

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406

January 27, 2021

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the County Board of Health was called to order at 9:00 AM on January 27, 2021, which was conducted in-person and via Zoom meeting.

PRESENT onald, Chairman, via Zoom
 H. Peter Olsen, Jr.
 Justin Heath, via Zoom
 Gregory Koenig
 t Attorney Joseph Sanford
 s Director Shannon Ernst
 of the Board Pamela D. Moore
 tion Officer Anne McMillin

ABSENT: Sheriff Richard Hickox
 County Manager Jim R. Barbee

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the board and public.

Public Comment:

Chairman McDonald asked if there was any public comment but there was none. Dr. McDonald welcomed our two newest members, Dr. Justin Heath and Dr. Greg Koenig. He said one of the things I have noticed in this process is that one of the reasons why Churchill County is so successful is not only because of the efforts of County Manager Barbee, Social Services Director Ernst, and our emergency response team but also because the County Board of Health has stepped up and provided leadership directing us where to go, what to do, and what is right for this community. The leadership is the part that makes it work for us as far as having that drive. It is wonderful to have the resources and the people capable of being able to take that vision and make it happen. That is why Churchill County is one of the leaders in our response to the COVID-19 epidemic this year. Again, welcome to the board and I really appreciate you folks for being here and congratulations on your recent elections. There was no further comment.

Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:

It was verified by Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk of the Board, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 21st day of January, 2021, between the hours of 12:00 and 4:00 PM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241 and the Governor's Emergency Declaration related to posting during the Pandemic.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Agenda as submitted or revised:

Commissioner H. Peter Olsen, Jr. made a motion to approve the Amended Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Gregory Koenig seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on:

A- November 25, 2020.

The Minutes of the meeting held on November 25, 2020 are submitted for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Commissioner H. Peter Olsen, Jr. made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on November 25, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Justin Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Update on COVID-19 related activities, to include but not limited to, State of Nevada criteria and county closures, surveillance testing, and CARES Act funding.

The Churchill County Leadership Team will provide an update on COVID-19 related activities, to include but not limited to, State of Nevada criteria and county closures, surveillance testing, and CARES Act funding.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Social Services Director Shannon Ernst said I would like to provide you with an overview from the beginning to where we are today. We started doing testing on May 7, 2020 and, up until January 22, 2021, we have provided 10,088 tests to Churchill County. This is something where we went through ups and downs where we had 100-150 per day down to about 20 people per day now. When we started down-ticking and our positivity starts to reduce, we do see less people coming to the test site and we look at reducing these tests from 5 days per week. We are preparing a schedule for February. Our goal now is to look at how to combine our testing along with providing the vaccines. Our drive-through test site does take about 17 people to open it up to ensure that we have proper staffing to meet the needs as people come in. It is taking us 32 people to open up the vaccine site. That includes nursing staff, traffic control, etc. We are developing the strategies to launch next week where, if you come in and want to get a vaccine, we have a line for that or, if you want a test, we have a separate line, or if you want to get both, we have nurses that can provide both of those things.

Originally, we thought we would be providing testing through the summer months but, as we moved through this process, we found that the need was still there based on the reduced availability for testing across the state, so we have continued to do that. We have never limited our test site to just Churchill County residents based on the lack of availability in other rural counties around us. We have even seen people come from Washoe County at times. We do not want to stop testing as we are the only one providing asymptomatic testing in the community but we want to look at ways to reduce it and be more effective and efficient in the future.

One of the biggest hurdles we have had with the vaccine is that Churchill County was not a provider. We had to go through the process to become a provider to give us access to our own PIN, which allows us to order our own vaccine. We have a great relationship with the State of Nevada and our Community Health Nurse. In the beginning of administering the vaccine, we determined it was best for Churchill County to develop the strategies to get the vaccine out and to manage the staffing. We do all of it, except for control the actual vaccine. When I ordered vaccine previously, I was ordering under the state's PIN and we had to have a Community Health Nurse present to provide the vaccine. I want to say that, as of last night, our PIN was activated. This is very exciting because the Churchill County Health Department now has its own PIN and we are able to make our own orders. We are in the process of assisting the Community Health Nurse to complete her backlog of data for the vaccine into WebIZ, which gives us the proper reconciliation so that all of the vaccines that are held by the Churchill County Community Health Nurse can be transferred to the Churchill County Health Department. It is not just a quick matter of now having the PIN and getting the vaccine now. We hope that, by this Friday, we can have all of that data put into WebIZ on their behalf so that we can make that transfer.

We have approximately 400 vaccines on hand. The reason we have these on hand is based on the orders received today and we have our second doses on hand for this week. One of the things with Moderna is that, when we complete an order, they have to be done in lots of 100. If I order 61 second doses, I do not get 61 doses but actually receive 100 doses. This has worked to our benefit because, previously, we were getting 100% of our orders, so when I would order 500, the 500 would come in. Across the State of Nevada, we have seen a reduction in vaccine for the last week and I was just informed prior to coming to this meeting that we will be reduced for next week and for the upcoming few weeks. The reason is lack of access for the State of Nevada to obtain vaccine. Last night, I ordered 1,600 vaccines and I was informed that I will receive only 200 for all of Churchill County. What that means is that we have to share this 200 with Banner Churchill Community Hospital, requiring us to come up with strategies to ensure they have enough for the appointments they can fill and how many we need so that we can open up our pod. Again, we did receive some extras and tomorrow we will get 61 second doses, so I will have the additional 39 that I can put out into the community. As we develop these strategies to keep going, it does take me 32 staff members to open up a drive-through, so we want to make sure it is efficient and effective and we have enough doses to cover the individuals driving in.

