



## **Washoe County District Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

### **Members**

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

**Thursday, July 27, 2023  
1:00 p.m.**

**Washoe County Health District  
Commission Chambers, Building A  
1001 East Ninth Street  
Reno, NV**

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### **1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.**

Chair, Kristopher Dahir called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.  
The following members and staff were present:

Members present: Kristopher Dahir  
Michael Brown  
Mariluz Garcia  
Dr. Reka Danko  
Dr. John Novak  
Dr. John Klacking (via zoom)

Members absent: Devon Reese

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

Staff present: Kevin Dick, District Health Officer  
Amber English  
Jack Zenteno  
Joelle Gutman-Dodson  
Francisco Vega  
Lisa Lottritz  
Robert Fyda  
Dr. Nancy Diao

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Dr. Novak led the pledge to the flag.

### **3. Approval of Agenda.**

July 27, 2023

**Mike Brown moved to approve the agenda for the July 27, 2023, District Board of Health regular meeting. Dr. John Novak seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.**

#### 4. **Recognitions.**

##### Years of Service

- i. Katherine Sullivan, 5 years, hired July 9, 2018 – EPHP Vital Statistics
- ii. Will Lumpkin, 15 years, hired July 21, 2008 – EHS

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, acknowledged and congratulated Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Lumpkin for their years of service.

##### New Hires

- i. Ana Richeson, July 3, 2023, Public Health Investigator II – CCHS
- ii. Karla Aguirre Camargo, July 17, 2023, Bilingual Office Specialist – CCHS
- iii. Steffanie Rangel, July 17, 2023, Human Services Support Specialist I – CCHS WIC

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, invited Lisa Lottritz to introduce CCHS staff.

Ms. Lottritz introduced Ms. Richeson, Ms. Aguirre Camargo, and Ms. Rangel and briefly shared their background and experience; and welcomed them to the Division.

Chair Dahir welcomed all new staff member and bid them a long and fruitful career with the Health District.

##### Promotions

- i. Amy Santos from OSS to Appraisal Support Specialist at Assessor’s Office effective July 3, 2023 – EHS
- ii. Manuel Coronado, from OAIL to Family Support Specialist at District Attorney’s Office effective July 3, 2023 – CCHS
- iii. Nennette Cano, from Admin. Secretary to Administrative Assistant II at Human Services Agency effective July 17, 2023 – AQM
- iv. Jacqueline Lawson, from Admin. Secretary to Program Assistant at Animal Services effective July 17, 2023 - EPHP

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, acknowledged and congratulated Ms. Santos, Mr. Coronado, Ms. Cano, and Ms. Lawson on their promotions and briefly shared their destinations and new positions.

##### Resignations

- i. Erick Lamun, Env. Health Specialist effective July 14, 2023 – EHS
- ii. Ashley Humes, Public Health Investigator I effective June 16, 2023 – CCHS

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, acknowledged the resignations of Mr. Lamun and Ms. Humes. He added that Mr. Lamun was fairly new when the COVID-19 epidemic began and acknowledged his contributions to the COVID-19 testing operations.

##### Washoe County Health Heroes

- i. Yeraldin Deavila – ODHO
- ii. Kellisa Shirane – honorable mention

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, acknowledged and thanked Ms. Deavila for being fully recognized as Health Heroes for adaptability and collaboration.

Chair briefly recognized Kellisa Shirane as an honorable mention to a Health Hero award.

### Chair Recognition Award

i. Joelle Gutman-Dodson – Outstanding Performance

Mr. Dick invited Ms. Gutman-Dodson to accept a special recognition.

Chair Dahir explained the Board intends to recognize remarkable work and added that the work at the legislation was particularly noted. He commended Ms. Gutman-Dodson for her hard work and how well she represented the Health District. He concluded by expressing gratitude for Ms. Gutman-Dodson's involvement and hard work.

Chair Dahir continued to present her with the Chair's Award – for Outstanding Performance on Behalf of the Washoe County Health District.

