

NORTHERN NEVADA
Public Health

Serving Reno, Sparks & Washoe County

District Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Members

Kristopher Dahir, Chair
 Devon Reese, Vice Chair
 Mariluz Garcia
 Dr. Reka Danko
 Michael D. Brown
 John Klacking, PhD
 John Novak, DMD

Thursday, March 28, 2024
 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, Kristopher Dahir called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
 The following members and staff were present:

Members present: Kristopher Dahir
 Devon Reese
 Michael D. Brown
 Dr. John Novak
 Dr. John Klacking
 Dr. Danko (via zoom at 1:38 p.m.)

Members Absent: Mariluz Garcia

Ms. Valdespin verified a quorum was present.

Staff present: Kevin Dick, District Health Officer
 Andrea Esp
 Francisco Vega
 Erin Dixon
 Robert Fyda
 Joshua Restori
 Lisa Lottritz
 Dr. Nancy Diao

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Novak led the pledge to the flag.

3. Approval of Agenda.

March 28, 2024

Michael D. Brown moved to approve the agenda for the March 28, 2024, District Board of Health regular meeting. Dr. Novak seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously in Dr. Danko's absentia.

4. Recognitions.

Years of Service

- i. Christabell Sotelo-Zecena, Epidemiologist, 5 years, 3/4/19 – EPHP
- ii. Dawn Edwards, Admin. Asst I, 5 years, 3/11/19 – CCHS
- iii. Steven Fisher, Bus. Technologist II, 20 years, 3/22/04 – AHS

Mr. Dick began by recognizing Ms. Sotelo-Zecena and Ms. Edwards for 5 years of service and expressed appreciation for their service. He also recognized and thanked Mr. Fisher for 20 years of service with the Health District.

New Hires

- i. Josh Foster, Environmental Health Specialist Trainee, 3/11/24 – EHS
- ii. Hallie Plato, Environmental Health Specialist Trainee, 3/25/24 – EHS

Mr. Dick invited Mr. Fyda to introduce Mr. Foster and Ms. Plato.

Mr. Fyda, EHS Director, introduced Mr. Foster and Ms. Plato and briefly shared their background, education, and experience; and welcomed them both to the EHS Division.

Promotions

- i. Olivia Alexander-Leeder, promoted to Sr. Environmental Health Specialist, 3/11/2024 – EHS

Mr. Dick acknowledged and congratulated Ms. Alexander-Leeder on her new promotion to Sr. Environmental Health Specialist with EHS.

Health Heroes

- i. Liliana Wilbert – EPHP
- ii. Jordyn Marchi – EPHP

Honorable Mentions

- i. Ana Gonzalez – CCHS
- ii. Leah Gardner – CCHS
- iii. Kelsey Zaskie – EPHP

Mr. Dick acknowledge Ms. Wilbert and Ms. Marchi for their Health Hero nomination.

Mr. Dick thanked staff for their efforts and demonstrating the values of the Health District.

5. Proclamations.

A. National Public Health Week.

Staff Representative: Scott Oxarart

Mr. Dick read the proclamation into the record and asked Mr. Oxarart to join him to accept the Proclamation.

Mr. Oxarart accepted the Proclamation and reported on all the activities surrounding Public Health Week, including a ribbon cutting ceremony at University of Nevada, Reno for a new building for the School of Public Health and a variety of videos on social media. Mr. Oxarart thanked Health Officer, Kevin Dick, for his support and opened the item for question from the Board.

Chair Dahir stated that it was well deserved by all staff.

Dr. Klacking moved to approve the National Public Health Week Proclamation. Michael D. Brown seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

6. Public Comment.

Chair Dahir opened the public comment period.

At the call for public comment, Ms. Molly Rose Lewis from Senator Rosen’s Office, introduced herself to the Board and offered her congratulations to the new hires and awardees. She added that the purpose of her presence was to listen and report back to Senator Rosen’s office and offer assistance within the federal level specifically with direct federal casework as it pertained to Social Security, CMS, etc.

Ben Hutchins introduced himself and stated he worked in local government for 25 years and has recently retired as a Division Director. Mr. Hutchins noted that his topic is not pleasant and asked the Board not to take his comment politically; however, it did have to do with the mRNA injections. He reported that events in his life opened his eyes to things that he was not aware of in the past. He expressed his hope that the Health District is giving sufficient informed consent. He opined that the Health District did an incredible job during the pandemic. He continued to state that the federal government did admit that there were problems with the shots and continued to list some of the issues that were reported on the Epi News of July 18.

Mr. Hutchins shared that he had suggestions as it referred to things that can be provided for informed consent. One was for the Health District to disclose the risks per age group and another was a full disclosure of the risks of the shots. He continued to share that he has had some deaths in his immediate family and friends.

Having no further public comment, Chair Dahir closed the public comment period.

