

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 25, 2026
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

Vice-Chair Andriola called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Members present: Clara Andriola, Vice Chair
Steve Driscoll
Michael Brown
Dr. Eloy Ituarte
Dr. Reka Danko – Present via Zoom

Ms. Lawson verified a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Duplantis led the pledge to the flag.

3. Public Comment.

There were no requests for Public Comment. The item was closed.

4. Approval of Agenda.

Steve Driscoll motioned to approve the agenda. Mike Brown seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

5. Recognitions.

Retirements

Cindy Hawks – Office Specialist PHD – 26 years of service 5/30/2026

Sunita Monga – Registered Dietitian Nutritionist CCHS – 30 years of service 7/7/2026

Erin Dixon thanked Ms. Hawks and Ms. Monga for their years of service for NNPH and wished them the best.

Health Heroes

Falisa Hilliard – PHD	Raquel Depuy Grafton – PHD
Kelsey Zaski – PHD	April Miller – PHD
Anastasia Gunawan – PHD	Candace Brown – AQM
Brandon Koyama – AQM	Stephen Shipman – PHD
Steve Fisher – AHS	Andrea Esp (2) – PHD

Frenchie Rubio congratulated the Health Heroes on their great work and the positive impact they made for NNPH.

6. Consent Items.

- A. Recommendation for Approval of May 28, 2026, Draft Minutes.
- B. Recommendation to approve FY27 purchases in the approximate amount not to exceed \$200,000 from Merck & Company Inc. for vaccines in support of clinic operations on behalf of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division.
- C. Approve the Agreement between Northern Nevada Public Health and the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education to provide access to community and clinical public health opportunities for medical residents during their preceptorship experience for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, unless extended by the mutual agreement of the Parties; with automatic renewal for two successive one-year periods for a total of three years on the same terms unless either party gives the other written notice of non-renewal at least 60 days prior to June 30 of each year; and authorize the Board Chair to execute the agreement and authorize the District Health Officer to execute any future amendments.
- D. Recommendation of Staff to Uphold Notice of Violation No. AQMV26-0003, issued to ASK Nevada for failing to utilize the installed gasoline vapor control system when unloading gasoline into an underground storage tank.
- E. Recommendation of Staff to Uphold Notice of Violation No. AQMV26-0004, issued to Hunt & Sons, Inc. for failing to utilize the installed gasoline vapor control system when unloading gasoline into an underground storage tank.
- F. Recommendation for appointment to the Food Protection Hearing Advisory Board as a member. Staff recommends: The appointment of Ms. Joni Hammond for a three-year term beginning on July 1, 2026, and concluding on June 30, 2029. Applicants include: Derrek Brown, Veronica Cortes, Kevin Futamachi, Mark Grerory, Vance Hardin, Gary Thomas, and Suzanne Ward.
- G. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for May, Fiscal Year 2026.

Mr. Driscoll moved to accept the consent items and Mr. Brown seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

End of Consent Items.

- 7. Recommendation to accept the REMSA Health Monthly Franchise Report for May 2026, which

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

Barry Duplantis stated that REMSA responded to 8,945 EMS calls and transported 5,813 patients, reflecting continued growth in service demand. He reported that average Priority 1 response times were 5 minutes, 32 seconds in Reno; 6 minutes, 12 seconds in Sparks; and 8 minutes, 27 seconds in Washoe County, with Priority 2 response times averaging 7 minutes, 5 seconds in Reno; 7 minutes, 48 seconds in Sparks; and 9 minutes, 35 seconds in Washoe County. They remain in compliance with all franchise response-time requirements. He reported that REMSA and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District executed a one-year extension for fire dispatch services and they ensure that their agencies will be working together with the City of Reno on coordination efforts related to wildfire preparedness and interagency response planning. Mr. Duplantis noted that REMSA, as a nonprofit organization, is planning for future service demand by ordering ambulances well in advance due to extended manufacturing lead times, extending out to 1.5 years and beyond. He also reported a May patient satisfaction score of 94.41% and announced implementation of a new patient survey system that will provide real-time feedback and reporting to the DBOH to improve participation and transparency. Regarding the regional fire services study, he noted that REMSA continues to provide information in support of the process and that the next regionalization workshop is scheduled for July 21. Finally, he reported that the meet-and-confer process had concluded and that the resulting items are expected to be presented for discussion at the next DBOH meeting.

