the audit process.
 - Recommendation – Mr. Walker advised that their recommendation was that the new management team augment existing documentation of year-end reconciliation processes to be more specific regarding the exact reports, processes, and activities required to close out

and balance all accounts. Further, they recommended that the Health District identify ways to improve management and staff retention in order to improve continuity within the controls process.

- 2022-002 – Material Weakness in Financial Close and Reporting Controls – IT Accounting System
 - Condition – During the course of performing the audit, it was identified that multiple funds were out of balance due to the accounting system recording one-sided entries across multiple funds.
 - Cause – This was due to a breakdown in the accounting system's automated processes and controls. The result was that multiple transactions were recorded where the system was recording transactions which impacted funds as one-sided journal entries. Further, the errors were not identified and corrected by Health District staff until the audit process had commenced.
 - Recommendation – Mr. Walker advised that their recommendation was that the Health District review the accounting system processes and controls, communicate with their vendor, and implement safeguards to ensure that this issue does not occur.
- 2022-003 – Material Noncompliance with Nevada Revised Statutes Budget Requirements, Material Weakness in Internal Control over Compliance
 - Condition – The Health District made transfers in excess of budget from General Fund to the Special Revenue Fund without obtaining Board approval. Additionally, the Health District's Special Revenue Fund expenditures exceeded the available budget appropriations.
 - Cause – The Health District's budget augmentation did not fully take into account the increased revenues and resource demands of the special revenue funds that result from the cost allocation plan. As a result, allocations to the Special Revenue Fund from the General Fund were not adequately budgeted.
 - Recommendations – Mr. Walker advised that their recommendation was that management revisit the Health District's process for establishing, monitoring, amending, and augmenting its final budget.

Mr. Walker stated that there were no significant difficulties encountered during the audit process and no disagreements with Management. Mr. Walker further stated that Management agreed with the findings.

Vice-Chair Nielson provided an overview of the Finance Committee meeting on January 24, 2024.

Dr. Leguen thanked the team of Eide Bailly for their support during the audit process. Dr. Leguen advised that at the end of fiscal year 2022, two consultants were brought in to review the Finance Department's performance and internal environment. Dr. Leguen advised that the results of these reports would be reviewed to implement items that will assist with staff retention and with processes in the Finance Department.

Further to an inquiry, Ms. Whitaker advised that the Health District was advised of Eide Bailly's findings shortly before it was included in the materials for the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Walker advised that the draft report was not provided to the Health District until January 2023.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Nielson, seconded by Member Black and carried unanimously to accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee to accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Audit Report, as presented.

Further to an inquiry, Ms. Anderson-Fintak suggested an agenda item at the next meeting regarding committee membership.

3. PETITION #13-23 – Approval of Augmentation to the Southern Nevada Health District FY2022 Budget and Recommendations from the January 24, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)* [**Heard out of order**]

Ms. Whitaker presented the two resolutions regarding the budget augmentation, as follows:

- **Resolution #01-23**
 - General Fund: Increase the appropriation of the General Fund by \$946,143, from \$59,147,054 to \$60,093,187
- **Resolution #02-23**
 - Grant Fund, Special Revenue: Decrease the Grant Fund (Special Revenue) by \$21,525,510, from \$123,554,647 to \$102,029,137

Member Nemeč left the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Member Nemeč returned to the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Member Knudsen left the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Member Knudsen returned to the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Nielson, seconded by Member Black and carried unanimously to accept the recommendations from the Finance Committee to approve the Budget Augmentation to the Southern Nevada Health District (i) General Fund (Resolution #01-23) and (ii) Grant Fund (Special Revenue) (Resolution #02-23) Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023, as presented, to meet the mandatory financial requirements of NRS 354.598005.

4. Receive, Discuss and Accept Recommendations from the DHO Annual Review Committee meeting on January 23, 2023 regarding the DHO Annual Review; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)* [**Heard out of order**]

Member Black provided a brief overview of the DHO Annual Review Committee meeting on January 23, 2023.