7. Consent Items.

Matters which the District Board of Health may consider in one motion. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

A. Approval of Draft Minutes.

i. February 22, 2024.

B. Budget Amendments/Interlocal Agreement.

i. Approve the Grant Agreement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) providing partial funding in the amount of \$300,000 retroactive to October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 for the Air Quality Management, EPA Air Pollution Control Program, IO# 12275 and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Agreement and any future amendments.

Staff Representative: Francisco Vega and Kristen Palmer

- ii. Approve the Notice of Subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health upon approval through December 31, 2024 in the total amount of \$214,665.00 (no match required), in support of the Community Clinical Health Services (CCHS) Immunization Bridge Program and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Subaward and any future amendments.

Staff Representative: Lisa Lottritz and Irene Dominguez

C. Recommendation for the Board to Approve Supplemental Environmental Projects.

Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

- i. Recommendation for the Board to uphold an uncontested citation issued to Montreux Golf and Country Club, Inc., Case No. 1466, Notice of Violation No. AQMV24-0007 with a \$500.00 penalty for failing to comply with permit requirements associated with Permit to Operate No. AAIR17-0035.
- ii. Recommendation for the Board to uphold an uncontested citation issued to Sand Harbor State Park, Case No. 1470, Notice of Violation No. AQMV24-0005 with a \$500.00 penalty for failing to comply with permit requirements associated with Permit to Operate No. AAIR16-0745.
- iii. Recommendation for the Board to uphold an uncontested citation issued to EAN Holdings, LLC, Case No. 1473, Notice of Violation No. AQMV24-0006 with a \$500.00 penalty for failing to comply with permit requirements associated with Permit to Operate No. AAIR16-0205.
- iv. Recommendation for the Board to uphold an uncontested citation issued to Stevenson Holdings, LLC, Case No. 1474, Notice of Violation No. AQMV24-0008 with a \$500.00 penalty for failing to obtain a Dust Control Permit.
- v. Recommendation for the Board to uphold an uncontested citation issued to Boomtown Casino and Hotel Reno, Case No. 1475, Notice of Violation No. AQMV23-0021 with a \$500.00 penalty for failing to utilize the installed gasoline vapor control system when unloading gasoline into an underground storage tank.
- vi. Recommendation for the Board to uphold an uncontested citation issued to Jim Menesini Petroleum, Case No. 1476, Notice of Violation No. AQMV24-0001 with a \$500.00 penalty for failing to utilize the installed gasoline vapor control system when unloading gasoline into an underground storage tank.

- D. Acceptance of the 2023 Annual Report to the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency by Northern Nevada Public Health as the Solid Waste Management Authority.

Staff Representative: David Kelly

- E. Acceptance of the 2023 Annual Report to the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency by Northern Nevada Public Health as the Air Quality Management Authority.

Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

- F. Approve the donation of \$5,000 from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield for the purchase of Safe Sleep Survival Kits.

Staff Representative: Irene Dominguez

- G. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for February, Fiscal Year 2024.

Staff Representative: Jack Zenteno

Vice Chair Reese moved to approve the consent agenda. Michael D. Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

At the call for public comment, Ben Hutchins began his public comment on Item 7Bii, as the items related to a grant that supported the education of immunization within the community. Mr. Hutchins reported that he knows 12 people that have had received the COVID vaccine and 2 had died, 2 almost died, and 1 is in the process of dying, and the other 7 have had serious problems. He noted that the only difference between the groups is that those that haven't received the vaccine have no health effects at all. Mr. Hutchins further reported that a person in the funeral industry has seen white clots as a result of the shots. He referenced Dr. John Campbell as a resource for information on white clots and he felt something needed to be done about it. He stated that sometimes correlation does equal causation and reported that he had a lot of information regarding the topic.

Mr. Hutchins shared that his pastor passed away recently and expressed that he knew the shots were the cause. Mr. Hutchins concluded his comment with a recording of a hymn and expressed he was present in honor of his pastor. He provided his information.

Chair Dahir expressed his condolences.

8. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority.

A. Recommendation to accept the REMSA Health Monthly Franchise Report for February 2024 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.

Presented by: Barry Duplantis

Barry Duplantis, REMSA Health CEO and President, opened his item by noting that REMSA Health has exceeded franchise response compliance with all Priority 1 calls in all franchise zones.

Mr. Duplantis reported that in February 2024 REMSA Health responded to 7,482 Priority 1 calls in the community and transported 4,851 patients to area hospitals and noted that their average response time was 5 minutes and 45 seconds as compared to the franchise standard of under 8 minutes and 59 seconds.

Mr. Duplantis noted that their customer survey showed a score of 92.61 and reported that the #1 item that was cited as their strongest attribute was care shown by medics. He added that their lowest score was tied to their fees.

Mr. Duplantis opened his items for questions from the Board.

Dr. Klacking asked if the transport rate is consistent.