Since we started the vaccine process, we have put out just under 1,000 doses from Churchill County, which does not include Banner's numbers. We were not supposed to start providing vaccines by Churchill County until the first week in January but we were activated one week

early, which was very exciting because we were able to start this process. We started with what was required by the State of Nevada to do it by invitation only. This meant that they told us who was eligible within categories and we had to email out invitations to individuals to come to those pods, verify that they were eligible, and provide them with their first dose and then schedule their second dose 25-36 days later. If it was Pfizer, it was a different timeline. We have been fortunate in that we have not received any Pfizer vaccine but the challenge was with storing and administering the Pfizer vaccine. We are happy to have received Moderna vaccines and we have received confirmation that we will only receive Moderna vaccine unless another product, such as Johnson & Johnson, does get approved and we would then receive that. The invitation process has been challenging and did slow us down. We held those in a private location at the City County Gym on Venturacci Lane. We made sure to have plenty of people on staff to manage in case people showed up who were not eligible because it was so restrictive. At this point, we have provided vaccines for two weeks now through the drive-through site. This means we have left what was previously Tier 1 and is now called Lane 1.1 and we have gone to Lane 1.1 all the way through and have started Lane 2, which is the general population and we are in the 70+ population. We are conducting those vaccines through the drive-through location. We had approximately 480 people, although I do not have confirmation from the Community Health Nurse on the exact number, who have come through that drive-through site. We have learned that traffic is always going to be an issue, such as having people showing up early and trying to manage that, so we are developing alternative plans for different sites to manage this better in the future.

This week, we had planned to conduct a drive-through pod on Thursday but, with the weather challenges and the weather alerts that came up yesterday, we have cancelled that. We have also cancelled any COVID testing at the drive-through site. The reason is that, when you have a large amount of snowfall and the population we are trying to serve is the 70+ age group, we want to recognize the challenges with driving in these conditions and the extremely cold temperatures that our staffing would have to endure, so we are developing alternative plans for the future. That gives you an idea of how we have progressed from our testing to now administering the vaccine.

We continue to hold weekly pod calls with the State of Nevada, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and Immunize Nevada to discuss the challenges and determine where we will go next. It is very upsetting to say that we were planning this week to go into Lane 1.2, which is more of our essential workers and frontline staffing at state offices and that sort, but we are not going to be able to do that based on the allocations we have. Secondly, we will not be able to go into our Lane 2.2, which would be the 64-69 year age group. Banner is working very closely with Churchill County to make sure that we release at the same time to ensure a coordinated effort for our community and we assist each other with the vaccine. They are staying in the same lanes that we are in and we are not releasing further. We were notified that Walgreen's has been activated by the Board of Pharmacy for our community. This has caused challenges to getting the vaccine. What happens is that, when the vaccine comes to the State of Nevada, there is an allocation taken off the top to all pharmacies across the whole state. That is removed and then all second doses are removed from the allocation and what is left is then given to us based on a percentage. It is not the fact that somebody in another community is squawking more to get

vaccine but is based on a percentage base of the population that we are serving and the population we have covered. This morning I expressed my concerns and disappointment with the low allocations that prevent us from moving on to cover these people or to get more vaccine to go to the next population. It is very challenging but we are working on this daily. We will continue to work with Banner and we have asked Walgreen's to come to the table to recognize the challenges and determine ways we can coordinate a very efficient and effective manner to deal with this. With Walgreen's activated, you can schedule an appointment with them and they are serving the 70+ age group only at this time. We are working out a system where, if they have any vaccines left over at the end of the day, they contact a representative from Banner or Churchill County so that individuals on the wait list could then be contacted to access that vaccine before it expires.

Moderna is more flexible than Pfizer but, as with any vaccine, there is a challenge associated with it. Each vial holds approximately 10 doses. We have found that, with some vials, you are able to pull 1-2 extra doses from it, so we want to make sure that we use every dose that we are able to access. With Moderna, a lot contains 10 vials, which is 100 doses. What will transpire today is we have 61 individuals coming for their second dose but that means we have to open 7 vials, so we will make sure that we have 9+ people on a wait list so that we can call them and get them down there before the vial expires in 6 hours from being tapped. This has been a strategy to ensure that we do not waste one dose. I am happy to say that, up to this point, Churchill County has not wasted one dose. We have made sure that we got every dose into an arm that day under the requirements. We will continue to do these wait lists based on the populations that are eligible to receive the vaccine and individuals who maybe missed their second dose, which we are starting to see. People are scheduled to come in today for their second dose and we are finding that sometimes they cannot make it or they do not show up, so we make sure we have a wait list to receive their first dose and then we try to bump and get someone in for the second dose as soon as possible. It is a challenge due to the timeframe. We are hearing from the CDC that later is better than not receiving the second dose. We are working around that. That is where we are today with testing and vaccinations.

We are currently working on our CLIA waivers. Our rapid test machine has arrived. It is being safe-guarded and we have supplies for it but now the state has to certify us for use of that machine. We are working through that process and, hopefully, that happens quickly. When that transpires, we will come to the board to work out the policies for use of that machine. Current policy is that we are accessing rapid tests at the Tribal Clinic and the Community Health Nurse only for our emergency responders or frontline essential staff that we have to get back to work because of the limited amount we have. With the new machine being here, we will come up with processes. It is costly but we will try to get that out to more individuals in our community because there is no other rapid machine available here.

The State of Nevada has provided us with treasury dollars, which are different forms of funding that have come in, including CARES Act funds that came directly to the state or other allocations. As we move forward with developing our Health Department and truly implementing it, we have received funding and 100% of our Health Department staff is funded until November 2022. We have added in all of our lab expenses for the construction of our lab

and the state is providing the equipment for our lab. We have so many different challenges at the Fairgrounds with our testing and vaccination and we need to move locations, so they have provided us with the funding to complete that move. I was contacted last night asking if we needed additional funds or if we wanted to extend funds because they have received funding that could support us until July 2023. I will be working with different officials to make sure we put in a new revised budget to them this week.

