

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley,
MS
Director

**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

 **NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**



Cody Phinney,
MPH
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,
Ph.D., M.D.
Chief Medical
Officer

**MEETING MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
December 1, 2023
9:00 am**

MEETING LOCATIONS:

This meeting was held in two physical locations as well as virtually via Microsoft Teams and by phone.

Physical Meeting Locations:

Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD)
Red Rock Trail Rooms A and B
280 S. Decatur Boulevard
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
Hearing Room No. 303, 3rd Floor.
4150 Technology Way; Carson City, Nevada 89706

Online Meetings Link:

[Click here to join the meeting.](#)

Phone Number:

+1-775-321-6111
Phone Conference ID Number: 810 627 039#

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Dr. Jon Pennell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Jon Pennell, DVM, Chair
Dr. Jeffrey Murawsky, MD, Vice Chair
Dr. Monica Ponce, DSS
Charles Smith
Nate Carwright

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DPBH) STAFF PRESENT:

Cody Phinney, Administrator, DPBH; Kelli Knutzon, Executive Assistant, DPBH; Dr. Ihsan Azzam, Chief Medical Officer, DPBH; Bill Gorman, Administrative Assistant III, DPBH; Pierron Tackes, Deputy Attorney

General, DPBH; Brooke Maylath, Health Facility Inspector, DPBH; Andria Cordovez Mulet, Executive Assistant, SNHD; Sherry Stevens, Administrative Assistant IV, DCFS; Dawn Cribb, Public Information Officer, DPBH; Janice Hadlock- Burnett, Bureau Chief, DPBH; Erin Dixon, Deputy District Health Officer, NNPH; Teresa Hayes, Health Program Manager, DPBH; Joseph Filippi, Management Analyst II, DHHS; Tedd McDonald, MD; Jon Pennell, DVM, Chair; Kevin Dick, District Health Officer, NNPH; Lauara Lisk; Alex Tanchek; Linda Anderson; Daniel Griffith; Peter Taillac; Kayla Villegas, Administrative Assistant III, DPBH; Bobbie Sullivan, EMS Program Manager, DPBH, Kevin Haywood, EMS Representative II, DPBH; Nicki Aaker, Director, Health and Human Services; Brian Heward, IT Technician IV, DPBH; Dr. Tedd McDonald, Central Nevada Health District.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Roll call was taken, member attendance reflected above. The Board of Health had a quorum.

Dr. Jon Pennell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

2. ACTION ITEM: Review and Approval of meeting minutes from September 1, 2023.

Dr. Murawsky asked if there were any additions or corrections to the September 1, 2023, meeting minutes.

There was no public comment for the September 1, 2023, meeting minutes.

MOTION: Dr. Monica Ponce

SECOND: Dr. Murawsky

PASSED: Unanimously

3. Quarterly County and District Health Reports

a. Carson City Health and Human Services – Dr. Colleen Lyons, Health Officer and Nicki Aaker, Director

Nicki Aaker, Director of Carson City Health and Human Services gave an overview presentation of their quarterly report. Ms. Aaker explains that Carson City Health and Human Services has their opioid needs assessment drafted and it is currently under review by Mercer. The assessment and request will go to the Board of Supervisors at the beginning of 2024.

Nicki expressed her gratitude for the non-categorical funding that was provided to Carson City Health and Human Services. And that their department has a meeting coming up to discuss and decide where that money will be used.

Nicki moves on to the next item in her report and explains that Carson City Health and Human Services is currently hiring positions under the Public Health Workforce Infrastructure funding. Nicki is excited to announce that their department is doing interviews in the coming weeks for the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division Manager, which has been vacant for eight years due to lack of funding. Nicki continues to explain that her new administrative assistant started on September 1, 2023, and they are in the process of checking references for their Public Health Communications Specialist. Nicki Aaker drew the attention of the Board to the completion of the standards for Food and Drug Administration's retail standardization which was finished by the two inspectors that work in Douglas County but are part of the Carson City Health and Human Services Department.

Additionally, Nicki explained that Carson City Health and Human Services is continuing to work on a strategic plan that addresses some of the highest needs of their community, these reports go to their Health Policy Board for review. Ms. Aaker asked the board if they had any questions.

The Board had no questions for Nicki Aaker at this time.

b. Northern Nevada Health District - Kevin Dick, District Health Officer

Kevin Dick, District Health Officer, began by explaining the Northern Nevada Health District Board met to discuss the annual strategic planning, Kevin says that there are currently a lot of questions and uncertainties as far as funding goes. However, they do have the Fiscal Year twenty- five funding for the Public Health Improvement Fund, which is 2.4 million dollars which will be used based on priority by their District Board of Health. It is planned to be split between a two-year period, 1.2 million dollars will go into

Fiscal Year 25, and the other 1.2 million dollars will go in the Fiscal Year 26 fund. Kevin explains that this funding will be an ongoing process, as far as working with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, along with the Governor's Office to see if this can become a source of long-term funding.