Mr. Duplantis reported that it had been fairly consistent, but the one thing is that the population is aging, so he anticipated that over time that number will increase.

Dr. Klacking asked if that would be reflected in the budget as it does represent a higher expense.

Mr. Duplantis agreed. However, he noted that REMSA Health does a skillful job of managing the provided resources. He added that it is important to keep an eye on the trends and make adjustments when necessary.

Chair Dahir commended REMSA Health staff.

Michael D. Brown moved to approve the REMSA Health Monthly Franchise Report for February 2024. Dr. Klacking seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

- B.** Presentation, discussion, and possible approval of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) Health Franchise Compliance Report for the period of 7/1/2022 through 6/30/2023 (FY23).
Staff Representative: Andrea Esp

Andrea Esp, Preparedness and EMS Oversight Program Manager, briefly stated that REMSA Health was found compliant for FY23. She noted there were changes made in August 2022 that were not reflected in the checklist for the franchise, but they were reviewed and evaluated and compliance with new requirements was met from August until June 2023.

Dr. Novak moved to approve the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) Health Franchise Compliance Report. Vice Chair Reese seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

- 9. Discussion and possible action to consider the following applicants: Kingsley, Chad, Nanyonjo, Rebecca, and Phinney, Cody for the NNPH District Health Officer position pursuant to NRS 439.400 including interview of candidates, selection of the new NNPH District Health Officer and possibly designating a second choice, and possible authorization to the Chair and direction to staff regarding the negotiation of an employment contract.**

Dr. Danko arrived via zoom at 1:38 p.m.

Chair Dahir invited Mark Howard from the Berkley Search Consultants to explain the process that was implemented in selectin the new Health Officer.

Mark Howard, President and CEO of Berkley Search Consultants expressed his excitement in participating in the recruiting of the new Health Officer. He noted several of his search professionals were present via zoom ergo Efton Hall, Sr. Vice President for the Health Care and Public Sector Practices, Julia Morse, Senior Director of Recruiting, and Roger Flores, Recruiter. He continued to thank the administration team, Human Resources and the Comptroller's Office for their collaboration in producing the recruitment results that were seen the day of this meeting. Mr. Howard stated three finalists would be interviewed from the 90 that were recruited nationally.

Chair Dahir explained each candidate would be given 45-minutes to answer interview questions with 5-minutes to introduce themselves to the Board. He reiterated that the Board's job was to make a selection and then authorize staff, chair, and human resources to negotiate an employment contract for the selected candidate.

Chair Dahir made note of Dr. Danko's arrival.

Chair Dahir directed the Board to feel free to ask any of the previously provided questions or a question of their own; however, the Board needed to ensure that the same question was asked of every candidate.

Chair Dahir explained the 5-minute time limit and welcomed candidate Chad Kingsley. Mr. Kingsley expressed his appreciation for the hiring process and for meeting staff the day prior.

He shared that as a leader he recognized that one of his roles was to be the bond that held great teams together. He shared an experience he had in Sonora, Mexico in building relationships with the community and connected it with his experience with Northern Nevada and added that he was invested in the wellbeing and success of staff, stakeholders, and decision makers. He concluded by stating he looked forward to the interview questions.

Chair Dahir began by inquiring about Chad Kingsley experience and why he was interested in Northern Nevada Public Health.

Mr. Kingsley shared his work and personal experience and continued to share that Nevada was home for him as well as his familiarity with Nevada Revised Statutes. He added that the area is an ideal place for a family.

Vice-chair Reese introduced himself and stated his focus was on small business and asked Mr. Kingsley to provide examples on how he had successfully balanced the competing needs between public health priorities and financial burdens of running a business.

Mr. Kingsley reiterated the importance of businesses to the economy and continued to state that strategic processes and communication have played a significant role in success. He highlighted his experience with food trucks in his current community.

Dr. Klacking inquired about Mr. Kingsley's experience in preparing and proposing an annual budget and asked him to speak about the roles of leadership and other staff as well as the key considerations in developing said budget.

Mr. Kingsley highlighted that trustworthiness and transparency were important to him in maintaining fiscal stability. He shared his experience in his current position and spoke in detail of the process that is followed to develop their budget to include a Board of Supervisors and Board of Health. He added details about the strategies used to determine cuts from general funding while keeping staff as a priority.

Dr. Novak asked Mr. Kingsley to describe his experience working with Board, Commission, and elected officials and whether he worked with an Advisory Board or a Governing Board in his current position.

Mr. Kingsley explained that he had served as the ex-officio for Southern Nevada Public Health and shared his experience and involvement with those board. Additionally, he stated he was also the ex-officio in his current position and shared that he reports directly to the Board of Supervisors. He added some of his experiences working with his current board.

Michael D. Brown inquired about Mr. Kingsley's ability to mitigate and resolve conflict and how he would create an environment that allows regular conflicts of the day to bring health into the organization.

