

## District Board of Health Meeting Minutes

### Members

Devon Reese, Chair  
Clara Andriola, Vice Chair  
Paul Anderson  
Michael Brown  
Dr. Eloy Ituarte  
Steve Driscoll  
Dr. Reka Danko

Thursday, June 26, 2025  
1:00 p.m.

Washoe County Administration Complex  
Commission Chambers, Building A  
1001 East Ninth Street  
Reno, NV

### 1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Chair Reese, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Members present: Devon Reese, Chair  
Dr. Eloy Ituarte  
Steve Driscoll  
Paul Anderson

**Ms. Lawson verified a quorum was present.**

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Paul Anderson led the pledge to the flag.

### 3. Public Comment.

Molly Rose Lewis from Senator Jacky Rosen's office reminded everyone their office is available to help with anything Federal related and to keep them posted regarding any specific funding issues or assistance in terms of letters of support for grants or anything else they can do to help individuals needing assistance with issues like Medicare or other DHHS related items.

Darcy Phillips, Executive Director of KTMB, wished to thank their partners GearHut and NNPH for being so supportive of the work of KTMB, including the cleanups, illegal dumping, etc. They are happy to announce that Sophia Morton, presenting on e-cigarettes later in this meeting, will be heading to Washington to pursue her graduate degree in public health.

**With no further public comment, the item was closed.**

#### 4. Approval of Agenda.

**Steve Driscoll motioned to approve the agenda with a second by Mr. Anderson, and it was approved unanimously.**

#### 5. Recognitions.

##### New Hire

i. Kasimu Muhetaer – Statistics & Informatics Supervisor – EPHP  
 Dr. Nancy Diao introduced the new hire and welcomed him to NNPH.

##### Years of Service

i. Lisa Lottritz – Division Director - CCHS - 30 years 6/26/1995 (Retiring 7/8/25)  
 ii. Maria Guadalupe Mendoza – WIC Office Specialist - CCHS - 20 years 6/30/2005  
 Erin Dixon thanked these staff members for their commitment and years of service.

##### Health Heroes

- i. Gia Bethea - Environmental Health Services - Collaboration
- ii. Kaleigh Behrendt (CCHS), Kellisa Shirane (CCHS), Tyler Henderson (EHS), Luke Franklin (EHS), Josh Foster (EHS) - Collaboration, Compassion
- iii. Megan Rennie (AQM), Candace Brown (AQM), Dawn Edwards (CCHS), Lauren Huntsman (CCHS) - Collaboration, Compassion

Frenchie Rubio shared congratulations on their work and the receipt of the Health Heroes awards.

#### 6. Consent Items.

- A. Possible approval of May 22, 2025, Draft Minutes.
- B. Recommendation to approve FY26 purchases in the approximate amount not to exceed \$150,000 from Merck & Company Inc. for vaccines in support of clinic operations on behalf of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division in Washoe County.
- C. Acknowledge the 5-year renewal for the Fiscal Years 2026-2030 (July 2025 - June 2030) of Accela, in the amount of \$644,566.80, for the regional permitting software maintenance and support, with Washoe County.
- D. Approve a Grant Award and Agreement from Nevada Clinical Services, Inc. for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$162,692.00 each fiscal year (no match required) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Tobacco Prevention & Control Program and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Grant Award and any future amendments.
- E. Review the State Public Health Funds Priorities for the period of upon execution by the Nevada Board of Examiners through June 30, 2027, in the total amount of 2,364,160 (\$1,182,080 per fiscal year), in support of core functions of public health, and authorize the Chair of the Board of Health to execute the Interlocal Agreement

- upon receipt, with staff to present the signed ILA to DBOH at the July DBOH meeting.
- E. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for April, Fiscal Year 2025.

**Mr. Anderson moved to accept the consent items, with Mr. Driscoll providing a second, and the item was approved unanimously.**

7. Presentation and Recognition of Gear Hut for their GreenBiz Award in May 2023.

David Kelly noted that, while the GreenBiz program recognizes businesses for their practices at three levels, Gear Hut is receiving recognition for the highest level, Innovator. In addition to innovative business practices, they go above and beyond with community involvement, showing dedication to this commitment.