Mr. Kevin Dick says that he included a link in this report, to their COVID-19 response documentary that the Northern Nevada Health District produced. Mr. Dick said this his department is very busy, because they are in the middle of submitting their reaccreditation documentation, they are hoping to get that paperwork fully assembled by their deadline of December 2023.

Mr. Dick explains that the Northern Nevada Health District saw an increase of COVID cases throughout the summer months of 2023, but began to see the decrease in November, an increase of RSV and flu cases but nothing like previous years. Mr. Dick explains the numbers of individuals that have been vaccinated since the month of September 2023.

c. Southern Nevada Health District – Dr. Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer

Dr. Fermin Leguen, Health Officer for Southern Nevada Health District, provided an overview of his written report beginning with the loss of funds regarding the federal grants they receive from the COVID pandemic. Dr. Leguen explains that they have created a working group within their organization to prepare for this since more than 100 of their positions will no longer be paid as of June 2024. Dr. Leguen goes on to explain that Clark County is working hard to emphasize the value in getting vaccinated, as more people have become diagnosed with M Pox than they have been seeing previously. Dr. Leguen makes the Board aware of an investigation that the Clark County Environmental Health team has been working on, a local supplement manufacturer had ingredients, such as lead, that were found to be harmful to pregnant women and children. This manufacturer has had their permit suspended and is having to comply with certain conditions before they are allowed to reopen their business. Dr. Leguen proudly explains that his team has been doing a vast amount of work in the field, helping community members. Something they did recently was a community celebration for International Overdose Awareness Day, which was on August 31, 2023. He explains that it was a nice experience for survivors and loved ones to come and share their stories and hear from people who have gone through the same thing.

d. Central Nevada Health District - Dr. Tedd McDonald

Dr. Tedd McDonald introduced himself and began to give an overview of his report. Dr. McDonald explains that Central Nevada Health District has been seeing the same respiratory illnesses as Washoe County, they have had 3 reported COVID deaths, two in the local hospitals and one outside of the hospital. Dr. McDonald explains that his team is planning on going out into the field and assessing the needs of the counties to determine what needs to be done by the Central Nevada Health District.

e. State of Nevada – Dr. Ihsan Azzam

Dr. Ihsan Azzam, Chief Medical Officer for the State of Nevada, opens his report with the statement that respiratory infection season is in circulation, with cases of COVID-19, RSV, and the Flu spiking during the holiday months. However, he says that this is the first season that vaccines are available for all three of these respiratory viruses. Dr. Azzam explains ways to stay safe and effective during this season. In relation to this, he explains that M Pox rates are slowing down, and that this virus seems to be endemic in the United States, and the Northern Hemisphere. Dr. Azzam closes with an update on congenital syphilis. He says that 20 years ago, it was almost eliminated in the United States, but in the last 5 years, cases have shot up by 74%. He explains that other sexually transmitted infections are also on the rise.

There were no further verbal health office reports.

4. ACTION ITEM: Consent agenda for approval

a. Discussion and possible approval of Variance #754 Wendover Ambulance regarding (NAC) 450B.384, and NAC 450B.461(2)(a)(b) Practice beyond scope of certificate prohibited; exception. (NRS 450B.120, 450B.180) The holder of a certificate issued pursuant to NAC 450B.360 shall not practice beyond the scope of the certificate unless authorized by the health authority which issued the certificate – Bobbie Sullivan, Emergency Medical Services Representative II, Emergency Medical Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health b.

Dr. Murawsky opened the floor for public comment.

Lauara Lisk, from Wendover Ambulance, explains that she is available for any questions that anyone may have.

b. Discussion and possible approval of Variance #755 Sierra Radio pharmacy regarding (NAC) 459.1955 Preparation for decommissioning: Plan for financing; financial assurance; records, sections 459.1955(1) and (9) - John Follette, Manager, Radiation Control Program, DPBH

Dr. Murawsky asked for a motion to approve or deny items A and B.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Jon Pennell

SECOND: Dr. Monica Ponce

PASSED: Unanimously

5. ACTION ITEM: Discussion and possible approval of proposed 2024 meeting schedule – *Jon Pennell, Chair*

a. March 1, 2024

b. June 7, 2024

c. September 6, 2024

d. December 6, 2024

MOTION TO APPROVE: Dr. Jon Pennell

SECOND: Mr. Charles Smith

PASSED: Unanimously

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Report to the State Board of Health on the Environmental Commission – Charles Smith, State Board of Health Member

Mr. Charles Smith, who is giving a report on the Environmental Commission, gave a brief overview of his report and expressed his gratitude to the Bureau of Air Pollution and Control Air Quality for monitoring mining and material processing operations throughout the State of Nevada. In a recent meeting that was had, the Bureau goes over many of the violations, and most of the operators were present to answer questions and were able to fairly explain and understand what they had to do in order to make the proper corrections.

7. ACTION ITEM: Recommendations for future agenda items – *State Board of Health Members*

None heard.

8. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting.

None Heard.

9. ADJOURNMENT – *Jon Pennell, Chair*

Chair Pennell adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.