Mr. Kingsley highlighted his ability to mediate and motivate. However, he expressed that prompt response and mediation was key.

Vice-chair Reese made note of a crucial undertaking that took place currently within Northern Nevada and asked how organizational change should be approached during difficult times and asked that he share insights on leading teams through contentious initiatives while maintaining morale and achieving positive outcomes.

Mr. Kingsley made note of the Health District's values and highlighted the compassionate element. He shared his experience in dealing with a similar situation and stated that a prompt response was necessary as well as taking current staff into account.

Dr. Novak asked Mr. Kingsley to describe his experience in maintaining PHAB accreditation and his approach to ensure divisions evolve to meet best practices in public health.

Mr. Kingsley referred to his experience with the PHAB process at Southern Nevada Public Health between 2010-2022 as well as in his current position. He reiterated that he viewed the process as a tool for quality improvement.

Chair Dahir asked Mr. Kingsley to elaborate on how he works with elected officials from different entities.

Mr. Kingsley referred to the values of Northern Nevada Public Health and stated that collaboration and communication were vital. He noted being consistently available was also very important. He highlighted that having mutual respect and understanding was important in building relationships so that they could respond in strength.

Chair Dahir further asked for an example of when Mr. Kingsley implemented the stated actions.

Mr. Kingsley related an experience with a board member regarding an adverse reaction to an immunization and one with a TB exposure within their schools and the process that was followed to keep the board of supervisors and city councils informed.

Chair Dahir opened the interview for questions from Mr. Kingsley.

Mr. Kingsley stated that his questions have been responded to and opined that the recruitment process has been transparent; however, he inquired about the Board's definition of success.

Each board member described the qualities they believed demonstrated success within Northern Nevada Public Health, with Vice-chair Reese abstaining from providing a response.

Chair Dahir advised Mr. Kingsley he had about twelve minutes remaining if he wished to make any closing remarks. Mr. Kingsley took the opportunity to speak about the community that he serves and the challenges they are facing as well as his approach to looking for ways to meet the needs of the community. He concluded by highlighting his goal to be present and accessible to the cities and harbor good relationships. He thanked the Board for the opportunity and commended the staff of Northern Nevada Public Health.

Candidate Rebecca Nanyonjo took the podium and Chair Dahir reiterated the rules of the 45-minute interview process and thanked her for being present.

Ms. Nanyonjo recognized the Board and began by extending her gratitude and appreciation to both Washoe County and Northern Nevada Public Health for their hospitality for the past two days. She continued to specifically thank Eva Sandoval for her guidance.

Ms. Nanyonjo shared a detailed summary of her experience and education pertaining to the District Health Officer position. She highlighted her efforts in advancing public health in leadership positions. Ms. Nanyonjo added all the fields that she had been involved in and noted that she had been involved in public health accreditation and was currently undergoing re-accreditation both which included developing Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement, and Strategic Planning. She continued to note that she has served as commissioner, executive director, and chief deputy director in a variety of settings and highlighted that she was responsible for strategy administration and budgets in the departments she oversaw. Ms. Nanyonjo stated she was a representative in her current position with APHA, NACCHO, CHEAC, California Conference of Local Health Officers, and Central California Public Health Consortium.

Ms. Nanyonjo shared that she was also responsible for ensuring compliance internationally, federally, state and local laws including air quality emissions standards globally as well as working alongside the CDC while she was employed at Princess Cruises. Additionally, she noted she had been responsible for developing a legislative platform for health in the jurisdictions she was worked in. Ms. Nanyonjo shared her involvement in developing a certificate program for Community Health Workers and had been published in review journals. She concluded by noting that public health was her passion and looked forward to continue that mission.

Chair Dahir noted Ms. Nanyonjo answered most of his original question, but asked why Ms. Nanyonjo wanted to do all of it at Northern Nevada Public Health.

Ms. Nanyonjo responded that public health was a discipline anywhere you are and it was important to her. She noted that in learning about Northern Nevada Public Health, she felt working here would be a continuity of service.

Vice-chair Reese spoke about small businesses and asked if Ms. Nanyonjo would provide examples of how she had successfully balanced the competing needs between public health priorities and the financial burden of operating a small business.

Ms. Nanyonjo replied it was a common occurrence and stated she had found that the permitting process can be burdensome and expensive. She shared that in her current position she had found that consolidation of services was helpful as well as changes in the internal processes that are not legislated at the state level. Ms. Nanyonjo stated she believed public health aims to protect health without limiting any other services that others are trying to provide, so fortifying partnerships was important.

Dr. Klacking asked Ms. Nanyonjo to describe her experience in preparing or proposing budgets for approval and the roles leadership and staff played in the process as well as key considerations in developing the budget and how it was presented and what actions were taken.