Vice-Chair Nielson left the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

In addition to the Report on District Health Officer and Division Accomplishments for 2022 and Proposed Goals, Dr. Leguen presented the significant accomplishments and next steps. Dr. Leguen summarized the following significant accomplishments:

- Health District's 60th Anniversary celebration
- SNHD received Public Health Accreditation in January 2022
- Opened two new locations (Bonanza and Fremont Health Center)

Vice-Chair Nielson returned to the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

- Enhanced Behavioral Health services through the addition of LCSWs
- Established a Congenital Syphilis Case Management Program
- More than 783,426 COVID-19 vaccination doses administered across the County
- Provided COVID-19 support teams to the Clark County School District and schools/daycares in Clark County
- COVID-19 testing through the Health District and the College of Southern Nevada, along with mobile units
- Partnered with UNLV and the Water District on wastewater surveillance on COVID-19
- Responded to and investigated 288 Mpox cases, monitored all known contacts, provided referrals to PEP and vaccination of eligible individuals
- Successfully completed two budget augmentations
- Created a Clinical Billing unit in-house
- Implemented the non-bargaining class and compensation program

- Updated Holiday Pay, now benefiting all SNHD employees
- Completed the expansion of the 1st floor of the Public Health Lab
- The Public Health Lab is able to do whole genome sequencing for COVID-19
- Designated as a Health People 2030 Champion by the US Department of Health and Human Services
- Assisted UNLV with the passage of a tobacco-free campus policy, along with the stadiums for the Las Vegas Aviators and Las Vegas Lights
- Developed and launched media campaign focused on youth cannabis prevention
- Provided training to first responders related to opioid overdose by administering naloxone
- Hosted the 3rd annual Southern Nevada Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit
- Created a Health Equity Program
- Implemented Public Health and COVID-19 Vending Machines Project
- Developed the 2023 Food Regulations and the Board-approved 27% increase to the Environmental Health Fee Schedule
- Implemented Health Cards Online Renewals and Online Vaccine Management Systems

Dr. Leguen advised that the biggest project to initiate and complete for 2023 would be an expansion of the Public Health Lab, which provides an important service to the community. Dr. Leguen advised that Clark County, the City of Las Vegas, the City of Mesquite and Boulder City have approved an allocation of funds to support the expansion of the Public Health Lab. Further, Dr. Leguen advised of the following items for 2023:

- Restructuring a portion of the Decatur Location to support behavioral health services through the Community Health Center
- Implement dental services at the Fremont Health Center
- Utilize the Public Health Infrastructure Grant to support employee retention and engagement

Member Nemeč recognized Dr. Leguen's leadership, which resulted in more cooperation with leadership and staff.

Member Black advised the Board of Health of the discussions and recommendations from the DHO Annual Review Committee.

A motion was made by Member Black, seconded by Member Nemeč and carried unanimously to accept the recommendation from the DHO Annual Review Committee to (1) accept the District Health Officer and Division Accomplishments & Goals, (2) approve a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), (3) approve a 2.5% salary increase, (4) approve a 5% one-time bonus, (5) explore a supplemental retirement investment plan, and (6) approve a two-year extension to the District Health Officer Employment Agreement, to February 24, 2026.

Ms. Anderson-Fintak advised that an Amended District Health Officer Employment Agreement would be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

1. Receive and Discuss a Legislative Update; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)* **[Heard out of order]**

Bradley Mayer of Argentum Partners provided the Board of Health with a summary of the upcoming legislative session that relates to the Health District. Mr. Mayor highlighted the following committees:

- Senate Health and Human Services Committee – Chaired by Senator Fabian Donate
- Assembly Health and Human Services Committee – Chaired by Assemblywoman Sarah Peters
- Assembly Ways and Means Committee – Chaired by Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
- Senate Finance Committee – Chaired by Marilyn Dondero-Loop

Mr. Mayer touched upon bills related to the following:

- Street Food Vendor Decriminalization
- Septic Systems
- Cleaning requirements under SB4
- Tobacco
- Electronic Age Verification

Member Black left the meeting at 11:45 a.m. and did not return.

- HIV Modernization Task Force
- Public Health Improvement Fund Bill

Member Nemeč left the meeting at 11:49 a.m. and did not return.

Further to an inquiry from Member Bond, the Chair requested an agenda item at the next meeting to discuss a process to receive legislative updates between Board of Health meetings.

Mr. Mayor further highlighted the following bills for situational awareness:

- AB440 – email collection and electronic copies of health inspection
- SB35 – fentanyl trafficking crimes
- Loan repayment for behavioral health care
- Loan repayment for health care in underserved communities
- Open Meeting Law
- AB5 – unfunded mandates on local government

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)**

The Chair requested that members try to attend meetings in-person.

IX. HEALTH OFFICER & STAFF REPORTS (Information Only)

- DHO Comments

Dr. Leguen provided a written report on his activities.

