

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406

February 24, 2021

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the County Board of Health was called to order at 9:05 AM on February 24, 2021, which was conducted in-person and via Zoom meeting.

PRESENT:

Dr. Tedd McDonald, Chairman
Commissioner H. Peter Olsen, Jr.
Commissioner Justin Heath
Commissioner Gregory Koenig
County Manager Jim Barbee
Deputy District Attorney Joseph Sanford
Deputy Clerk of the Board Pamela D. Moore
Sheriff Richard Hickox
Social Services Director Shannon Ernst

ABSENT:

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.

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 18th day of February, 2021, between the hours of 8:00 and 10:00 AM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241 and the Governor's Emergency Declaration for 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 Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Justin Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

A- January 27, 2021.

The Minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2021 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 Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2021 as submitted. Commissioner Gregory Koenig 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, CARES Act funding, and a Contact Tracing and Quarantine Policy.

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, CARES Act funding, and a Contact Tracing and Quarantine Policy.

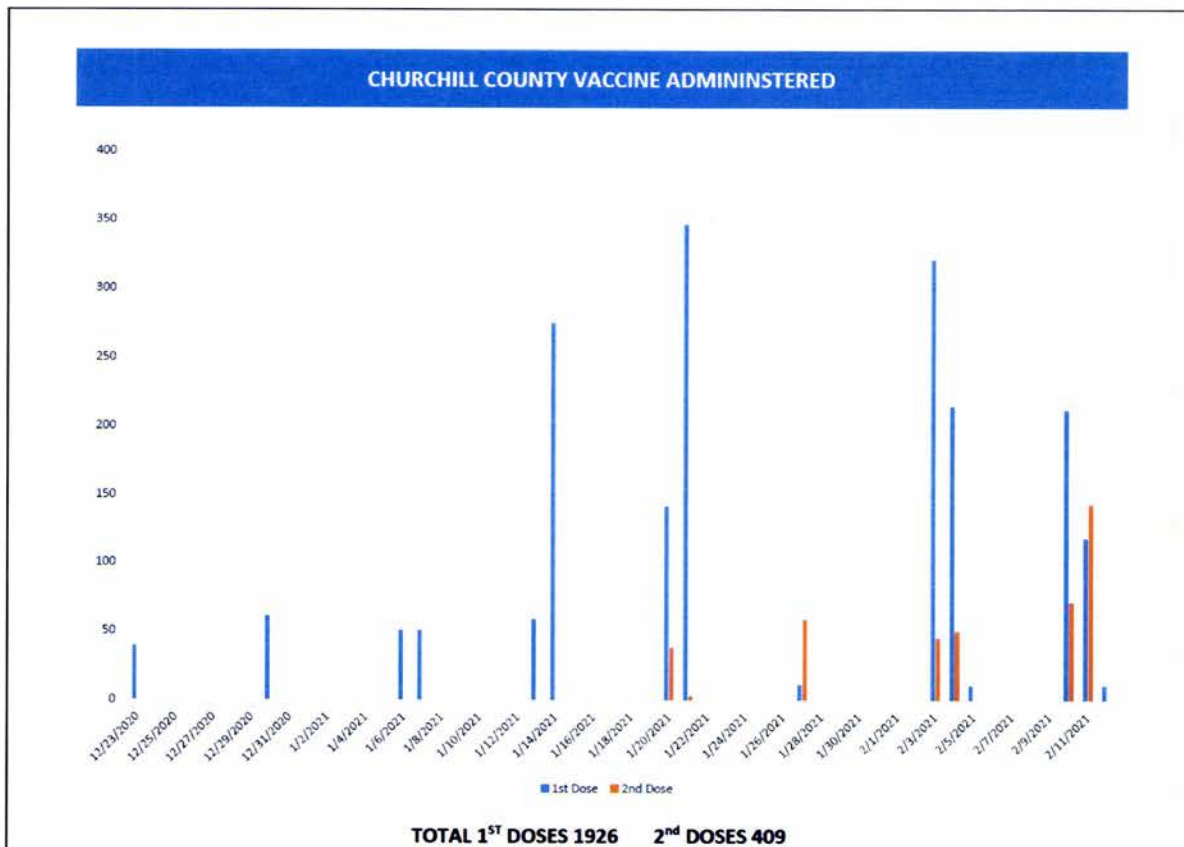
FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