Ms. Nanyonjo responded that she currently submitted an annual budget and provided extensive details of what is involved in that budget. She also stated management is involved in the process as well as her leadership team. She made note of her inclusion of neighboring jurisdictions as well as her relationship with the State. Ms. Nanyonjo continued to explain that after all discussions with her team, the budget was discussed with her County Analyst and leadership, who presented it as part of the County's Annual Budget.

Dr. Novak asked Ms. Nanyonjo to describe her experience working with Boards, Commissions, and elected officials and further asked whether her Board was a governing or advisory board.

Ms. Nanyonjo replied that she had worked with Boards the majority of her career. She added that as an executive she dealt with a health board, who were the decision makers. She shared that in her current role providing updates to the Chair was not unusual as well as speaking to Board members formally and informally. She noted that working with the Board was a collaboration as both were working toward the same goal.

Michael D. Brown pointed out that managing, mitigating, and resolving conflict would fall upon Ms. Nanyonjo's shoulders and asked how she would create an environment that allowed the regular conflicts of the day bring health into the organization.

Ms. Nanyonjo emphasized that a huge chapter of leadership is understanding the difference between leadership, management, and supervision. She stated that it was harder to manage

conflict resolutions especially when you have multiple generations, so she opined being honest was necessary to provide resources before they became out of control situations.

Ms. Nanyonjo said having an outline of expectations of leadership, management, and supervisors was important as each level needed to assume a different role. She noted she was not unfamiliar with managing conflict and having successful negotiation through conflict management, however, opined it should be resolved at the lowest level possible but know to progressively review the situation and understand the course of action.

Vice-chair Reese mentioned that Northern Nevada Public Health recently went through crucial undertaking and asked how organizational change should be approached during difficult times and asked that he share insights on leading teams through contentious initiatives while maintaining morale and achieving positive outcomes.

Ms. Nanyonjo replied that those types of studies are always very challenging and noted her past experience with them. She noted that understanding the pain points and knowing what people are dissatisfied with was important. Ms. Nanyonjo mentioned that being in charge of employment morale campaigns has taught her that it's hard to please everyone; however, management should be involved. Ms. Nanyonjo added that it was a cornerstone of any organization as happy was a state of mind and employees were most productive when they feel a sense of satisfaction in the work that they are doing and a sense of appreciation in the services they are providing.

Dr. Novak asked Ms. Nanyonjo to describe her experience maintaining PHAB accreditation and her approach to ensuring divisions evolve to meet best practices in public health.

Ms. Nanyonjo explained that she was undergoing re-accreditation and opined that at the staff level it was difficult to understand their roles. Ms. Nanyonjo continued to explain the engagement process she currently uses to achieve success and noted that she currently includes strategic partners and stakeholders before it gets presented to Board of Supervisor.

Chair Dahir asked how Ms. Nanyonjo dealt with elected officials from different entities and requested an example.

Ms. Nanyonjo started by sharing her experience in dealing with city management and city mayors during the pandemic. She opined that although it is a job there should be a provision for being able to speak to people directly. Ms. Nanyonjo said that the bigger the challenge the more realistic you needed to be with the steps you would take in order to achieve your goal.

Ms. Nanyonjo explained that rapport building and strong relationships was critical as well understanding the different personalities.

Chair Dahir opened the interview for questions from Ms. Nanyonjo.

Ms. Nanyonjo stated that your community is where you are not where you have been and shared that she had to learn to make the community that she resides in her home.

Chair Dahir advised Ms. Nanyonjo she had time to provide closing remarks.

Ms. Nanyonjo asked what the Board was looking for in the next Health Officer.

Dr. Novak stated he would like to see more direct communication or interaction with the Board.

Michael D. Brown replied that he would like to see a continuation of caring for the communities and staff as he believed the Health District had great employees and were responsible for most of the work.

Vice-chair Reese expressed he hoped to see a leader of people and processes, someone who can help move into the next ten years.

Dr. Klacking stated he would say he wanted to be the best and figure out how to become the best and implement those things.

Dr. Danko shared her involvement on the Board and her extensive experience. She added that communication, sharing knowledge, and adapting was an important component in public health.

Chair Dahir stated he had a focus on embracing the professionalism and knowledge of staff and finding a way to unify it into the community. He invited Ms. Nanyonjo to share final thoughts.

Ms. Nanyonjo mentioned she respected the Board's time and continued to wish Health Officer, Kevin Dick, well as he entered his new career as a retiree. She added that Mr. Dick was an inspiration to a lot of people in public health leadership as it was hard to stay at that level for as long as he had.

2:55 p.m. The Board recessed.

3:00 p.m. The Board reconvened.

Candidate Cody Phinney took the podium and Chair reiterated the ruled for the 45-minute interview process with 5-minutes to introduce herself.

Ms. Phinney began by introducing herself and sharing her current position at the State of Nevada and shared her experience and education as it pertained to the Health Officer position.