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, thanked Ms. Gutman-Dodson for her efforts and highlighted that the work was exhausting, but noted Ms. Gutman-Dodson came out on top with the SB118 Legislation.

Ms. Gutman-Dodson thanked the Board for the recognition and affirmed the work that was put into some of the bills that were presented.

**5. Public Comment.**

**Chair Dahir opened the public comment period.**

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

**6. 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. June 22, 2023.

**B. Budget Amendments/Interlocal Agreement.**

- i. Approve the Grant Agreement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the amount of \$100,962.00 retroactive to July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 for the Air Quality Management, EPA Inflation Reduction Act - CAA Special Purpose Activities, IO# TBD and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Agreement and any future amendments.  
Staff Representative: Francisco Vega and Kristen Palmer
- ii. Approve a Notice of Subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public & Behavioral Health retroactive to July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 in the total amount of \$1,500,000 (no required match) in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) COVID-19 Immunization and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward and any future amendments.  
Staff Representative: Irene Dominguez & Lisa Lottritz
- iii. Approve a Notice of subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public & Behavioral Health retroactive to July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 in the total amount of \$446,547 (no required match) in support of the community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Immunization Program and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subaward

and any future amendments.

Staff Representative: Irene Dominguez & Lisa Lottritz

- iv. Approve the Agreement between Washoe County Health District 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 July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 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 and future amendments.

Staff Representative: Irene Dominguez and Lisa Lottritz

**C. Recommendation for the Board to Uphold Citations Not Appealed to the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board.**

**Staff Representative: Francisco Vega**

- i. Mittera Group, Case No. 1406, NOV-AQMV23-0007 & AQMV23-0008

**D. Recommendation for the Board to Uphold the decision of the Sewage, Wastewater & Sanitation Haring Board.**

- i. Eric Scheetz, Case#H23-00023VARI, 16780 Dry Creek Road, Parcel # 047-032-34

- E. Acknowledge receipt of the Health Fund Financial Review for June, Fiscal Year 2023.

Staff Representative: Kristen Palmer

**John Novak, DMD approved the consent agenda. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motions which was approved unanimously.**

**7. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority.**

**A. Recommendation to accept the REMSA Health Operations Report for June of 2023 which includes REMSA Accounts Receivables Summary, Compliance by Zones, Average Response Times, Incident Details Reporting, Penalty Fund Reconciliation, Ground Ambulance Operations Report, and the Patient Experience Report and provide possible Board direction.**

Presented by: Barry Duplantis

Adam Heinz, Chief Operating Officer appeared for Barry Duplantis, REMSA Health CEO and President, opened his item by sharing that 63% of the fees charged for transportation services is going back to REMSA Health's employees. He continued to share that they decided to utilize the funds from the fees charged for transportation services to invest in the team members' behavioral wellness. He added that over the past month and a half, REMSA Health increased their budget spent on employee behavioral health by 80%; REMSA Health has increased accessibility and diversity of those programs. Mr. Heinz reported on a list of programs that have been implemented at REMSA Health to address behavioral health including a recent partnership with a Nevada Peer Support that includes an embedded a mental health clinician. Mr. Heinz reiterated that this partnership is an addition to the existing relationship with Heidi Martin, an ex-employee of REMSA Health. Mr. Heinz made note that relevancy is key when connecting with someone that is providing support to team members that need help. Mr. Heinz reported that REMSA Health is working with their health insurance provider to form relationships with trusted behavioral health clinicians for team

members to use. Mr. Heinz concluded by sharing plans to include spiritual leaders and creating more benefits toward physical health as well as implementing virtual tools.

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

Chair Dahir asked if Mr. Heinz had updates on employment upticks.

Mr. Heinz reported that shift lines are an all-time high and added that some of the implemented strategies include recruiting individuals nationwide, providing scholarship opportunities through the penalty fund, the recent investment in behavioral health, and the increase in pay scales. Mr. Heinz opined that these strategies are leading REMSA Health in the right direction.