I will be coming before the Board of County Commissioners in the next couple of weeks because the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) received funding from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to push out to counties. Previously, they were completed through an application base to their advisory committee. The last round of funding that came out has been allocated directly to the counties. With the CDBG process, we publish public notices for individuals to apply, we set the priorities, and then the Board of County Commissioners decide which grants we want to push up to the Governor's Office on Economic Development (GOED) to decide how that funding happens. This round of funding was very different. I received an award via email yesterday for \$91,000. When I reached out to the Governor's Office regarding this, they told me that we have the option to opt out and send the money back or hold the two public hearings and decide our priorities and then fund them immediately once the board decides where they would like that funding to go. I will be bringing that forward to the Board of County Commissioners to prioritize that and go into depth on the CDBG process and then determine where that funding goes. The next round of funding will be in April. Our goal is to launch that on the county side, set the priorities for round 3 of the COVID funding of CDBG funds, and then make an application to the state. That will not be direct funding to us but will go through their advisory committee. We are looking at how to make sure that the Civic Center is 100% ready if we need to activate it in an emergency response.

Commissioner Olsen said it sounds to me as if the process has changed on CDBG and then also the restrictions about how the money can be used? Ms. Ernst said, with the CDBG funding, 51% of funds have to be benefitting a low to moderate income (LMI) population, it has to be for slum or blight reduction, or address an urgent need. That has always been the case with CDBG but, during the Pandemic, these funds are all falling under urgent need. They have received three rounds of funding so far from the HUD CARES Act funding and that is what is flowing to us now. This all changed yesterday, so I will provide a full overview of this funding, our process, and our timelines to the Board of County Commissioners within the next two weeks.

Commissioner Olsen said, for background to our new members, in the past we have been very successful at getting these funds every year when they come up but, during the last 3-4 years, they kind of changed how they wanted it to be done and it included an economic development push. We were denied, denied, denied almost because of our success in the past or that is what it felt like. Even when we put forward things that we felt were economic development driven, we were squashed. This is a nice change, although it is not very much money. We have received more funding in the past but something is better than nothing. Ms. Ernst said previously, when they changed it for economic development, you had to benefit 51% of low to moderate income (LMI) in job creation. When we did the matrix, we could not provide that and, when you looked at the administrative burden for CDBG in some of these projects, we were going to have to monitor them on a county level up to 20 years. Administratively, to receive \$200,000 and no

administrative costs to do this, it did not pencil out, so we found alternative funding for our projects. When we looked at these CARES Act funds, it was very different because it must meet an urgent need, so we qualify for a lot more. With the funding that is available, if we can piece it out in the different sections, I think we could be successful. To give you an idea, for round 3, I will propose for one of our applications is to make sure that we have an upgraded HVAC system and a backup generator for the Civic Center. If we needed to activate an emergency response to use that building if we were still in the Pandemic and we needed to use it for testing or as a medical facility, we would then have everything necessary to do so.

This gives you an idea of where we are at with COVID. As of today, we have had a total of 1,798 positive cases since we started in March 2020. We have 304 active cases and have had a total of 48 deaths. As of last night, those are our numbers. We are staffed where we have an Epidemiologist, a Community Health Nurse, one full-time Administrative Assistant, and we have closed applications for two additional Administrative Assistants for the Health Department. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time but there were none. This item was presented for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

Reports/Notification of Items Received:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Update from community partners related to COVID-19 and services related to Board of Health Strategies.

Community partners will provide reports regarding updated efforts related to COVID-19.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Social Services Director Ernst said, for our new members, I would like to give an overview of the purpose of this item. Previously, it was to highlight our Board of Health priorities and what our partners are doing to help strengthen those priorities for the Board of Health. We receive marijuana tax dollars directly allocated to Churchill County. Our previous board designated those dollars to support the priorities that the Board of Health established from the community's perspective to support programming to increase our services within Churchill County. Additionally, when the Pandemic hit, we have used this as a time for our partners to highlight what they are doing in support of COVID-19 activities and it helped us align different services and supports to our different partners. I would like to start off this morning to highlight four of our partners that we have funded with our marijuana tax dollars. Each one will provide you with their quarterly update report for who they have served, the funding that they have expended, and then we can have a discussion. We will then move on to our COVID-19 updates and what the community partners are doing at this time.

The **Churchill Community Coalition** was funded to provide not only the Too Good for Drugs Program but also mental health supports and outreach. Tammie Shemenski said I want to start off with our Mental Health Wellness Community Mural Campaign that we are funded for. We are very grateful for those funds. Our Outreach Coordinator, Kadie Zeller, is currently working

to secure a location for a community mural. We are looking for an outdoor location on a side of a building for a mural to address mental health wellness. We are ready to move forward with the campaign as soon as we get a location. We are working with Juvenile Probation to use the inside lobby to start one of these murals and then will push this campaign out to the community and get the community involved in mental health wellness.

We have secured a location for a Karma Box, which is located in front of the Churchill Economic Development Authority (CEDA) building. The Karma Box founder, Grant Denton, did a big video demonstration that is out on the Karma Box Project's Facebook page to help us get awareness for that. Grant Denton added the Churchill Karma Box to their statewide website, which allows community members to locate boxes. He visited last Saturday and did a video production. That video is up on our Facebook page and our website. We are also working with Dr. Summer Stephens with the Churchill County School District to establish one Karma Box at each school. That is still in the works and we thank her for working with us on this project. Dr. Stephens is also working with Kadie and the Trade Teacher, Ted Ott, to have the students help build these Karma Boxes that will be placed in front of the schools. Karma Boxes are for people in need who can go to the box and take out what they need. Anybody in the community can leave items in the boxes, such as canned goods, coats, etc. Our first box is located in front of CEDA, so a family could make it a family project to add items to help our community. We were also nominated, as part of the Karma Box Program, for the 2020 Outstanding Business Innovation Award with the Chamber. We are very proud of that. That is, in full or in part, because of this Karma Box Project and our Too Good for Drugs Program.