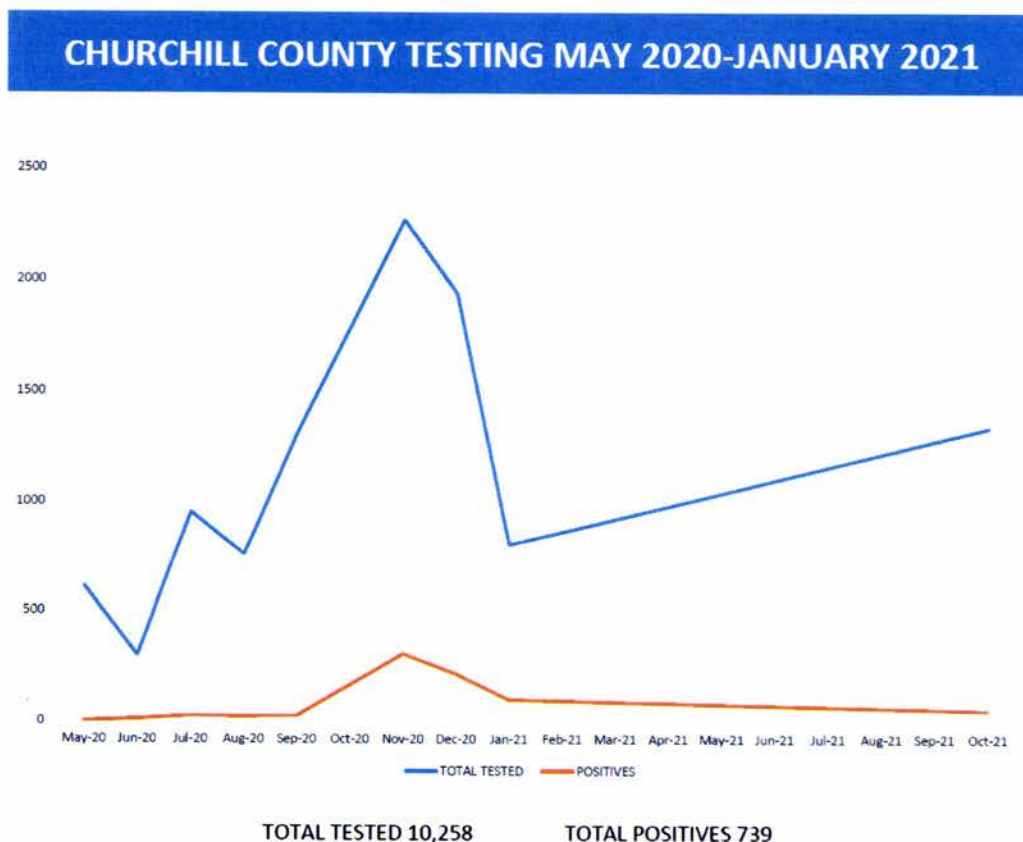
ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

County Manager Jim Barbee said Shannon Ernst will not be present today because she is on a much-deserved vacation. The following graph was displayed related to the testing that has been done:



As you can see, the upper blue line shows the total number of tests that have been conducted since May 2020 through the current date, although it is projected out further into the year. The accurate information would be through the February 2021 mark. We had a tremendous amount of testing in the beginning as we were trying to identify the positives that we had in the community. Below, you can see the positive line that correlates with the peaks that we had in November and December and then the ongoing decline that we have had steadily since then as we moved into the new year. That is reflected in the comments from the Governor on February 15th and the new version of Nevada's Roadmap to Recovery and Reopening Nevada as we move forward.

Over the last 2-3 weeks, we have been in the green code, which has been a nice change. The positivity rate we had this morning was 5.6% or somewhere in that realm, so that is under the 7%. Part of the reason that we will continue to have some level of positivity rate is simply because we are not seeing as many people testing because there is a much greater focus on the vaccination. However, with that said and with the reopening that the Governor is doing in terms of sports and some of the testing requirements in sports, I think we will see a little bit of an increase again on the total number of tests, which will then have a more positive impact on our positivity rate in that it will result in a drop in that rate. There are several sports being offered in the school system that will require the students to be tested weekly.