Ms. Phinney spoke about learning about the position and the possibility of serving the community, she called home and stated she could not pass it up. She added that her passion was in improving the health of Nevada. Ms. Phinney concluded by expressing she was ready to answer the interview questions.

Chair Dahir noted Ms. Phinney had answered the question he had intended to ask, however, invited her to add more details.

Ms. Phinney pointed out that she spent significant time administering a psychiatric hospital in Sparks, which provided her a view of hospital administration and services for the seriously and persistently mentally ill. She added that during that time she had also done quality improvement and assurance for the state system as well as process improvement, which became a foundation on how she approached problems in government most effectively.

Vice-chair Reese thanked Ms. Phinney for being present and continued to ask about small businesses regarding how she had successfully balanced the competing needs between public health priorities and the financial burden of operating a small business and requested an example.

Ms. Phinney asserted that she had experience working with business through the regulatory process as a Deputy Administrator and the Administrator over the non-medical facility licensing and the State's Environmental Health that serves the rural counties in the state. She shared that she had a couple of examples of complaints from constituents about the length of time to get through the permitting process. She continued to note that clear communication from staff was helpful and effective.

Dr. Klacking asked Ms. Phinney to describe her experience in preparing or proposing budgets for approval and the roles leadership and staff played in the process as well as key considerations in developing the budget and how it was presented and what actions were taken.

Ms. Phinney responded that her current employer had a long and arduous budget development process and continued to share what her leadership role was in that process as well as the involvement of staff including the Deputy Administrator and the Administrator. She continued to share that budget was presented to the State Legislature where Ms. Phinney's role was to defend the budget.

Dr. Novak asked Ms. Phinney to describe her experience in working with Boards, Commissions, and elected officials and asked if the health boards she had worked on were either governing boards or advisory boards.

Ms. Phinney explained that she had worked with various types of boards in various roles and added that currently she was Secretary to the State Board of Health. She added there are a number of boards and commissions that she worked with in that office and some advisory and some policy setting boards. She explained that she had been the facilitator of boards including the Department of Health and Human Services the Home Care Standards Employment Board, which explored the employment conditions and implications for people providing home care services directly to individuals that mostly received Medicaid.

Michael D. Brown explained that managing, mitigation, and resolving conflict would fall upon her shoulders and asked how she would create an environment that allows the regular conflicts of the day to bring health into the organization.

Ms. Phinney replied that she had heard about the mechanism by which the Health District addressed the competition for resources and added that it sounded like there was a good process. She added that having an environment where people can trust each other was critically important as those relationships would allow for discussions and conflict to be worked through. She emphasized that relationship building throughout the community and within the organization was the foundation of a healthy organization.

Vice-chair Reese indicated that Northern Nevada Public Health recently went through crucial undertaking and asked how organizational change should be approached during difficult times and asked that he share insights on leading teams through contentious initiatives while maintaining morale and achieving positive outcomes.

Ms. Phinney replied that major efforts, such as a pay study, rarely left everyone feeling fully satisfied. She shared a situation she had experienced in her current position where her employer had to implement a mandate that left staff feeling dissatisfied. Ms. Phinney explained that listening to staff and hearing their concerns was critical and communicating proactively was helpful.

Dr. Novak asked Ms. Phinney to describe her experience maintaining PHAB accreditation and her approach to ensuring divisions evolve to meet best practices in public health.

Ms. Phinney noted that she is currently experiencing PHAB and collecting all the documentation to demonstrate readiness for accreditation. She stated she had a team that meets periodically and was making progress on their accreditation. Ms. Phinney pointed out that she was the Accreditation Manager at the Psychiatric Hospital for a number of years, and while it wasn't PHAB but it was joint commission accreditation nonetheless, and highlighted a perfect score on one of the findings.

Chair Dahir asked how Ms. Phinney would deal with elected officials from different entities and requested an example.

Ms. Phinney replied she had a lot of respect for elected officials and stated her approach in dealing with them would be to hear and understand the goal of each individual or entity. She referred to open communication and asserted that if the potential of risk to health or safety is presented to an entity rarely does that entity refrain from working with you to find a solution. She noted that sometimes it does require a fair bit of negotiation.

Chair Dahir asked Ms. Phinney if she had questions from the Board.

Ms. Phinney asked what the Board was looking for in the first period of the new tenure.

Dr. Novak replied he personally was looking for a good approach with the Board, open communication, and honesty.

Michael D. Brown stated he would like to see the continuance of the well-being of the communities, skills to keep things moving in a positive direction, and taking care of the employees.

Vice-chair Reese expressed that the goal of the new Health Officer is to find a dynamic leader to build upon the successes of the organization and build a team that would help to achieve the substantial goals of the entirety of the organization.

Dr. Klacking responded he was looking for a way to keep improving and being the best not just locally but nationally as well.