With regard to the Too Good for Drugs and Mindfulness Program, we are currently in the schools, after school programs, and doing different youth programs. We have reached a total of 438 students combined in those schools and programs. The number of students currently enrolled in the CCSD online program is 380. Each school has a Google classroom for their class, which students can sign into to do the program activities. There are 227 kids in the elementary grades, 42 in 6th grade, 30 in 7th grade, and 44 in high school. We have seen a great jump in participation this second quarter, so we are really excited about that. We brought forward an incentive program, which is helping when the students complete 3 Too Good for Drug lessons, which provide tools on how to deal with different situations, including Mindfulness to help ground these students when they are feeling strong emotions and they learn how to deal with the behavior. The Hero Club helped us reach 36 youth from grades 1-5 with lessons 1, 2, and 3. We have also included 22 Boy Scouts in grades 4-9 and 4 adults via Zoom where they learned the dangers of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, vaping, and abuse of prescription drugs. We are touching a lot of different students and programs in different ways.

Traditionally, the youth take the pre-program survey at the beginning of each semester and then take a post-survey at the end of the semester. Under COVID conditions, we are extending through the second semester because students are starting at different times, so they will take the pre-survey and post-survey and we will have those results for you by July 2021.

Today, I have one of our Resource Liaisons, Brandi Ceden, here with me. She has gone into the classroom at the Hero Club to talk with those students. Another exciting thing is that we are

going to be getting into the CARE Program also and be able to interact with the students face-to-face, following all COVID restrictions, of course. Brandi is here to talk with you about how these programs are reaching our students and giving them the tools that they need to handle different things as they go through the COVID-19 Pandemic. Brandi Cedeno said, when we went into the Hero Club, I have seen these kids interact with each other using the Mindfulness tools if they are upset with each other or if they are upset, which helps them calm their minds or to get a break from one another or to express how they are feeling from the lessons they were taught from the Too Good for Drugs Program. Some of the lessons have taught them to express their feelings in certain ways if they are upset and why they are upset. They are also able to state what they want them to do. I see the kids using this with their friends and their families. We have practiced this in the classroom. Their favorite exercise is what we call the singing bowl where we ding the side of a bowl and go around and it makes a singing sound to help with listening. They like to do that because it is easier. We are also hoping to see an increase this next semester because each class will have an individual classroom for teachers. We will add the teachers so that they can see what their students are learning and how they are learning it. This will help them to see if any students are not participating and push them to participate.

Ms. Shemenski said our numbers jumped dramatically because we had a total of 88 students in the first semester and the total year to date is 508. The program is reaching the students. We are super excited and very grateful. I wanted to thank the county for the funding that they provide for all of those programs. Without that funding, we would not be able to provide these services. I want to really thank Dr. Summer Stephens and the Churchill County School District for pushing this program in the classrooms. Without their support, we would not be reaching the students that we are reaching. We are seeing some really good results with the students and what they are learning.

Lana Robards, with **New Frontier Treatment Center**, said Brittany Frew is our counselor that handles the projects that we have been funded for. The first one is the adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Program at Juvenile Probation and the Middle School. We have a Youth Anger Management Group here at New Frontier and a Youth Club Skills Building Group. Currently, we are in the Fallon Youth Club and I wish Brittany was here today to give you the update but she at the Fallon Youth Club today. She has done this program with a total of 195 kids aged 0-17. The Youth Anger Management Program has continued to operate here all the way through the Pandemic and we have fairly good attendance with that. We just recently got back into the Fallon Youth Club and we worked with Lalo Otuafi this month to develop a schedule and projects moving forward that bring not only the substance abuse prevention program but also other services like family counseling into the Juvenile Probation Office. We are really moving forward on that. COVID, as you might imagine, took a giant bite out of our ability to continue to do the forward progress with the schools and those kinds of things. Obviously, we are hoping that moving forward, by watching what is happening in the county, that it is a positive sign that things are going to start moving forward. Brittany has also started a Peer Mentoring Group and Life Coaching Program, which is being done at the Fallon Youth Club to start. It is something that we have not kicked off in full yet but we are hoping that, when the schools are able to take us again, that we would be able to bring that into the schools. To date, we have not billed anything against the funds we were gifted but we will be in the future.

With regard to COVID, I want to thank Shannon Ernst and the whole team. I cannot imagine the heavy lift of coordinating the testing and vaccinations. New Frontier was included in Tier 1 based on the recommendation of the state, which focused on our residential programming and our CCBHC (Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic). We had an inspection through the State Department of Health and Human Services and the Infection Control Investigators came to review our policies for COVID. They offered some suggestions. We did well in most respects but we had to designate two bedrooms as quarantine rooms. Once we accomplished all of that and incorporated the state's recommendations for our written policies on infection control, particularly related to COVID, we got a clean bill of health. The other thing that happened recently is that the state has given us 200 Abbott Binaxnow Test Kits and have updated our CLIA Certificate through HCQC to allow us to administer those tests. I currently have four staff members who are certified to do that. This will offer another layer of safety, although it is not the end-all-be-all because you do not know in the 5 days previous to a client coming in whether they had been in contact with someone who had COVID but it offers a little bit more comfort in the ability to test. My biggest fear throughout all of this has been that having a 28 bed residential unit and detox drop in center made us at risk of having the entire unit infected. As we know, it runs pretty quickly through facilities like ours. We are very lucky that this has not happened and I believe a lot of it was due to the diligence of my team here and I give them the credit for everything that has been going on. Our procedures and safety protocols are still in place and we are operating business as usual. We are seeing more clients in the buildings, which has been an on again off again. As you know, we had the 6 positive cases and we did lose one of our staff to COVID, which made us a little bit more cautious, not that we were not careful before but it just really gives you that slap that says this is real and this is deadly and we all have to take this very seriously. I thank Shannon Ernst for guiding us through some of this process.