This is our vaccination graph. In the beginning, we were making pretty good strides. Obviously, in Tier 1, you can see from December 23rd there was a pretty level number of vaccinations we were offering as we worked through first responders, critical health care, and all of those kinds of folks. Then, as we began to open up to the 70 and above age group and then to the 65 and above group, that is where you see the large spikes that we have had. Obviously, the 28th was roughly when we had that storm that came through so we didn't have much vaccination but then we had a big surge the next week with those numbers continuing through to the 11th. Then, last week, we had limited dosages because of the storm on the east coast. I think we had roughly around 70 first shots that we were able to administer last week, which is much less in comparison to what we had been running previously. We did receive our vaccination order on Monday from last week and then the orders we put in for this week, so we will be in good shape to do the boosters that we were not able to do last week. Those will all be picked up today and then tomorrow we are running from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM for first shots. With the numbers that we were able to clear, in partnership with Banner Churchill Community Hospital, we have now been able to move to the 18-65 age group for those with health conditions. We have requirements that we have put out along with that.

Commissioner Olsen asked if we have any way for us to know when we are done with an age group. That was one of the problems with the 65 and up age group where they are trickling in and we are kind of tapping our foot and saying, "Hey, where are the people because we need to move on to the next group" but the state is telling us to hold on and that we can't move any faster. We have this tension that has resulted from that. How fast is fast? Mr. Barbee said we are still doing that dance and I am not sure I have a better clarifying answer for you, other than, to get through the last group, they kept referencing to get to move forward to 65 and older that we had to clear all of the appointments that were made in the county for the 70 and above age group. The pharmacy is totally removed from us, so the only real appointments that we had access to were with Banner and that is where we partnered with them to get those flushed to then open up to the next group. The way it has felt is, basically, on Wednesday mornings I am on one call and Shannon is on another call. On her call, they are talking about how the pod went the previous week. They ask if we had any shots left over. If folks from those groups are not showing up and getting the doses and there is no identifiable waiting list, then they seem to be fairly willing to move to the next lane. We are well ahead of counties that are around us, so we are definitely seeing individuals from counties around us that are coming in. Probably the largest thus far was definitely last week for folks we had to turn away because we no longer had shots. The largest percentage of those folks were from outside of our community for that 65 and above age group.

Commissioner Olsen said is there any indication that next week we might be able to go to food and ag workers? Mr. Barbee said we are able to do food and ag workers this week. Commissioner Olsen said he missed that in the email. Mr. Barbee said, if you go on the website, it talks about if you bring a letter from your employer that is agricultural based then you qualify to come in and get shots tomorrow. Commissioner Olsen said I read through that email and I did not see that. Rachel Dahl, from *The Fallon Post*, said it is in their newspaper, which was followed by a joke from Commissioner Olsen saying, "Who reads that?" He said I knew that we had talked about it, Jim, that it was possible but I missed that in the email. Mr. Barbee said we

moved both tiers - we moved to the 18-65 age group with health conditions and then the ag sector. Commissioner Olsen said it was very clear in the email that I saw that it was 18-64 but I didn't see the ag sector. Mr. Barbee said we can get you more information and perhaps put out another blurb out on social media after the meeting. Commissioner Olsen said I just feel like if I missed it, I can't be the only one who did. I will get to reading the newspaper sooner or later, I just haven't had the time yet. I cannot be alone in that department, either. Mr. Barbee said we can get this information out again and we will get the information to you, as well. That isn't until tomorrow, as we are just doing the booster shots today.

Dr. McDonald said is there a pre-emptive waiting list for folks that know that they want to have the vaccine but are outside of the groups that we are vaccinating for but they have requested vaccination and provided their contact information to be contacted when it is available? Mr. Barbee said there is a waiting list and that is one that we have been maintaining and giving notice when folks have come. We have quite a few of people who are used car salesmen that try to convince us in line that they should be up even though they aren't yet. There are always folks leaning forward in those next lanes that are there and ready to roll once we move into those lanes. We will definitely see some of that probably leaning over into industries. We are still seeing a lot of push from transportation and utility groups and organizations. We are getting close to those sectors but we are not quite there yet. We are working through as quickly as we can and we are opening new lanes as quickly as we can, with the idea, from where I am sitting, although we have to follow the state's rules, but, personally speaking, the quicker that we can get to come-one, come-all, the more effective, the more efficient, the more vaccine we can push out there. You can be 70 and above and still show up tomorrow and get your shot. It is basically everybody above as we move to the new lanes.