Leah Wzientek from Gear Hut noted that KTMB was invaluable in helping them receive this award.

Mr. Anderson thanked them for the work they are doing. It is amazing to see how you can make a difference in a community with the business you are doing.

8. Presentation By Sophia Morton on Environmental Impacts of E-Cigarettes and Barriers to Proper Disposal.

Sophia Morton, Service Learning Coordinator at KTMB as an AmeriCorps Service Member, works to educate community members about environmental issues in northern Nevada. She shared a presentation on her research regarding the environmental impacts of e-cigarettes and the barriers to their disposal.

Mr. Driscoll asked about programs to provide an alternative disposal receptacle for disposing of the units.

Ms. Morton noted that there are currently no hazardous waste disposal resources for households. Even with current limitations, great progress is being made.

Chair Reese noted that the local cleanups are a great opportunity, where the amount of material diverted from landfills has been incredible. He feels there should be a discussion with the Board and the body about the importance of this type of collection and disposal opportunities that may be able to be done as a District. He also noted that the disposal of these making their way into the waterways and other systems, is concerning. He also asked if a sharps container was a proper method of disposal.

Ms. Morton noted that the survey performed showed that many young adults will collect them, so this would be a good option for containing the items. The issue is that they must make it to one of the hazardous waste facilities. Residents of Washoe County have one free disposal per year of hazardous waste materials, so that would be beneficial for disposing of these items.

9. Recommendation to accept the REMSA Health Monthly Franchise Report for May 2025

which includes REMSA Health Accounts Receivables Summary, Compliance by Zones, Average Response Times, Incident Details Reporting, Summary Penalty Fund Reconciliation, Ground Ambulance Operations Report, Patient Experience Report and Comments, Education Report, and Public Relations Report, and provide possible Board direction.

Barry Duplantis shared that for May and the fiscal year to date, REMSA Health has exceeded franchise response compliance for priority 1 calls in all franchise zones. In May, REMSA responded to 8,505 priority 1 calls, with 5,471 transports to area hospitals. The average response time was 5 minutes, 47 seconds. For the customer survey report, they received a score of 94.34. The highest score area of all responses was the extent to which medics cared for each person. He is proud that their organization exhibits genuine and sincere care for all responses. He also stated that their EMS services are solid, ready to serve, without respect to one's ability to pay. Their care is always focused on the caller.

Chair Reese shared his sincere gratitude for the commitment to public health.

Mr. Driscoll echoed the great quality of service provided by REMSA, as well as the first responders who work with them as a team. He noted that, over time, great service is provided to those who need it, but when they do not arrive on time, the situation is reviewed to determine what occurred, to provide better service in the future. In reviewing the data, this appears consistent month to month. He would like to see a presentation that explains to the Board what is seen in the reviews, what is being done, and why it is not reflected in the response times.

Mr. Duplantis noted that they are working on a franchise agreement negotiated many years ago, where the requirement shows 90%, so they are managing to exceed that number. He will be happy to provide an answer with data.

Mr. Driscoll also noted that he would like a private meeting with the District Health Officer to explain the decision-making process for penalty fund use. Without knowing the background of the purchases, he is looking for education as to what the money is being spent on, as he does not see this as meeting the current language in the franchise agreement.

Chair Reese mentioned that this discussion highlights the diversity of the body concerning local government. He noted that Mr. Driscoll presented two important ideas, and work will be done with the Health Officer to find the time for a presentation and to provide detailed information to understand the questions asked.

Dr. Kingsley noted that, after a year in the position, this is a great opportunity to review and look at it historically.

**Mr. Driscoll motioned to accept the REMSA report as presented, and Dr. Ituarte seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.**

#### 10. Recommendation for the Board to uphold the decisions of the Air Pollution Control Hearing

Board to uphold the appeal of Notice of Violation No. AQMV25-0003, and deny the appeal of Notice of Violation No.'s AQMV25- 0004, 0005, 0006, and 0007, associated with Case No. 1511, issued to Saronic Investments, LLC and levy a reduced total Administrative Penalty in the amount of \$95,000.00 for multiple violations of 40 CFR 61, Subpart M - National Emissions Standards for Asbestos.