Mr. Brown motioned to accept the May 2026 REMSA Health Monthly Franchise Report and Mr. Driscoll seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

8. Presentation and recommendation to accept the "Washoe County, Nevada Air Quality Trends Report (2016-2025)".

Ben McMullen reviewed federal air quality monitoring requirements, noting that the Division continuously monitors five of the six criteria pollutants regulated under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and has published an annual air quality trends report since 1989 and is required by AQMD's Federally approved Quality Assurance Project Plan. He reported that in 2025 Washoe County experienced two days classified as "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups," both attributed to elevated ground-level ozone, with wildfire smoke contributing to one of those events. The report identified a continued shift in air quality concerns from wintertime particulate pollution to summertime ground-level ozone, noting improvements in winter air quality associated with replacement of older wood-burning devices. He also summarized factors contributing to ozone formation, discussed the potential for more stringent federal ozone standards and the associated implications for regional attainment status, and identified planning and transportation strategies that may help reduce ozone-forming emissions. He concluded that the annual air quality trends report provides valuable information to support future air quality planning and policy decisions.

Mr. Driscoll asked if the monitoring stations will be expanding based on the continued population base expanding in the various valleys in the community.

Mr. McMullen noted that the division currently meets all EPA monitoring requirements and that there are no current plans to expand the monitoring network beyond the new Verdi station, though future expansion could be considered if circumstances warrant.

Dr. Ituarte made a motion to accept the “Washoe County, Nevada Air Quality Trends Report (2016-2025)”, with Dr. Danko seconding the motion, which was approved unanimously.

9. 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 introduced the annual review of the Interlocal Agreement, explaining that the agreement requires the Board each year to consider whether to recommend amendments or affirm the agreement in its current form. She advised that the Board could discuss any proposed changes and, if desired, direct staff to present recommendations to the participating jurisdictions for consideration, typically at a concurrent meeting. She further noted that any proposed amendments must be submitted by October 1 to meet the agreement's requirement that changes be made at least 90 days before the January 1 automatic renewal date.

Mr. Driscoll enquired on the process that, if as a Board there were operational changes and one or more partners to the ILA brought something forward needing consideration, is there a way to know that if it was deemed important, the ILA could be modified midterm or would it have to wait until the regular annual review?

Ms. Reid explained that the ILA requires amendments to be approved by mutual consent of the participating parties not later than 90 days before the January 1 renewal date. She stated that this deadline is intended to be observed, although a critical issue affecting the governance of the Board in regard to something happening outside that timeframe, could be addressed if necessary. She further explained that at any time following the review, the Board could begin discussing potential amendments for the subsequent renewal cycle, providing a broad timeframe for consideration before the next amendment deadline.

Mr. Driscoll moved to accept the ILA in its current form. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

10. Staff Reports and Program Updates

- A. Air Quality Management – DBOH Board Member Follow Up on American Lung Association Ozone Data, House Passes the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

Francisco Vega provided a response to a prior Board question, clarifying that improved ozone data during 2009–2011 was attributed to reduced economic activity during the recession, while

improvements observed during 2022–2024 were associated with reduced wildfire activity. He also updated the Board on pending federal legislation that would allow year-round sales of E85 gasoline, noting that the proposal had passed the U.S. House of Representatives but remained subject to further congressional action. He reported one exceedance of the ozone standard and no exceedances of the PM10 standard during the month of May, noting that ozone exceedances have become more common during the summer months and will continue to be monitored. Finally, he reported that 100 percent of plan review applications were processed within required timeframes during May, with a year-to-date compliance rate of 99 percent.

Dr. Ituarte thanked Mr. Vega for the follow-up information and appreciated the review of the chemistry of the air pollution that was available in the report.

B. Community and Clinical Health Services – WIC Food Package Updates; Data & Metrics; Immunizations, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, Reproductive and Sexual Health Services, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health, Women Infants and Children, and Community Health Workers.

Christina Sheppard reported the largest revision to the WIC food packages in more than a decade, including expanded food choices, increased fruit and vegetable benefits, additional whole food options for infants, and expanded dairy and protein substitutions. WIC personnel are assisting participants with the transition through individualized counseling and use of digital tools. The immunization program completed its annual Vaccines for Children compliance activities and has begun preparations for the upcoming back-to-school vaccination season, including a community vaccination event scheduled for August 8. She further reported that the Family Planning and Sexual Health Program has implemented a patient-collected cervical cancer screening option for eligible clients to improve access to screening services. The Community Health Workers continued outreach activities during May, including participation in a community event offering free sexually transmitted infection screenings to populations that have historically experienced barriers to accessing care.

Vice-Chair Andriola asked approximately how many individuals the CHWs saw at the latest event.

Ms. Sheppard noted they saw 33 individuals.

Dr. Ituarte noted an approximate 5% increase in the number of people the WIC Program is serving and asked if this was the beginning of a trend or if this is a sporadic thing.

Ms. Sheppard explained that the numbers have gradually been increasing month over month, so this is possibly a trend, though they have been doing a pretty active outreach campaign to increase participation numbers.

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).