Commissioner Garcia commended Mr. Heinz on their efforts to focus on mental health services for staff especially after the most recent tragic incident.

**Commissioner Garcia moved to accept REMSA Health’s Operations Report for June 2023. Michael D. Brown seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

**B. Update of REMSA Health’s Public Relations during June 2023.**

Presented by: Alexia Jobson

Alexia Jobson, Director of Public Relations for REMSA Health opened this item by sharing recent updates.

Ms. Jobson shared that REMSA Health accommodated media requests to speak about heat related subject matter including Mr. Heinz provide a live on-air interview with National Fox Weather Service.

Ms. Jobson added that REMSA Health had invited and hosted guests from the Nevada Women’s Fund for a tour of the REMSA Health campus. Ms. Jobson concluded by reporting that Mr. Heinz participated as a panelist on a national webinar hosted by the Academy of International Mobile Healthcare Integration.

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

Chair Dahir encouraged Ms. Jobson to visit the cities and county meetings.

Ms. Jobson stated they would get on the agenda in the upcoming months.

**8. Recommendation for re-appointment to the Food Protection Hearing Advisory Board as a committee member. Staff recommends: The re-appointment of Ms. Lanaii Elkins for a three-year term retroactively beginning on July 1, 2023, and concluding on June 30, 2026; Applicants include: Mark Gregory.**

Staff Representative: Amber English

Ms. English began her presentation by reporting that Ms. Lannaii Elkins was appointed to a one-year term last year and the term expired June 30, 2023. Ms. English added that an additional application was received for appointment to the Food Protection Hearing Board.

Ms. English noted that Ms. Elkins has not had an opportunity to serve on the Board since her appointment, as hearings had not been scheduled. Ms. English reiterated that staff’s recommendation was based on Ms. Elkins’ experience in the food and beverage industry at local resort and casinos as wells as the associated outdoor events.

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

Chair Dahir reminded the Board about their previous agreement regarding opening to the various Boards within the Health District and explained that in this instance Ms. Elkins was appointed for a short-length and he opined Ms. Elkins should have the opportunity to serve.

**Commissioner Garcia moved to reappoint Lanaii Elkins for a three-year term to the Food Protection Hearing Advisory Board to conclude on June 30, 2026. John Novak, DMD seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

9. **Recommendation to approve the new Korn Ferry Wage Range for both the District Health Officer w/o MD and the District Health Officer with MD classifications. The wage range for the District Health Officer w/o MD will be a Grade 22, \$88.79 - \$124.31, and the wage range for the District Health Officer with MD will be a Grade 23, \$99.44 - \$139.22. The approval of these wage ranges will keep the District Health Officer positions in alignment with other County Unclassified Management positions who were granted wage range adjustments by the Board of County Commissioners on February 14, 2023.**

Staff Representative: Jack Zenteno and Laurie Griffey

Chair Dahir provided a preamble for this item by stating that this extensive process began at the County level and the District Board of Health is simply agreeing and stamping the large process.

Jack Zenteno, Administrative Health Services Officer began his presentation by briefing the Board on the nature of the item that was heard regarding the Korn Ferry wage range for the District Health Officer position with or without a medical doctor degree.

Mr. Zenteno reported that the intent of Korn Ferry was to restructure and streamline the classification and compensation program and improve alignment around both market competition and best practices. He concluded by reporting that the change in wages align with the pay range of similar positions within the County.

Mr. Zenteno opened the item for question from the Board.

Chair Dahir opined that the Health District needed to stay competitive in nature if and when the need to recruit a new Health Office would arise.

**Michael D. Brown moved to approve the new Korn Ferry Wage Range for both the District Health Office w/o MD and the District Health Officer with MD classifications. Dr. Klacking seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.**

10. **Review of bills that passed the 2023 legislative session that impacted the Washoe County Health District.**

Staff Representative: Joelle Gutman-Dodson

Ms. Gutman-Dodson provided a brief informal update of the legislative session.