- COVID-19 Pandemic and RSV Update

Matthew Kappel, Senior Epidemiologist, advised that the community transmission remained red and the case rate was green. At the last Board meeting, the case rate was 41.7 per 100,000 and as of January 19th, the case rate was 23.2 per 100,000. Mr. Kappel advised that as of January 23rd there were 12,939 COVID-19 cases, 742 hospitalizations and 226 deaths reported since the last Board of Health meeting. Mr. Kappel confirmed that the true numbers were underreported due to the availability of at-home test kits. Mr. Kappel advised that between January 8th and January 21st, the 7-day moving average of hospitalizations decreased by 22%, from 28.7 to 22; deaths remained consistent, from 2.1 to 1.7; and the test positivity rate decreased by 40%, from 21.3 to 12.8. Mr. Kappel once again cautioned that the test positivity rate was underreported due to the at-home test kits. Mr. Kappel advised that the Health District had 31 in-house contact tracers and 100 contracted through March 2023. The Health District continues to support outbreak and cluster investigations in high-risk vulnerable settings and testing at three CSN locations.

Member Knudsen left the meeting at 11:57 a.m. and did not return.

Member Hardy left the meeting at 12:00 noon and did not return.

Mr. Kappel advised that there was an increase in RSV cases in 2022 compared to 2021. Since November, there has been a decrease and is similar to previous years. Further, there is a decrease in hospitalizations due to RSV.

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Administration Division Monthly Activity Report (Nov 2022 / Dec 2022)
2. Community Health Division Monthly Activity Report (Nov 2022 / Dec 2022)
3. Community Health Center (FQHC) Division Monthly Report (Nov 2022 / Dec 2022)
4. Disease Surveillance and Control Division Monthly Activity Report (Nov 2022 / Dec 2022)
5. Environmental Health Division Monthly Activity Report (Nov 2022 / Dec 2022)
6. Primary & Preventive Care Division Monthly Activity Report (Nov 2022 / Dec 2022)

- 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.

Harold (Hal) Collins stated that it was great to hear the report for the Southern Nevada Health District and all the accomplishments that the Health District had made this year. Mr. Collins stated that he thought the need to again consider the seriousness of compliance and accountability issues; these type of issues when talking about federal grants and federal monies and how they are distributed can affect disbarment of an agency from receiving such federal grants and funds, either directly or through passthrough. Mr. Collins stated that it was a very serious issue and did not think that it would be contained by training. Mr. Collins stated that there were issues with policy and procedures that needed to be understood. Mr. Collins stated that when he was at the Health District there were almost 20 policies that were past due for revision or had no effective policy. Mr. Collins stated that it was his understanding that it had been many years since the agency had an administrative director. Mr. Collins stated that he thought it was unrealistic to expect the District Health Officer to do both jobs as the administrator and as the District Health Officer. Mr. Collins stated that he thought there needed to be a little better investigation by the Board as to the issues at the Health District. He stated that there had been a high turnover of executive staff. Mr. Collins stated he didn't know the reasons why but that there was a need to understand why there was a high turnover of executive staff, why we couldn't have accountability and compliance within the organization. Mr. Collins stated that these things resorted back to issues, not just leadership and training and leadership was not going to solve the issues. Thank you.

Regina Ellis, of SEIU and the Health District, wanted to speak about Organizational Development. Ms. Ellis stated that it was mentioned a couple of times, in the first comment and in finance, when Organizational Development was absorbed into Human Resources. Ms. Ellis stated that Organizational Development was initiated several years ago and when it was initiated there were three bargaining unit positions inside of Organizational Development, one of them was the chief steward, Victoria Harding, and there were two other employees in Organizational Development that were eligible to be in the bargaining unit. Ms. Ellis stated that these employees were notified, in roughly October, that their jobs were changing, that they would no longer be eligible to be in the bargaining unit and were asked to sign new job descriptions. Ms. Ellis stated that the SEIU was the representative and contractually was not notified of any of those changes. Ms. Ellis stated that they disagreed with the changes because Victoria Harding was the chief steward, and she was elected by the employees, and if she wasn't eligible to be in the bargaining unit, she could no longer be the chief steward. Ms. Ellis stated that there were two other employees involved. Ms. Ellis stated that the conversations they have had with the Health District, that there were really no conversations related to that. Ms. Ellis stated that any reasons that they could see that were valid related to this decision. Ms. Ellis stated that they filed multiple charges with the EMRB because of the situation and she wanted the Board to know that Organizational Development was also involved in identifying some of the situations and problems that were going on in Finance before the total breakdown in Finance and they were interested in trying to help solve some of those situations and bring them forward and have discussion and have some actions that would help before all of that happened. Ms. Ellis stated that they had a major issue with this and that their officer that

represented the whole entire general unit could not function in her capacity for the Health District. Ms. Ellis stated that they did not agree with it but wanted to bring it forward to the Board.

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

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

/acm

DRAFT