Ms. Ernst said we provide two funding agreements to the school district. One is for our Mental Health Counseling Project in partnership with UNR and the Why You Matter Project. Dr. Summer Stephens, from the **Churchill County School District**, thanked the board for this opportunity and said she is grateful that the county has been able to support them in the journey of growing and shifting at the district over the last couple of years. The first project is related to a partnership with the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) and their counseling department with an opportunity that we started, which has continued to grow and then COVID happened so it had a little bit of a pause. Now, the students at UNR are back from their break, so we expect to ramp up with that program. The project we have is a coordination with the folks seeking a Masters Degree in counseling and mental health therapy. There are interns who come out to work with students at the Middle School and High School. They coordinate with Dr. Kenneth Coll, who is their direct supervisor and clinician. They work with the district's counselors, as well. One of the things the district has been working hard on is to work together to bring external partners in more with levels of comfort, which was not a practice that was done before but we know there are a lot of positive benefits to using our external partnerships. UNR is just one of those partners, as is New Frontier and so on. For this school year, we are awaiting the first bill for them being able to regroup and gather. In the past, the student interns came out to Fallon and worked with students at the school sites. When COVID hit and we went into closure, we were able to shift our focus a bit and shift the work and work with parents and then those counseling

interns were able to work with students in their home environment with parental support, which is great. The counseling that students receive is coordinated with the building's school counselors. The update for this year is that the district had one student that they were working with UNR interns. They have had 5 sessions so far. After Dr. Coll met with our counselors and principals in mid-December, we worked on a better flow chart for levels of responsibility and communication so that everyone had a comfort level of how that was working. They have then received an additional 10 students for them to continue to pursue and work with out of the Downing Center at UNR until we can get them back over here for the drive and then those numbers will tick up. The other item that they want to support us with includes support groups out of the Downing Center for high school students related to COVID but they are also very interested in us providing a support group related to COVID for our staff with these funds. The community has been great and I know those things exist but this is one more step with this process. Our staff needs a lot of support too. I think that sounds like a really awesome opportunity. That is the UNR partnership and, as Lana said, we will be kicking up the spending of our funds pretty significantly now that our numbers are starting to decrease and UNR is allowing a bit more. When you are working with multiple partners, you have to work within everybody's constraints related to that. Ms. Ernst reported for the board that the UNR partnership with the school district was very exciting. It was a pilot program to highlight in rural areas ways to provide access to counseling and mental health services, especially for our youth. Here in Churchill County, we lack providers of mental health, so we were hitting walls all the time and having to go into Reno or Carson, so this was a way to link students to mental health services until they received access directly in the community. I want to commend everyone because this was a shot in the dark to see how it would work and it has been successful.

With regard to the **Why You Matter Campaign**, Dr. Stephens reported for Jamie Shafer that this is the campaign with the photographs of people from the community. They also brought in Mike Smith to support kids and families in seeing the world, making your way, and being part of your life and what can happen. Jamie has shared that Part 2 of the work started a little slow due to COVID but they are moving forward. They are now moving into flags and they have 1,000 flags that they have produced. About 400 flags and markers will be distributed to classrooms at the High School and E. C. Best Elementary School in the coming weeks. Carol Lloyd, with the Library, has been working with Jamie on the project to distribute flags and markers through the Library so that those things get out into the community. I am not certain of all of the elements of the flags but I assume there is some component of decorating and designing them. The work on this campaign is continuing and they are hoping to distribute 2,500 flags for creation across the community. A cool part of this is that 5 teachers and community members are the ones who are helping with the sewing of the flags. Jamie has also worked with Lucy Carnahan with the Chamber of Commerce about displaying the flags in the windows of local businesses. Lucy will bring that up at the next Chamber meeting. They have 20 flags created so far through the High School art students and there are some additional students through the National Honor Society that she is tapping to create flags, as well as our new Middle School art teacher who has agreed to participate in the project. They will be working on additional photographing of Middle School students because they did not have that as a component last year. It was community-wide and High School based. She will continue working on distribution of the flags, as well. She will continue to spread the Why You Matter Campaign. As a side note, I recently took a class with

someone in Reno and he is a professional photographer who moved to Reno from New York City and he was really interested in that campaign, so I am going to connect Jamie with him so that we can spread this campaign even further. We had some visitors from Colorado last year who took back the idea to their school. I think we are spreading the really good vibes and good approaches that we are doing here in the county, so thank you.

Dr. Stephens reported, with regard to COVID, that we have determined at this point, because of the extended pauses, that we will complete second semester as we did with first semester with our full-time online option and our students who are coming in-person for either a morning or afternoon session. We feel we have worked out a lot of bugs in the system and we are rolling now. We are anxious to look at our data but we are seeing some really good results. Obviously, learning loss was a great concern to everyone in the community but we saw some really great growth throughout the fall semester for the students both in person and online. Again, I am really proud of our community for being able to support students going to school every day, even if it is a shorter amount of time, because it has been fantastic. Again, a continued shout out to the Coalition and all of our child care providers. We had a group working on this aspect over the summer to make big strides in ensuring that kids were safe and well cared for. A shout out to our food service provider for their continued support of kids with breakfast and lunch for the whole county. If you are not aware, our current waiver with the federal food program allows all students, birth (able to eat solid foods) to 18 in our community to receive breakfast and lunch meals at one of the sites, regardless of whether they attend a school in the Churchill County School District. That is a really good thing.