She began by thanking Chair Dahir and reiterated that her work takes team effort and input.

She continued by reporting on AB53, which increased penalties in the violation structure for underage sales of tobacco products. SB92, which sets forth requirements for licensing and regulations of street food and merchandise vendors. This bill created a task force for a safe sidewalk vending group. This task force is tasked with reviewing existing laws and recommending new approaches to improve laws. Ms. Gutman-Dodson shared the specifics of the Task Force structure and reported that she will be meeting with the cities to discuss the

specifics of this bill. She highlighted the importance of discussing this topic due to an incident that had gotten physical as staff was attempting to regulate street food vending.

Chair Dahir stated that one of his concerns was the overreach of legislation regarding this bill and their business on the topic. He continued to opine that if education is not made available than legislators will step in and come up with answers without the input of those affected. Ms. Gutman-Dodson indicated the implications of this bill are still unfolding and the impact on street food vendors is yet to be defined.

Ms. Gutman Dodson highlighted, SB118, which allocates 15 million dollars to DPBH to be allocated to the 3 Health Districts in the State and DPBH and reported the funds will be available FY25. SB232, which requires the State Plan for Medicaid to include coverage for post-partum care services for 12 months. SB172, which authorizes minors to give express consent to healthcare providers for certain services including prevention of STIs and pregnancy. She added that with this bill the Health District can provide prevention of STIs to minors not just treatment. SB439, which requires State and local agencies to develop policies to provide uninterrupted services to individuals diagnosed with HIV. SB441, which eliminated Health Districts requirements in certain counties that were adopted during the COVID pandemic regarding cleaning inspections in resorts, hotels, and casinos.

Ms. Gutman-Dodson reported that AB168 was not passed. This bill revised provisions related to Fetal Infant Mortality Review Board. Another bill that did not move forward was SB361, which revised provisions related to solid waste and sought to exclude a type of waste termed “advance recycling”.

Ms. Gutman-Dodson opened her item for questions from the Board.

Chair Dahir encouraged the Board to begin thinking of topics of concern to bring to the next session.

Ms. Gutman-Dodson reiterated they would be focused on sustainable funding.

## 11. Staff Reports and Program Updates.

**A. Air Quality Management** – Air Quality Management - CASAC Provides Final Review of EPA’s Policy Assessment for the Ozone Standard, Senate Bill Would Revise NAAQS Reviews and Implementation, EPA Announces \$7 billion for Residential Solar Grants, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

Staff Representative: Francisco Vega

Mr. Vega opened his item by highlighting recent updates. He reported that his division continues to update the Board on what is going on with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. He added that the Science Advisory Committee recommended that the Ozone Standard be strengthened to between 55 or 60 ppb from 70ppb. Mr. Vega highlighted the efforts to bring a Senate bill that would revise NAAQS reviews and implementation.

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

**B. Community and Clinical Health Services** - Client Satisfaction Survey Results; 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 began her presentation by highlighting some parts of her report. Ms. Lottritz reported that the Immunization Program is gearing up for back-to-school events including the Family Health Festival. She added that the clinic began offering HIV PrEP in June and the demand is increasing daily.

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

**C. Environmental Health Services (EHS):** Program Activities; Consumer Protection (Food/Food Safety, Commercial Development, Permitted Facilities); Environmental Protection (Land Development, Safe Drinking Water, Vector-Borne Diseases, Waste Management / Underground Storage Tanks); and Inspections.

Staff Representative: Robert Fyda

Mr. Fyda opened the item by highlighting some things from his report. Mr. Fyda reported that the Hazmat Team responded to a mercury spill at the library with the assistance of the US EPA. He continued to highlight the Vector Program and reported they did their mosquito larviciding flight on July 17 and took the opportunity to thank staff for their tremendous effort. Mr. Fyda concluded by reporting that his division is seeing increased aggression against staff from unpermitted vendors and the public.