Francisco Vega summarized the violations of Federal Standards of the management of asbestos. The APCHB heard the appeal, and based on their expertise, it was recommended to uphold the appeal of -0003 and deny the appeals of -0004, -0005, -0006, and -0007 and levy a penalty of \$95,000.

Chair Reese noted concern about the amount of this fine and with the anticipation of such an amount, there appears to be no one here to challenge this. He asked about their participation in this process.

Mr. Vega mentioned that AQM has a very inclusive process in investigating violations, with constant communication with the violator, collecting information, and meeting with the company to present evidence for an opportunity for rebuttal. After that, there a violation is issued, then an appeal to the decision can be made to the APCHB. Upon the appeal, work was done to hold the hearing on a date and time acceptable to the violator. In this case, the hearing was once rescheduled, to make sure the company was available to attend. After the decision of the Board, communication was provided as to the determination, along with next steps, including the Board needing to approve the decision.

Chair Reese noted this would provide due process for the company to present their case.

Mr. Anderson thanked Mr. Vega for the great explanation in the report and the steps taken to educate on the issues, since this is a significant amount of money.

Mr. Driscoll asked about the inappropriate work being done, where controls and protections were not in place. Did this cause any material to make it into the mainstream of the waste system? If so, is there any way this could be caught and mitigated?

Mr. Vega noted that once the materials are disposed of with the garbage and make it to the landfill, there is no going back. A concerted effort is made to do outreach and education as to the proper disposal mechanisms.

Dr. Chad Kingsley asked for clarification to the Board on the composition of the APCHB and where the fees go.

Mr. Vega shared that the APCHB is made up of 3 subject matter experts, 1 attorney, 1 licensed contractor, 1 licensed engineer, as well as four at-large members. The penalties are provided to the Washoe County School District. NNPH gains no value from penalties. The priority is always compliance, outreach, and education, rather than enforcement.

**Chair Reese motioned to uphold the decisions of the Air Pollution Control Hearing**



**Board, with Mr. Anderson providing a second. The item was approved unanimously.**

11. Presentation and recommendation to accept the "Washoe County, Nevada Air Quality Trends Report (2015-2024)".

Ben McMullen shared that NNPH currently monitors 5 of the 6 criteria air pollutants as established by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This report details the ambient air quality data and information for the criteria air pollutants over the last year, along with data trends for the last 10 years, which shows a continued improvement in the wintertime, but outweighed by summertime wildfire impacts.

Mr. Anderson asked if data has been reviewed locally for the possible financial impact if we were found to be out of compliance.

Mr. McMullen noted that we have not looked into this, but a policy for supplemental environmental projects using violation funds for interested parties is currently being reviewed. It is possible that this could be done in the future.

Mr. Anderson noted it could make a bigger impact to the community if these numbers were provided. He would like to see this done, if possible.

**Mr. Anderson motioned to accept the "Washoe County, Nevada Air Quality Trends Report (2015-2024) and Mr. Driscoll seconded the motion. The item was approved unanimously.**

12. Presentation and Discussion of the NNPH Extensively Drug-Resistant Organisms Database.

Christabell Sotelo-Zecena shared information regarding the XDRO database, which tracks two high-priority pathogens, Carbapenemase-Producing Organism (CPO) and Candida auris, and serves as a surveillance tool to help hospitals determine whether a patient has ever had a drug-resistant infection before, to enable infection control practices. This has been integrated at one hospital, with two others ready to onboard, and active communications are being held with another. The hope is that this will be expanded to other health jurisdictions and additional entities.

Dr. Ituarte asked if there were specialized disinfectants being used in the hospitals for C. auris. This could help inform the importance of the database, as stronger disinfectants, PPE, and contact isolation are necessary.

Ms. Sotelo-Zecena noted that bleach is typically recommended, but the CDC has specific recommendations. She indicated that, when using wipes, etc., the labels should state the effectiveness against organisms.

Mr. Driscoll asked if the XDRO information is noted in the single databases (i.e. MyChart) as a red flag to anyone accessing the record.

Ms. Sotelo-Zecena shared that the XDRO will have the information present for life, but it is not something that patients will be able to access, and participating hospitals will only have

access to their own records. The database would help with sharing information from one hospital to the next, as long as they are both participants.