Commissioner Heath said I do not know if you saw that we changed the wording on the 18-64 lane because, as soon as I left the meeting here on Tuesday, there were at least 50 calls that had already come into the hospital. I talked to Raylene Stiehl and we changed it to say that if it is not listed on the Governor's plan, then people will need a letter from their doctor stating that they have health conditions to warrant the vaccine. Mr. Barbee said I am okay with that because I didn't want us to be the ones who were making a judgment call, as that is outside of our ability to make that call.

Mr. Barbee said that gives you an idea about the vaccines and the volumes we are doing. We have a little bit of a bump in dosages this week and, obviously, because it is over two weeks it appears to be a big bump. We will continue to monitor that and, hopefully, we will continue to see an increase in vaccine delivery to the community. We still have Walgreen's and Walmart that are doing vaccines. I think CVS is also but I just have not heard from them. They are on the list as part of the federal group. They are getting roughly 200 doses each week to be done through their appointment processes. Commissioner Heath said the news stations in Reno are still putting out the phone number for Banner for the vaccine. Dr. McDonald said have the pharmacies contacted us or have we contacted them at all? Mr. Barbee said they are part of the Wednesday morning calls that Shannon participates in while I am on the Health Authority call that is scheduled at the same time. Shannon can speak to those conversations but I am not on those calls but I know that the pharmacies are represented, although it is not a person from the local

pharmacy but is a corporate representative for those pharmacies. Dr. McDonald said there have been some confusions along the way when pharmacies are picking up these patients following the guidelines where there has been lack of communication between them and the authority in the local area where people should be taken off of the list. Mr. Barbee said we have had to note some of those corrections directly during those calls specifically. That has been a large part of the interaction because the local health authority is the authority on driving what lanes and groups they are doing at the pharmacies, so Shannon has been heavily involved in ensuring that they are in the correct lanes. In some cases, they have gotten ahead of themselves and we have had to pull them back.

Mr. Barbee said every week we are evaluating what the demand is on the lane or tier that we are in and we work with the state to get approval if we have met their threshold and approval to move to the next lane. We are doing that as swiftly and quickly as we can as soon as the state gives us the approval because we met their requirement.

At the meeting in March, we will provide a consolidated presentation of the total amount of grant revenue that we have received from the federal government but passed on through the state to put together the pod to do the things that we are doing. I spoke to Gary Fowkes, Road Supervisor, a few minutes before our meeting today and he is currently setting up the panels that we got through Hoof Beats. I want to give a nod of appreciation to Hoof Beats because they built those for us in a day so that we can get the new test/vaccine site on Miners Road set up. Gary is putting those together today and that will give 6 or 7 covered lanes that they will be able to pull through. Gary is putting those on a pedestal concrete mounts that are in the ground so that they will be sturdy enough to withstand the wind and they will also be elevated enough to get the tall pickup trucks and things through. I believe next week they will get the temporary construction office building put in place on that Miners Road facility. There is a chance that we may be flipping over to the new property soon. Gary has been working throughout the last week and has gotten all of the gravel put in place. There is an island in the middle of that where, once the Civic Center construction starts and we get the concrete foundation contract done, they will start moving 7,000 yards of that material that is stacked up in the big piles over to the Miners Road property and we will fill in the rest of that depression in the middle. That will then be continuous gravel on that site and give us the capacity to change our lanes to get people through there in those 6 lanes on the northwest side of the property leading to the covered area and then be able to exit out on Miners Road. There is a chance we may be moving by next week over to the new site, which will free up the Civic Center construction site. We definitely want to get over there sooner rather than later because it gives us much greater capacity to stack cars so that we can keep cars off of Sheckler Road and Highway 95. At the same time, as we start construction on the Civic Center, we need to get out of the front of that area because there will be a lot of truck traffic, although there will still be some conflict at the back but we hope to direct them off of Sheckler Road for the most part in terms of access for the construction of that Civic Center.

Lastly, we have an update to the Contact Tracing and Quarantine Policy with an amendment that this board needs to review and make a decision on. This is a result of updates and guidance from the CDC. In Section II, Vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:

- A. Are fully vaccinated (i.e. 2 plus weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or 2 plus weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- B. Are within 3 months following the last dose series
- C. Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID exposure.

Individuals should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days. If symptoms develop, the individual should be medically evaluated and/or tested for COVID-19.