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

Dr. Novak asked how many areas the Vector Program had treated.

Mr. Fyda responded that it had been close to a 1,000-acres.

Chair Dahir asked if the helicopter had been used.

Mr. Fyda affirmed.

Chair Dahir asked if using the drones was still being explored.

Mr. Fyda affirmed and continued to state that the topic would be brought forth to the Board, as there are FAA rules that need to be ironed out.

Deputy District Attorney, Dania Reid, reported that the FAA rules required determining the appropriate entity for licensing based on the statutes and case law.

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

Staff Representative: Dr. Nancy Diao

Dr. Diao began her presentation by highlighting recent updates. She reported that outbreaks continue to drop down. Dr. Diao reported on Epi newsletters reporting that the most current newsletter focusses on water-borne diseases.

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

Dr. Novak asked if there had been any seasonal increases in different diseases in nursing homes.

Dr. Diao reported that one of the declared outbreaks was in a skilled-nursing facility. However, she added that flu remains low.



Chair Dahir asked if there was a vaccine for RSV.

Dr. Diao reported that it is currently under consideration.

**E. District Health Officer Report** - Health District Communications Update, COVID-19 Communications Update, Name Change, Health Equity, Family Health Festival, Regionalization Discussions, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), National Association of County and City Officials (NACCHO) Conference, and Public Communications and Outreach.

Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

Health Officer, Kevin Dick, opened his item by highlighting a few things in his report. He continued to report that they are continuing to support Mr. Oxarart's efforts on the name change and planning to launch on August 31. Mr. Dick reminded the Board about the Family Health Festival that would be held at Hug High School on July 29. He continued to report on PFAS and stated that TMWA collected a sample that was analyzed, and it came back with levels much lower than the original sample collected from UNR. Mr. Dick clarified that the Health District does not regulate drinking water wells as far as water quality, but the Health District does permit their design and installation.

Mr. Dick reported on the NACCHO conference that was held in Denver, Colorado and mentioned that he participated in presenting on the Foundational Public Health Services Workforce Capacity Assessment project and opined it was well received. Mr. Dick thanked Dr. Novak on his recommendation for firms that may be well suited to perform the clinical assessment at CCHS.

Mr. Dick thanked Dr. Danko for joining staff at their Health Heroes luncheon and Chair Dahir for attending the Employee Barbeque and the Bill Signing in Fallon. Additionally, he shared some photos from the events.

Chair Dahir encouraged the Board to attend the events in an effort to connect with staff.

**12. Board Comment.**

Dr. Novak thanked Mr. Dick and Ms Dixon for reaching out to the firms he recommended and confirmed the companies were vetted ahead of time. He opined on the importance of having an outside entity conduct the review and looking at the community to assess whether programs should be expanded or if there were services that we didn't need to provide.

Having no further comments from the Board, Chair Dahir closed this item.

**Adjournment.**

**Chair Dahir adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.**

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**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. 9<sup>th</sup> 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@washoecounty.gov](mailto:svaldespin@washoecounty.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:

Washoe County Health District Website <https://www.washoecounty.gov/health>

State of Nevada Website: <https://notice.nv.gov>

**Under an emergency directive issued by Governor Sisolak on March 22, 2020, and extended by a subsequent directive issued on July 31, 2020, the physical location requirement has been suspended.**

**How to Get Copies of Agenda and Support Materials:** Supporting materials are available to the public at the Washoe County Health District located at 1001 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, in Reno, Nevada. Ms. Susy Valdespin, Recording Secretary to the District Board of Health is the person designated by the Washoe County District Board of Health to respond to requests for supporting materials. Ms. Valdespin is located at the Washoe County Health District and may be reached by telephone at (775) 328-2415 or by email at [svaldespin@washoecounty.gov](mailto:svaldespin@washoecounty.gov). Supporting materials are also available at the Washoe County Health District Website <https://www.washoecounty.gov/health> pursuant to the requirements of NRS 241.020.