Rob Fyda reported that the investigation of a Salmonella outbreak has concluded and additional information will be provided at a future meeting. Enforcement efforts involving unpermitted food vendors continue, seeing continued coordination with regional partners to address public health and safety concerns associated with unpermitted operations. Staff completed 262 public pool inspections during May as part of the seasonal inspection program and initiated homeowner well sampling under a PFAS grant-funded project, with plans to expand sampling efforts in the coming months. He also reported that a contract had been finalized with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful and the Washoe County Manager's Office to support rapid response cleanup efforts at public dumping sites through coordinated monitoring and cleanup activities.

Vice-Chair Andriola asked how staff become aware of unpermitted food vendors. She also indicated an interest in discussing the partnership with KTMB and Washoe County initiatives related to illegal dumping and requested additional information on how EHS would be involved.

Mr. Fyda noted that complaints are the main identifier for most of the unpermitted food vendors, as they often need to clean up after them or are receiving competition from them.

Vice-Chair Andriola asked, since some folks playing by the rules are being impacted by others, is there messaging or a phone number for reporting unpermitted vendors.

Mr. Fyda noted that EHS is working to develop a mobile application intended for use by food truck operators that will also allow for real-time reporting of unpermitted vendors. The tool is intended to improve the timeliness of identifying and tracking unpermitted operations, as current complaints are often received after vendors have left the area. He indicated the application is in the final stages of development and that a public rollout and press release are planned to promote its use within the community.

Vice-Chair Andriola asked about the timeframe of the app.

Mr. Fyda indicated that the app is in the troubleshooting phase and is looking at a potential fall or winter rollout.

Vice-Chair Andriola provided additional information regarding a recently adopted Washoe County ordinance authorizing the District Attorney and law enforcement to access and address certain occupied properties where ownership is unclear or where parcels have been taken over without authorization. She explained that the ordinance was intended to address enforcement gaps related to abandoned or unclaimed properties and noted potential health and safety concerns associated with large, unauthorized encampments on such parcels, particularly in the Sun Valley area. She further stated that EHS and other health-related agencies may be involved in responding to impacts associated with these sites and in coordinating with other county departments and law enforcement as implementation of the ordinance moves forward.

Mr. Fyda responded that EHS is willing to support and coordinate with Washoe County and other partner agencies in addressing the issues discussed. He stated that the division routinely responds to

complaints and is prepared to collaborate to align resources and support enforcement and public health efforts as appropriate.

Mr. Brown thanked Mr. Fyda and staff for the great work in commercial plan and development reviews in May and over the entire year.

D. Population Health – Epidemiology, Statistics and Informatics, Public Health Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services, Vital Statistics, Sexual Health Investigations and Outreach, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention.

Nancy Diao reported that the preparedness team conducted multiple exercises during the late spring and early summer, including support for planning and coordination with local hospitals for the Reno-Tahoe Airport exercise on May 13, a functional hazardous materials exercise on May 27 focusing on response operations for a cyanide spill, and an internal tabletop exercise on June 4. The June exercise evaluated the department's ability to maintain mission-essential functions during a simulated ransomware cyberattack affecting critical systems and requiring activation of continuity of operations plans. Many staff members participated in a newly established national disease intervention certification examination held in April, administered and certified by the National Board of Public Health Examiners. She noted they achieved certification through the inaugural administration of the exam, being the first group nationally to be certified in disease intervention. Staff was also involved in the development of the exam and study materials associated with it. The epi team continues to monitor travelers from the DRC, South Sudan, and Uganda for confirmed cases of the Ebola Bundibugyo virus.

Vice-Chair Andriola expressed congratulations to staff for their certifications, and being the first in the nation to become certified and suggested getting the message out about this achievement.

Mr. Driscoll asked about media information regarding the accomplishment.

Ms. Dixon noted that the Comms Team will be working on the messaging.

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 Outreach.

Erin Dixon acknowledged the breadth of information contained in the ODHO report, including updates from the communications, administration, and outreach teams. She expressed appreciation to administrative staff for their efforts in completing fiscal year-end activities and noted the increased workload associated with the July 1 transition period. She also thanked staff in advance for their cooperation and flexibility during an upcoming office remodel, noting that improvements will include facility updates such as carpet replacement.

Vice-Chair Andriola noted appreciation for the Media Mention inclusion in the ODHO Staff Report, as she finds them helpful.

11. Public Comment.

Having no requests for public comment, the public comment period was closed.

12. Board Comment.

Vice-Chair Andriola provided recognition of NNPH staff for participation in a working group convened to review and update Washoe County equine ordinances, which have not been comprehensively revised in over 20 years. The working group included legislative representatives and other stakeholder organizations and was intended to identify areas potentially outside current county jurisdiction that could be considered for administrative, regulatory, or legislative action. She noted that the meeting facilitated improved understanding among agencies regarding respective roles and activities and indicated that follow-up coordination with NNPH representatives is planned to further discuss information generated through the working group process.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.