That is what we need this board to discuss and, hopefully, approve to bring us into alignment with current CDC recommendations.

Chairman McDonald asked if there was any comment or discussion but there was none.

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Contact Tracing and Quarantine Policy as presented. Commissioner Gregory Koenig seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Dr. McDonald said, in looking at this process that is going on in Churchill County, it really is unique as far as the efficiency and the community input and processes that are going on. It does not work this way in other places. The fact that you are so far ahead now is an indicator of that. One of the things I would recommend is to have somebody documenting all of this because this is a story that will be a tutorial for other small communities or organizations in general regarding what can be done and what is possible when you have a focus. This is something that should go into a report to any organization that is involved with health or future immunizations or things of this nature in the future. If there is any way possible to set it up where we have all of these pictorials, a copy of the records, and the processes that you have gone through. I know it will be a difficult thing to have all of this extra stuff done, but I think that not only will future organizations here in Churchill County benefit from it, but also other communities when you place that out there. They can then look at it and it will serve as a model of what can be done in a rural community. Mr. Barbee said we have been maintaining the records and we have certain requirements there, so we have a really good picture of it. Probably the only thing we are missing is when we are drawing lanes in the dirt at the Fairgrounds, so we will start taking photos of that. I think the biggest thing is that we have had cross-departmental complete cooperation with a laser focus on the goal. Between the Road Department, Facilities Department, Social Services Department, and the County Manager's Office, we have had tremendous cooperation and support. As I said, Gary Fowkes is out there right now working to get those buildings up. That is all outside of his duties with the Road Department but we have had money available from the federal government to allow us to pay his employees to do that. We have great staff here at the county, we have great leadership at the departmental level, and that is why we have seen the results that we have had. The staff that work in those departments have been enthusiastic and have embraced the mission and its importance. They are out there with a great attitude, a smile, and the people going through to get vaccinated or tested have expressed that they felt this vibe from those workers. That has given us a lot of momentum. It is really the staff.

Reports/Notification of Items Received:

A- 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 January 12, 2020 to February 12, 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:

- Next Vaccination Date for Residents 70+ is Jan. 28
- All Remaining COVID Events at Fairgrounds Canceled for This Week
- COVID Vaccines Available to Additional Groups on Feb. 3 and 4
- CART Available to Take Eligible Populations to Fairgrounds for Vaccines
- COVID Vaccines Available to Additional Groups on Feb. 10 and 11
- Churchill County Announces Next Date for COVID Vaccines

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 H. Peter Olsen, Jr. 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.

Commissioner Olsen said I am really embarrassed because I went back and looked at that email and the information regarding the ag sector is right at the top. Rachel Dahl, Publisher of *The Fallon Post*, said she just reposted the link to the available COVID vaccinations and there have already been 15 views.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Update from community partners related to COVID-19.

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

County Manager Barbee said I will go through the list of those who are on Zoom, starting with

Emily Gould, with the **Department of Public and Behavioral Health**. Emily said I do not have a lot of updates for you at this time. I know that Raylene has been working with the Nevada Immunization Team while Shannon is out to give the vaccination updates. It seems that everything is on track right now. The Moderna vaccines from last week were shipped last Sunday so, hopefully, everyone is able to catch up on those vaccinations this week. For the Binaxnow Test Kits for the school district, those requests can be sent to our ES update. If you have any questions or need help with anything, please let me know.

Melissa Mackedon, with **Oasis Academy**, said I have a question about Shannon having said, before she left, that our substitute teachers would get their second dose tomorrow but, based on what you just said, do you want them to try to come today? If I can't get ahold of them all, if they show up tomorrow, will they still get their second dose? Mr. Barbee said please stay with the schedule that Shannon provided. We have two things happening. Tomorrow, we are also giving booster shots, not just first shots. Shannon has scheduled those out. Today, we are just giving booster shots. The number that we have will go according to how she scheduled those. Do not overrule what Shannon said based on my comments. Ms. Mackedon said I was hoping that would be your answer but I wanted to make sure. We have had some preliminary conversations about whether or not the county is going to have, if the Governor does turn everything over to the county on May 1st, what kind of decision point is the county looking at as far as schools go? We are looking at potentially making some changes this year if we can pull it off to bring our kids back all day and we should know in the next couple of days if we can make that work by moving out some furniture to maintain a 3 foot social distance between students. We are seeing a significant decline every day in our number of exclusions and everything feels like it is trending in the right direction. Mr. Barbee said the email exchange that I had with you and Summer, I went back and looked again at the Roadmap to Recovery that was delivered to us and, basically, they are suggesting that they will reach out to us prior to March 15th to provide clarification on what our May 1st authorities will look like. In reading through that, I still do not see where it is passing any authorities relative to the school districts back to the local health district because I think that continues to fall under the State Board of Education, although that is my interpretation and we will get clarification on that. I want to keep open communication with the schools because, obviously, as a parent of three of those students, we would look forward to getting back to quasi-normal as soon as possible.