Dr. Kingsley noted that public health is prevention, and this database helps build an informed decision on care.

### 13. Presentation and Discussion of the NNPH Strategic Reorganization for Alignment.

Dr. Kingsley shared the reorganization information to be effective July 1, 2025, with the goal of building a sustainable, resilient, and data-driven public health system. The reorganization is expected to align the teams with the Foundational Public Health Service domains, positioning the organization to operate more cohesively, protect critical functions, and build a more stable future through intentional alignment with our core responsibilities. Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention and Sexual Health will merge with the Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness Division, which will be renamed Population Health. In addition, enhanced integration between strategic planning and budget functions within the Office of the District Health Officer will occur. This reorganization will allow us to reshape the organization thoughtfully, protecting core services and avoiding rushed or damaging cuts in the future.

Dr. Ituarte asked about how the siloing will be broken down within the reorganization.

Dr. Kingsley shared that a component of sexual health that focuses on epidemiology, sexually transmitted diseases, and the chronic disease injury prevention program will be moving from CCHS to Population Health. The synergy among epidemiologists, informatics, and statisticians will help provide clearer training and increase decision-making abilities.

Mr. Driscoll asked, with the work that has been done in data analysis and project controls, are there metrics being used as a dashboard to determine if the team is moving in the right direction?

Dr. Kingsley noted that sexual health has an amazing throughput program on the clinical side for individuals presenting with an infection. The new informatics and statisticians would help to demonstrate the impact of this.

Chair Reese mentioned he has been present through many steps of this process, though the organizational structural changes being made are decisions that the organization handles, rather than the Board, with Dr. Kingsley having the task of leading the organization. The purpose of these changes is to decrease the siloing that has happened in the past, allowing better integration.

Dr. Kingsley shared that these changes are part of transparency and have been discussed with leadership to determine how to continue to move this forward as part of the strategic plan.

### 14. Review, discussion, and direction to staff regarding the provisions of the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) entered into by the Cities of Reno and Sparks and Washoe County for the

creation of the Health District. Take action to accept the ILA in its current form or direct staff to forward any additional recommendations for possible amendments to Reno, Sparks and Washoe County.

Dania Reid shared that the Board has the opportunity once per year to discuss the interlocal agreement, recommend changes as a body, and determine if any revisions or amendments might be desired, then direct staff to work on those recommendations with the specific jurisdictions that formed the ILA. The last amendment occurred in 2022 for the name change to NNPH. The time period by which any revision amendment must be accomplished is before October 1 each year, 90 days before the agreement renews at the first of each year. As an alternative, if the Board is content with the ILA as it currently stands, it can approve the agreement and move forward for another year.

Mr. Driscoll asked if the Health Officer feels there are any updates to the ILA necessary based on the reorganization spoken of previously, that may require the assistance of the attorney.

Chair Reese noted that these are two separate concepts, where the ILA governs the desire of the multi-jurisdictional approach to public health and where the reorganization falls under the purview of the DHO.

Dr. Kingsley noted there is nothing from his position that would need to be addressed in ILA revisions.

Chair Reese also noted that, in recent years, work has been done with the County partners in the process of navigating the challenges of financing and how the funding is handled. The ILA speaks to this, and it may become a part of this body's undertaking in a way that meets the goals of the ILA.

**Mr. Anderson shared that there were no concerns from the City of Sparks, and Chair Reese also noted no concerns on the part of City of Reno. However, there was concern that with the Washoe County representative not being present at this meeting, that opinion is needed to move forward. This item was tabled for review at the July meeting.**

## 15. Staff Reports and Program Updates

- A. Air Quality Management - Congress Disapproves California Waivers for Vehicle Standards, March 2025 EPA Small Business Newsletter, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

Francisco Vega shared that within his report, there is information provided on actions taken by Congress to disapprove some waivers to California and information on how that may impact us locally. He reported there were no exceedances in May, and building plan review was at 93%.

- B. Community and Clinical Health Services - Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Overview; Data & Metrics; Sexual Health (Outreach and Disease Investigation),



Immunizations, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, Reproductive and Sexual Health Services, Chronic Disease Injury Prevention Program, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health, Women Infants and Children, and Community Health Workers.