To date, we have had 1,752 students who have been excluded. Some of those are repeaters for primary exposure or symptoms. We also have made changes based on the CDC and Division of Public and Behavioral Health recommendations to the length of exclusion from 14 days to 10 days for primary exposure. That has been positive to get students or staff back in school. To date, we have had 93 students who tested positive for COVID. I still maintain that we have not seen spread amongst students or staff. We had one staff member who may have spread but we didn't pinpoint that specifically. We are really proud of that because it means that the mitigation efforts that we are doing are working. Most of our exposures, when we have exclusions, have come from somebody being exposed outside of the home. In terms of staff members, we have had 33 who tested positive. Again, that is challenging because our substitute teacher numbers are down but we feel like we have been able to stay the course. We have had an extreme reduction in positive cases in the last few days, so we are extremely pleased with that.

I want to express appreciation to the county for their work with the vaccinations for our staff and substitute teachers who desired to get the vaccination. We had what I believe to be one of the best roll outs of a drive-through clinic and I can tell you that other Superintendents in the state have not seen that level of it working so smoothly. I attribute that to the amount of testing that we have done and that model. I want the County Board of Health to know that I am extremely proud of the work that everybody has done related to that. I was taken aback when Shannon reported on the vaccinations. Of course, we will cross our fingers that when we get to our allotment for our second doses for everybody that they will be available. I know that our team is doing their best to make that happen.

Stephanie Utz added that she keeps track of all of the students who are excluded for primary contact and we have seen zero spread of in-school students. We had one primary contact who came back positive but that was a fully remote kid. Of all of the kids that we have been excluding for primary contact in the school setting, we have had no spread at all at school. Dr. Stephens said we appreciate everybody's support during this school year.

Dr. McDonald said I have been going through some of the CDC stuff that is coming out and there are intimations by them that they are looking at increasing the access to schools because of the very things that you are talking about as far as low spread rates within the schools. Who monitors that for you and what is the turn around? How long does it normally take something like that to affect the school district here? Dr. Stephens said Stephanie may be able to speak to that more directly. Stephanie Utz said the turn around in changes does not seem to be especially speedy. When the CDC made the change, it was close to 3-4 weeks before we received confirmation of the change and for us to make the change. I contacted them once or twice a week to remind them and it did take a little time to make that change. I monitor the CDC and COVID research on a daily basis. I try to put aside time every day to keep up on that. We knew about the CDC change before the state said anything, so I contacted them the day that the update came out for switching from 14 to 10 days. There is red tape involved with changes. Now that we will have a Health Department in Churchill County, the counties that have a Health Department are considered the Medical Authority. I do not know how close we are to that where we can take our direction from our County Health Department but I think that would definitely improve the turn around time on changes as recommended by the CDC. Dr. Stephens added that I am really interested to know more about that, as well. I can tell you that, out of the different Health Districts that represent the different schools, they have different answers. When we think about NIAA sports, one of the challenges has been 1) trying to get to a space that at the state level the Health Departments will budget but then what we are finding is that, when they send out guidance through the NIAA of upcoming sports, like volleyball, the three different regions have three different sets of rules related to the exclusions and different things. They are not all on the same page, which is causing a little difficulty. Definitely, I have been really happy that Stephanie keeps pressing with them. I know they are just as busy and no one has ever done this before really who is alive today to coordinate these efforts, so I know everyone is learning. Hopefully, we will get continued better coordination at the state level so that we can move forward. We have not been given any changes at this point in terms of allowing us to change our reopening plan with the physical distancing and that sort of thing as well, besides the exclusions.

Ms. Ernst said, to provide feedback, when we look at becoming a Health Department, the authority still stays with the state. It is not until we become a Health District that that authority will change. We will have to try to make changes through the Legislature this year because we need changes to the NRS to work with the population bases that we are looking at including. To give you an idea, it will be a couple of years but we will be working through that process. Our goal is to have that done by 2022.

Rob Carnahan, CEO with **Banner Churchill Community Hospital**, said I am going to focus my report just for COVID. Laser focus is going on right now with COVID. Our volumes here at

Banner Churchill have been near or at capacity since the beginning of November. There was a time over Thanksgiving into the beginning part of December where we had some of our highest peak volumes. In the State of Nevada, Banner Churchill has been one of the highest capacity hospitals over the past 2-3 months. We have been lucky here recently that we have been able to transfer some patients out to the Reno/Sparks/Carson market, especially some of those more critical patients. I attend a Nevada Hospital Association meeting once or twice a week and all of the CEOs, especially those in the northern part of the state, give a report out and I get to hear what everybody else is doing. We have been at capacity for the longest period of time. That, obviously, starts wearing on the team and staff and everything that goes along with patients being hospitalized. Today, that continues. Our ICU is at 100% capacity right now. Our med surge telemetry unit is at 82%, so we have some capacity there. Our labor and delivery department has been hopping recently, although I do not know if that is because of the start of the pandemic but that is starting to increase, as well.

Since the start of the Pandemic, we have tested 4,356 patients since March 2020. Like Shannon stated already, we are working very closely with the county when we go to those next lanes. We are doing a great job and I want to give a shout-out to both Shannon and Jim Barbee for making sure they are connected with us. We try to stay connected with the number of vaccines, what we are doing, staying in those lanes, and we have also offered Jim and Shannon to participate in our hospital incident command meetings that we have. It is great to see county representation there and we give it back, as well. It is amazing the coordination and collegiality that we are having together. As Shannon said, we are trying to help out as much as we can. Since we cannot have huge pods, we have been scheduling those people who want vaccines for people who are 70+. We have had to pause because of the limited vaccine that we are getting. We are about 2.5 to 3 weeks out as far as scheduling, so we want to make sure that we have enough vaccines to cover the people who want them now. We do not want to get into a place where we are turning away people or running out of vaccine, so we are putting a pause on that for now.