Commissioner Olsen said, based on our experience with the CARE Program and what we have seen from the schools, with proper precautions, bringing kids back all day looks like it could be done safely, especially where we have offered vaccinations to all of the teachers and staff. We need kids back in school. Our school district and other schools in our community have done a phenomenal job under horrible conditions with horrible restrictions. I do not want to say anything negative about that, but school in full session for the kids is the optimal solution and we want to get there as quickly as possible. That is my opinion and I believe there is a safe way forward for that.

Dr. McDonald said I would agree with Jim's assessment regarding the State Board of Education maintaining the control. I am seeing some hopeful things where the majority of school districts out there are going to open schooling completely. I think we will get there but I agree with you

about keeping our channels of communication open and not assume anything.

Summer Stephens, **Churchill County School District**, said, while I can appreciate the conversation about fully reopening, there are things in play and I will be sharing some things tonight with the Board of Trustees. There is a lot that goes into fully reopening and thinking about what all takes place in a school day. The federal government did not waive testing requirements and we are in the heart of testing season, as well. The ACT Test is taking place right now, as well as testing for our English Language learners. Our CTE Testing for high school students and current technical education is happening. We have testing in our MAP Assessments that will be done this spring. AP and SBAC Testing for students in grade 3-8 will be done. Keeping that in mind, this is not a time a time where we would be going back to full-time instruction anyway and so, most likely, the Churchill County School District will maintain its modified hybrid through the end of the year for the majority of students but we will be looking at some full-day or longer-day work for more students that have some significant needs and need some significant support. We fully intend to be reopened in the fall, as far as we can tell. The restrictions, as you know, that were loosened, we already had a waiver for 3' distancing for high school. The way that we are set up in some of our class sizes, with regard to bringing back everybody, we have some sections that are still 30 kids and that wouldn't be conducive to be at the 75% capacity all day. We are trying to take a respectful approach and to be thoughtful about cost benefit. Our kids are getting a lot of attention right now in the time they are at school and weighing those things. That is what we are doing and we are mindful of the benefits of also now starting up the activities that were not in place prior to now and that will come with its own set of challenges, potentially. For our kids in the secondary programs, as we add those pieces, that is something they haven't had on their plate for almost 12-months, so that is going to add a layer for them to their emotional levels, to their activity levels, so we just want to be mindful of that, as well. We will be making some recommendations tonight at the board meeting, but with regard to the activity pieces, there will be some recommendations and conversations tonight at the board meeting about spectators and what that will include or entail, finalization on what that is going to look like, which is still in play, but we are working on that.

With regard to the testing of our football players, coaches, and student managers, that is in the works with Mr. Daum and Pam Krause and Raylene Stiehl. I big thank you to those folks and Shannon, as well as Stephanie and Shannon at the state level, as we have been working on trying to make sure we had a testing solution for the weekly testing requirement for the six weeks of the season. We will be getting that solidified. We are still getting cases, for example, we had four identified yesterday, some of whom had been here fairly recently and some that were older cases. We still have to be diligent and we are still getting cases. We had a little bit of a lull, which was exciting and now we still do get the cases in, so we have to be cognizant of that. We are still maintaining all of our protocols, our cleaning, our distancing, our expectations around face coverings, and making our changes to those protocols in terms of who can isolate when. Mr. Lords believes we had 60% of our staff vaccinated now with both doses, so that is great.