Chair Dahir stated that embracing staff and bringing unity within the region and shared that he valued the ability to find best practices.

Dr. Danko shared her involvement on the Board and her extensive experience. She added that she was looking to work with the new Health Officer to align goals for health care delivery to make sure that they are adaptable.

Chair Dahir invited Ms. Phinney to make closing statements.

Ms. Phinney expressed her gratitude to the group for spending time with her. She opined this process had been educational and energizing and appreciated the welcoming environment at the Health District.

Chair Dahir requested Ms. Valdespin distribute paper ballots to the Board to allow for the nomination process and collect Dr. Danko's audible nomination after all nominations were collected.

Ms. Valdespin announced the results: Dr. Novak nominated Chad Kingsley; Michael D. Brown nominated Chad Kingsley; Chair Dahir nominated Chad Kingsley; Dr. Klacking nominated Chad Kingsley; Vice-chair Reese nominated Rebecca Nanyonjo; Dr. Danko nominated Rebecca Nanyonjo. After the announcement, Ms. Valdespin provided the ballots to Deputy District Attorney, Dania Reid for confirmation. Ms. Reid confirmed the tally.

Chair Dahir accepted the results and asked for a motion.

Dr. Novak moved to nominate Dr. Chad Kingsley as their primary choice for District Health Officer, Dr. Rebecca Nanyonjo as second, and Cody Phinney as third and authorized Chair to negotiate an employment contract in that order with staff. Michael D. Brown seconded the motion which was approved 4-1, with Vice-chair Reese opposing the vote.

Vice-chair Reese thanked the search team for their work and stated he believe all the candidates were excellent representative of themselves and their work. He opined all three candidates present this day would have made fine choices. Although his vote was for Ms. Nanyonjo he expressed he was interested in supporting the candidate that is successful moving forward.

Chair Dahir also thanked the candidates and opined he agreed with the votes collected.

Chair Dahir excused himself at 3:38 p.m. and asked Vice-chair Reese to oversee the remainder of the meeting.

10. Staff Reports and Program Updates.

A. Air Quality Management – EPA Expects Final Decision on PM NAAQS, EPA Requests for Remand of 2020 Decision on Ozone NAAQS, EPA Selects Panel for Review of NOx NAAQS, January 2024 EPA Small Business Newsletter, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.
Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

Mr. Vega, AQM Division Director, appeared in front of the Board and provided an update on the air quality standards. Mr. Vega noted that EPA finalized a decision to strengthen the particulate matter standard from 12 micrograms per meter cubed to 9 micrograms per meter cubed for annual average. He explained what it meant for the Health District and stated that if for some reason the county is impacted negatively by wildfires or other sources the Health District may have to put together another exceptional events demonstration packet.

Mr. Vega added that EPA anticipates seeing an impact on their budget, which represents a \$40,000 budget reduction in the EPA 105 Grant, which impacts the Health District. Mr. Vega reported that they are looking at opportunities to absorb the reduction. He continued by reporting that the Climate Pollution Grant has been finalized and the application was due April 1, which means that the State is moving forward with a public fleets incentive program. Mr. Vega said that if the funding is received, they anticipate requesting about \$700,000 to transition their fleet to electric vehicles. Northern Nevada Public Health has been working collaboratively with the County which would be requesting \$4.5 million to build 60 chargers to help transition both the County's and NNPH's fleet.

Mr. Vega added that they requested \$900,000 to make sure the TB clinic will be built with high efficiency appliances. He concluded they would be requesting \$500,000 to obtain a solar system constructed on the TB Clinic at the West Hills site.

Mr. Vega thanked the Board for the process for identifying the new Health Officer and looked forward to working with the new Health Officer.

Dr. Novak asked if the EPA reduction was the monitoring funds.

Mr. Vega responded it was not.

Mr. Vega opened his item for questions from the Board.

- B. Community and Clinical Health Services** – WIC Program Update; Data & Metrics; Sexual Health (HIV 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.

Staff Representative: Lisa Lottritz

Ms. Lottritz, CCHS Division Director, opened her item by echoing Mr. Vega's comments regarding the recruitment process. She continued to highlight TB day was Sunday, March 24 and commended TB office staff for their hard work.

Ms. Lottritz opened her item for questions from the Board.

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

Staff Representative: Robert Fyda

Mr. Fyda, EHS Division Director, opened his item by highlighting his NEARS report and provided a brief summary of the system. Additionally, he highlighted Mia Gzebb's completion of Field Standardization, a quality assurance program. He continued to highlight the lead and copper rule and stated all the public water systems in the area would need to complete an inventory of their service area to identify any lead lines, he noted the assessment was due October 16, 2024.

Mr. Fyda opened his item for questions from the Board.

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

Staff Representative: Dr. Nancy Diao

Dr. Diao, EPHP Division Director, began her presentation by highlighting that they are seeing a continued downward trend in all respiratory diseases, influenza like illness activity is below regional baselines, and outbreaks are decreasing in numbers.