It is interesting because I see that Dr. Justin Heath is on call at the hospital here but a little shout-out to him because he was the first in Banner Health to receive the vaccine. I know he was the first in northern Nevada but I believe he might have even been the first in the State of Nevada, so that is great company to be in. We appreciate Dr. Heath for offering himself up and volunteering to be one of the first to receive the vaccine.

Staffing has been pretty good, although we have had to reach out and cast a net to get some additional contract labor but we are doing pretty well with staffing. Again, we are really focusing on resilience with our team. When you are in an ICU and you are taking care of 2-3 patients and have to run from room to room and some of those patients are on ventilators and whatnot, the staff have been picking up extra shifts and some of them are working 5-6 days a week just to make sure that we are able to take care of the community. We are doing our best to try to supplement with contract labor staff. Those have been hard to get, as well, just because the whole nation is vying for those same nurses, so it has been a little bit troublesome but we are holding our own.

We have surge plans in place and we are able to expand and contract as needed. One of the great

things is that we are a critical access hospital and are licensed for 25 beds but, right now with the Pandemic, we have been able to expand that and have been up to 36 patients here in the past 3 months a couple of times. The great thing about that is that we have not had to use a tent like other hospitals have had to do. That is because the hospital is built out for 40 beds total, so that is good and has enabled us to expand into those other rooms. We have had to double-up some patients, which is not always the best thing but we would rather have them inside the hospital than putting them out in tents. Right now we are holding our own there.

With regard to equipment, we are doing very well. With our ventilator capacity, we have enough right now. We are doing very well with our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). We still have visitor restrictions in place and we base that off of a 14-day positivity rate. Anytime we are above that 15% 14-day positivity rate, we cannot have visitors in the hospital. I know that is very frustrating and disappointing for the community to not be able to come in and visit their loved ones or if they come along to the clinic. It is sad but we just have to make sure that everybody stays safe. We are trying to save as many lives as possible.

Yesterday was a little bit interesting. I think we had our most EMS or ambulance calls probably in our history. We had 23 9-1-1 calls yesterday and we had 9 transports. I do not know how we did it but we did it. We supported the community, but it was just amazing to see our ambulance crew come together yesterday and take care of these patients.

Holly O'Toole, with **Western Nevada College**, said our in-person faculty and anyone engaging with students is on Tier 2 and have received their first vaccination if they desired to get it. So far, we have no transmission on campus. We are offering classes live, via Zoom, and online. Enrollment is still solid, although it is a very challenging time for almost any institution in higher ed.

Melissa Mackedon, with **Oasis Academy**, said I wanted to start by saying that I thought that the vaccine for school employees was incredibly organized, efficient, and not only that but everyone that I came into contact with was so friendly. Hats off to all 32+ people it takes to put that on because it was really incredibly well done. Currently, we have 38 people excluded. Over the course of the Pandemic, we have had 24 positive cases between staff and students here at the school. Obviously, we are continuing to operate under the Outbreak Response Plan with social distancing. Much like the school district, we are coming into our mid-year evaluations and we are seeing some really surprising growth under the circumstances, so we are really happy about that. We will be digging into that in great detail this Friday.

Lastly, we are working with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services for rapid testing within the school for students who become symptomatic while at school. Obviously, this will require parent permission. We have that going on and that is about it.

Chairman McDonald asked if there was any public comment but there was none. He asked if the board had any questions or feedback. Commissioner Heath asked how many vaccines Walgreen's has currently. Ms. Ernst replied that she received notification that they had received 200 vaccines this last week. I do not know how many they have on standby. The Manager of

Walgreen's is supposed to start joining our weekly pod calls so that we can receive that information on an ongoing basis and start coordinating with them. Commissioner Heath said do you think it will be about 200 a week that they will receive or will it be sporadic? Ms. Ernst said their supply is based off of a population percentage. If 36,000 come to the State of Nevada, first they cut a certain percentage off the very top for all pharmacies until they receive their federal allocation, then the 2nd doses get taken off, and then it comes out to the counties. I do not have the actual percentages but they are off the top for their supply, at this point. Commissioner Heath said does Walgreen's figure that out themselves or is that going to be the state that says how much we get out here? Ms. Ernst said that is the state who figures that. The state does the allocation when they receive their orders and they get their confirmation of the amount to be received on Wednesday mornings and then they can start providing those. The state tries to provide our confirmation to me no later than noon on Wednesday so we can start making our plans for the next week. Orders are coming in on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Commissioner Olsen said are those going to be adjusted on the fly? If Walgreen's is getting 200 and that is the percentage and they are not using all of them, will there be any adjustment back to put them in our hands because, if they give them to us, we are going to get them out? Ms. Ernst said there was no discussion that they would adjust and give them to us. Ali from Banner and myself were on a call this morning and asked them to let us know if they are not getting them out and let us pull people from our wait list and send them to Walgreen's. I do not think the percentage overall from the state to the pharmacies will change. My concern is it would be moved to another community. We are going to make sure that they get into arms from our wait list over to Walgreen's if need be. They receive a percentage off the top and then the Pharmacy Board decides where it is going within our state out to those pharmacies. Commissioner Olsen said have we had any contact at all with the local Walgreen's? Ms. Ernst said this was just confirmed yesterday and we had requested that the Manager attend our meeting, but they were not able to do so this morning. We just had the Pharmacy Board on the call this morning. They have noted that the Manager will be on our future calls. Also, they are trying to arrange a call with me this week so we can try to figure this out. Commissioner Heath said we do not want to see those vaccines pulled away to another community and then not have any here in Fallon. Commissioner Olsen said I would agree. We need to help Walgreen's get those vaccines done and I know that is what you will do. We need to help them manage their situation over there and maximize what they can do in the community, whatever that looks like. If they need staffing, is that a possibility for us to help them with? Ms. Ernst said they have appointments. The reason Walgreen's was chosen on behalf of the state to be activated first is because they have an online scheduling program and they are one of the only pharmacies that have that. That is why Walgreen's was chosen statewide to be one of the first ones. As part of this, if they said they have this many appointments, these are the days we are doing the vaccines, we will have our list between Banner and Churchill County to provide to them also so that, if they do not fill that number of vaccines, then we need to contact these other individuals and put them in those spots. That is our goal. This all came about on Monday night. Commissioner Olsen said I think what we should be tasked with is to go after Walgreen's and find out what the capacity of that scheduling is because, if it is not 200, mixed in with all of the other flu shots, shingles shots, and all of that stuff that they do, then we better find out what that scheduling capacity is and make accommodations in advance if we can to have these other on-call folks that we have that are still