Stephanie Utz, Churchill County School District, said our numbers have dropped a lot. I can give you the summary. Over the past 2 weeks, we have had 7 students test positive; 36 called in with symptoms; 8 sent home with symptoms; and 76 out as primary exposures. For staff, we have had

3 positive tests and 14 excluded for various reasons. For the whole school year, we have had 105 students test positive, 786 excluded for primary exposure, 238 sent home with symptoms, and 620 called in with symptoms. During the whole year, for staff, we have had 37 test positive, 74 sent home with symptoms, and 70 sent home for primary contact. I think the most important thing is that we are not seeing spread in the schools at any great level. When we have spread at the schools, it tends to be in our adult population and not in the students because we track who is a primary exposure and who we exclude and who comes back positive and for the kids who are coming back positive for primary exposure, they are mostly community and household, so what we are doing in the schools is really working. I think that is pretty awesome for our kids and it makes me really hopeful moving forward.

County Manager Barbee said, as a point of clarification, 60% of the teachers that they reference were the population of staff that chose to be vaccinated but 100% were offered.

Commissioner Olsen said, if I may reiterate to Dr. Stephens, I think there is a real desire in the community to get kids back to school full-time. I appreciate the logistics and the challenges you are talking about but there is genuinely a desire to get kids back into school full-time. As the restrictions are relaxed, I think there would be a desire in the community to develop a plan where, if you could do that and create a 30-day plan where you could go back to full-time opening, with safe-guards put in place, I'm sure you'd get a lot of community support for that.

Summer Stephens said I don't question that but I think that some of the things that will be shared tonight that I think everyone will also appreciate is 12 kids versus 24 kids is very different regarding instruction and, if an individual parent thinks about his or her own child and the instruction somebody is getting and the instruction that child gets when you double the number of students, if your student is a struggler or if your student is right on target or a student who is not, when we are focusing on ensuring we are getting some of the key subjects, that is that cost benefit analysis that I am talking about. We want to be very specific in what we are targeting this year. As restrictions across the city open up on all things, not just school, there are a lot of things that are happening for kids, so when we look at the time we are in school in a day and what events take place during that time, that is what we are weighing. To think we are taking it lightly, we are not. We think about it and we have thought about it since last March. We think about it all the time and we want to ensure that what we are doing for kids, all kids - every single kid individually, is doing what is right for them. I also appreciate that every single parent will be considerate of that because making a choice impacts 55 other choices. That is what we are doing every time we do that. Just going back 3 more hours a day is not just going back 3 more hours day. It is the cost to many other things when you do that, and that is what we are weighing. I hope no one thinks we are taking it lightly because we are not. We are weighing all of those factors and definitely wanting to make sure that our kids that have the most needs are getting the most support that we can provide and the students that need less support are getting the support that they need in getting to June 4th. We are making sure that we have supports over the summer that are stronger than maybe we have had before and then coming back when we come back in August in the best way that we can come back then, as well. I just do not want people to think that we are taking it lightly and not trying because there are obstacles and hurdles. That is the work that we have to do and it isn't as simple as saying it is at 75% capacity now, so you can

certainly cram the 24 kids in the room. We can certainly cram the kids into a room but is that what is going to get done and is that what is best for kids. I don't think anyone wants us to sacrifice what's best for kids just because the number changed.

Commissioner Olsen said, Dr. Stephens, I will start out by complimenting you and your staff for the plan that you put together. I honestly thought it sounded almost impossible with all the logistics involved with splitting the day up and all of that, but it turned out that that was the best possible solution to the problem in the interim. Nobody would accuse you, of all people, of taking this lightly. You and your staff have done a phenomenal job in very difficult circumstances, so that would not be anything that I would say, but what I would say is you're going to have a messaging problem trying to tell parents that sending my kids to school 3-hours a day is better than sending my kids to school 6-hours a day. That does not sell very well with me. My wife is a special ed teacher, so I understand the students you are talking about and are worried about getting left behind. On the other hand, you've got the entire group that you've got to look at in a holistic approach and you are going to have a severe messaging problem trying to convince people that 3-hours is better than 6. I am struggling to understand what you are saying.

Dr. Stephens said I can appreciate that, but I also don't think it is fair, before I have presented to the Board of Trustees, to present to you the plan. I don't think that is the right order and that is just the way this board meeting fell, unfortunately. I am more than happy to present to this board more information and it will be released after I present it to the Board of Trustees tonight, because they may give us different direction than what we present tonight and I hope you guys understand that, because I can't share more of what we've prepared before I've presented it to our Board of Trustees. I hope you understand that.