Christina Sheppard noted that the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Program provided a nice report on the efforts around suicide prevention.

Chair Reese asked about the effect of the reorganization on CCHS.

Ms. Sheppard shared that the goal on the sexual health side was to maintain the cohesion between clinic services and the sexual health team, leaving no disruption to patient services. She is very confident that any challenges can be overcome. There have been transition discussions, and the referral process has been worked out, to ensure that clients needing to be seen are coming in. There will be one member remaining with CCHS to make sure that she feels well-integrated into the team. She is working closely with Dr. Diao to make sure the transition is as easy as possible for the staff and the community.

Chair Reese also noted that grants expected to be cut, delayed, or reduced, have not yet been, and asked about how they are navigating the uncertainty with this.

Ms. Sheppard noted that, with off-site testing and the CCHS services remaining, if they don't get as much funding or it is reduced or delayed, they are looking for ways to pivot to provide these services, since many in the community have come to rely on this testing.

Dr. Ituarte asked how the management of syphilis and congenital syphilis is trending.

Ms. Sheppard replied that an uptick was noted, but over the past month, there has been a slight decline. The Program Supervisor, Jennifer Howell, worked hard to pass legislation that requires ERs to do rapid syphilis testing on pregnant women coming through the ER, so they can receive treatment as soon as the result is received. CCHS has also implemented rapid syphilis testing in the clinic, so it can be treated right away.

- C. Environmental Health Services Program - Consumer Protection (Food Safety Plan Review & Operations, Commercial Plan Review, Foodborne Illness, Special Events, Permitted Facilities); Environmental Protection (Land Development, Safe Drinking Water, Vector-borne Disease Surveillance, Waste Management / Underground Storage Tanks).

David Kelly highlighted that many EHS activities ramped up in May due to the warm weather. A large number of seasonal pools were opened, and a new online seasonal scheduling system was opened for the pool operators, which seems to be working well. Waste complaints have increased, and the special events season has gotten underway, with a reported 36% increase in special events in the City of Reno. The food team is planning a special processes fair, to assist customers as they work their way through the permitting process.

D. Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness - Epidemiology, Public Health Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services, Vital Statistics.

Dr. Nancy Diao noted that outbreak numbers have remained stable for the past three months, with a majority of outbreaks being gastrointestinal and hand-foot-mouth diseases in daycares. This month, in conjunction with National Mosquito Control Awareness Week, the Program collaborated with the communications team on releasing a reel on personal mosquito protection and awareness, which is posted on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, in addition to an Epi-News article being released covering mosquito borne diseases that outlined evidence based strategies to mitigate disease transmission and provide an overview of key mosquito vectors and the pathogens they transmit.

Chair Reese asked about changes to immunization policy, etc., and if we as a community will be prepared for the upcoming seasons.

Dr. Diao shared that COVID, is experiencing a low uptick in new cases, even with the new variant. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) could affect vaccine requirements, but nothing is known yet, and the upcoming flu vaccine has not been determined.

Chair Reese also asked about how the changes in the reorganization are impacting the team and how analytics fits into it.

Dr. Diao noted that the team is always trying to work in synergy with all teams. The name change to Population Health goes along with the strategic goal of population-level surveillance and comparing data locally to national and state levels. The focus of informatics is important to funding sources, affecting staffing, caseloads, and diseases, and will help minimize human manual work as much as possible while leveraging technology for automation.

E. Office of the District Health Officer Report - Northern Nevada Public Health Communications Update, Accreditation, Quality Improvement, Workforce Development, Community Health Improvement Program, Equity Projects/Collaborations, Community Events, and Public Communications and Outreach.

Dr. Kingsley recognized the great work being done by the communications team in managing many aspects of the community. He recognized the ODHO division, where the PHAB recertification is being completed. The Community Health Assessment process, in conjunction with Renown, has begun.

Chair Reese reiterated the requests from Mr. Driscoll, that they be agendaized in a future meeting.

**16. Public Comment.**



**With no public comment, the item was closed.**

**Adjournment.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.**

DRAFT