in the queue and get them pushed over there on a non-scheduled basis in order to use up all of the vaccine that they are being allocated every week. My experience with the testing at CVS a couple of times was that it was 3 days ahead was the only time they opened the window up and you had to get on at 6:00 AM to get an appointment 3 days ahead. Their testing was faster than the state's testing, except that you were 3 days behind to start with because you couldn't get in the queue. I am fearful that that will be how they will restrict the number of how many they actually will do. I could be all wet here and I hope I am but we need to know ahead of time, so I would dig into that and find out. Ms. Ernst said we will do so and also do some testing of getting people scheduled and I will provide you with an email update by tomorrow.

Commissioner H. Peter Olsen, Jr. made a motion to approve second quarter agency funding reports as presented. Commissioner Gregory Koenig seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Dr. McDonald said one of the questions I have in this process, some of which is out of curiosity, is what are the percentages of people and organizations that are actually accepting the vaccinations? I am seeing that, in a lot of the rural areas, only 30-40% of people are accepting vaccinations when offered. Are there any numbers out there from Banner Churchill Community Hospital or from any of the other organizations that show how many people are accepting and declining? Ms. Ernst said I can only speak on behalf of our organization and, when we started doing our surveys to see who was going to accept it so that I could start looking at our population, we were at 10%. We had an uptick when we went into Lane 1.2 and we started seeing 40% and now we are seeing 60-70% as we move forward. I think it is getting better with education and I think people are seeing others receive it and nobody is growing a tail or a third eye and we are having more people come to the table and calling to ask if they can now get their vaccine. We are accommodating those people as they come back. Previously, we were told that, if you refused the vaccine when you became eligible, you would not get it until it went to the general public but that has been revised. If you were in Tier 1.1 and you denied it but come back now when we are in Tier 2, we can give that vaccination and we are doing so. There was no further discussion.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Review and approval of media approved and released in regarding to COVID-19 and other County Board of Health related priorities.

Provided to the board are all media releases for the period of November 18, 2020 to January 11, 2021 related to COVID-19 on behalf of the County Board of Health. The press releases have the county's logo on them and the web stories do not. The releases include the following:

- COVID Testing Dates Adjusted for Thanksgiving.
- County Increases Asymptomatic Test Days at Fairgrounds.
- Governor Sisolak Announces Additional Restrictions to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19.
- State Provides Update on Nevada's COVID-19 Vaccination Planning.
- Churchill County Offering Free Flu Shots on December 8.
- Churchill County Creates Satellite Health Lab.

- Churchill County Moves Ahead with Tier 2 Vaccinations

For current information on the number of cases, please go to the county's website: www.churchillcountynv.gov/covid-19. On this page, the county posts all COVID-19 related information, including releases, stories, test numbers, and health resources (links to CDC, NVHealthResponse websites, etc.).

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chairman McDonald asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Gregory Koenig made a motion to approve the submitted media releases on behalf of the Board of Health as related to COVID-19. Commissioner Justin Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consent Items:

There were no Consent items presented and Deputy Clerk Moore apologized because this section should have been removed from the Agenda as there were no items.

Consideration of Future Agenda Items:

There were no future Agenda items suggested.

Consider and schedule future meeting date and location:

The next meeting will be held on February 24, 2021, at 9:00 AM.

Public Comment:

Chairman McDonald asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Adjournment:

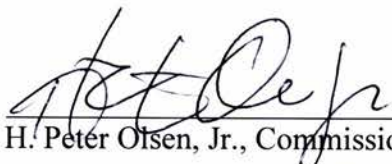
The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM.

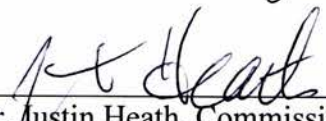
APPROVED: _____

Dr. Tedd McDonald, Chair

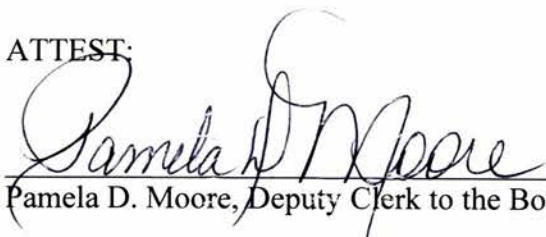
APPROVED: _____

Dr. Gregory Koenig, Commissioner

APPROVED: 
H. Peter Olsen, Jr., Commissioner

APPROVED: 
Dr. Justin Heath, Commissioner

APPROVED: 
Richard Hickox, Sheriff

ATTEST:

Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board