Dr. Diao opened her item for questions from the Board.

- E. District Health Officer Report** - Northern Nevada Public Health Communications Update, Public Health Accreditation, Community Health Improvement Plan, Health Equity, Cultural Competency (DEICC) Training, Sustainable Public Health Funding, and Public Communications and Outreach.

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

Kevin Dick, Health Officer, began his presentation by sharing slides regarding the updates on the budget presentation. Mr. Dick shared that he met with city and county managers to provide a briefing of the budget. He noted there were no comments or concerns from any of the jurisdictions. Mr. Dick reported that a couple of the proposed positions that were requested for reclassification were denied by the county's Job Evaluation Committee.

Mr. Dick shared that County Manager would be presenting his recommended budget to the BCC on April 16 and expects to hear recommendation shortly before that meeting.

Mr. Dick concluded by sharing a video of the NNPH's celebration of Employee Appreciation Day and thanked the Health Heroes for assisting in organizing the event.

Mr. Dick opened his item for questions from the Board.

11. Board Comment.

Dr. Novak thanked the search company for their hard work on recruitment process.

Michael D. Brown echoed the efforts and thanked staff for their work.

Having no further comments from the Board, Vice-Chair Reese closed this item.

Adjournment.

Chair Dahir adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

Possible Changes to Agenda Order and Timing: Items on the agenda may be taken out of order, combined with other items, withdrawn from the agenda, moved to the agenda of another later meeting; moved to or from the Consent section, or they may be voted on in a block. Items with a specific time designation will not be heard prior to the stated time, but may be heard later. Items listed in the Consent section of the agenda are voted on as a block and will not be read or considered separately unless withdrawn from the Consent agenda.

Special Accommodations: The District Board of Health Meetings are accessible to the disabled. Disabled members of the public who require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify Administrative Health Services in writing at the Washoe County Health District, 1001 E. 9th Street, Building B, Reno, NV 89512, or by calling 775.328.2416, 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Public Comment: Members of the public may make public comment by submitting an email comment to svaldespin@washocounty.gov before the scheduled meeting, which includes the name of the commenter and the agenda item number for which the comment is submitted. Reasonable efforts will be made to hear all public comment during the meeting. During the "Public Comment" items, emails may be submitted pertaining to any matter either on or off the agenda, to include items to be heard on consent. For the remainder of the agenda, public comment emails will only be heard during items that are not marked FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. All public comment should be addressed to the Board of Health and not an individual member. The Board asks that your comments are expressed in a courteous manner. All public comment is limited to three minutes per person. Unused time may not be reserved by the speaker nor allocated to another speaker.

Response to Public Comment: The Board of Health can deliberate or take action only if a matter has been listed on an agenda properly posted prior to the meeting. During the public comment period, speakers may address matters listed or not listed on the published agenda. The *Open Meeting Law* does not expressly prohibit responses to public comments by the Board of Health. However, responses from the Board members to unlisted public comment topics could become deliberation on a matter without notice to the public. On the advice of legal counsel and to ensure the public has notice of all matters the Board of Health will consider, Board members may choose not to respond to public comments, except to correct factual inaccuracies, ask for Health District staff action or to ask that a matter be listed on a future agenda. The Board of Health may do this either during the public comment item or during the following item: "Board Comments – District Board of Health Member's announcements, reports and updates, request for information or topics for future agendas. (No discussion among Board Members will take place on the item)"

Posting of Agenda; Location of Website:

Pursuant to NRS 241.020, Notice of this meeting was posted electronically at the following locations:

Northern Nevada Public Health, 1001 E. 9th St., Reno, NV
Reno City Hall, 1 E. 1st St., Reno, NV
Sparks City Hall, 431 Prater Way, Sparks, NV
Washoe County Administration Building, 1001 E. 9th St, Reno, NV
Downtown Reno Library, 301 S. Center St., Reno, NV
Northern Nevada Public Health Website <https://www.NNPH.org>
State of Nevada Website: <https://notice.nv.gov>

The meeting will be televised live and replayed on Washoe Channel at: <https://www.washocounty.gov/mgrsoff/divisions/Communications/wctv-live.php> and also on Youtube at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WashoeCountyTV>

How to Get Copies of Agenda and Support Materials: Supporting materials are available to the public at the Northern Nevada Public Health located at 1001 E. 9th Street, in Reno, Nevada. Ms. Susy Valdespin, Recording Secretary to the Board of Health is

the person designated by the Board of Health to respond to requests for supporting materials. Ms. Valdespin is located at the Northern Nevada Public Health and may be reached by telephone at (775) 328-2415 or by email at svaldespin@NNPH.org. Supporting materials are also available at the Northern Nevada Public Health Website <https://www.NNPH.org> pursuant to the requirements of NRS 241.020.