Steve Endacott, with the **City of Fallon**, said the only thing I will pass on is that, from sitting in on the State Emergency Management conference calls yesterday, which Mike Heidemann might have passed on to you, as well, because he was also on the call, the state is emphasizing, as logistics ramp up for more vaccinations, and if security is required, the expenses for security are reimbursable up to the state level. They are just pushing that out there to make sure that you know resources are available, because they want everything to go safely. It sounds like you are continuing to do an awesome job of getting shots in arms out there and, if you need more bodies, don't think that you can't get them and get them paid. That is all that I have this morning.

Lana Robards, with **New Frontier Treatment Center**, said it is business as usual here. We are testing here now with the Binaxnow Test Kits provided by the state. They gave us a supply of 200 test kits and we have 4 staff currently trained to administer and read these tests. However, they expire at the end of April, and 200 is an awful lot for the census we have here, so I will open it up for anybody who wants to send somebody over to get tested, as we would be glad to be a community partner in that. We are still limiting the foot traffic in the building wherever possible. Our groups and the majority of our individual counseling sessions are being done online. We are seeing all of our ACT Team clients. Those are the ones with the most serious mental illness that are more prone to having a crisis. All of the youth that we are serving and their families are being seen in-person and all of the evaluations are also being done in-person in our Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). In residential, we currently have 22 clients with

our detox open for drop-ins. We are very thankful that we have had no further positive COVID tests for staff or clients. Our sanitation process is ongoing. We have not lightened up on anything.

Our food pantry is going strong. In January, we served a total of 833 unduplicated families or a total of 2,541 family members reported. In our food pantry, they can come as often as they need to come, at all hours, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. We have a cell phone that is specific to the food pantry. There are no eligibility requirements - if they are hungry, we feed them. We currently deliver approximately 70 boxes to seniors and shut-ins during commodities week, which is the second Wednesday of every month and about 45 boxes during the normal week, for a Monday and Tuesday delivery. Again, our focus is on our seniors and shut-ins so that they are not having to go out as many times as they normally would have to for groceries. We are very cognizant of dietary restrictions, allergies, and those kinds of things, so our boxes are tailor made for our seniors based on what their specific needs are.

Other than that, we just continue to provide our services. We are grateful for the county's efforts and what we are seeing as a downward trend. We believe that the vaccinations are going to be the turning point for all of us. I am still a little disappointed that I have had maybe just a little bit better than a third of my team agreeing to get vaccinated. I am hoping that, as more get vaccinated, more of my team will get their vaccinations, as well. I want to thank you all.

Dr. McDonald said, with regard to your shut-in deliveries, how much contact do you have with those people in that process? Ms. Robards said we never go inside the homes, unless they absolutely cannot carry the box inside themselves. Usually, we leave it on the front porch but we do communicate with them, mostly by telephone before the delivery is made. We initiate a conversation with them in case they need something else. It is not always food that they need. Sometimes they just need somebody to talk to. We respect the mask requirements and social distancing. Very few of the deliveries that we make actually require us to go into the homes, but there are a couple that absolutely cannot carry the box inside, so we help them out. We limit contact as much as possible. Dr. McDonald said the point of my question is that you have an opportunity with contact with shut-ins in providing them some social navigation but are there any of those people that are in this situation that are eligible for vaccines that have not received the vaccine that may have a barrier to getting to us for those shots? Ms. Robards said we have, in some cases, initiated conversations with some of the seniors when they deliver the boxes. My team that delivers the boxes to these individuals have all been vaccinated. We have the opportunity here to pick up people and take them to get the vaccination or to get tested if needed. Maybe my push with the delivery team is to start asking those questions and see if we can be of assistance in getting these individuals to the Fairgrounds and on the list to get their vaccinations. That is a good idea. Dr. McDonald said I am thinking that this is an opportunity, since you have that contact, for you folks to be a social navigator to help in that process but still following the protocols that have been established. It may be a way to start picking up those onsies, twosies that are out there. Maybe not so much for the testing but focused more on the vaccinations. Ms. Robards said that is a good idea and we also have the bus that could be utilized. If anybody is handicapped in a wheelchair or anything, we can accommodate those people. Commissioner Koenig said the county is also providing visits to people's homes to provide those vaccinations

also. For people who cannot get out, the county can go into their house or residence and provide the vaccination to them. They may not be aware of that option but that is also an option. Ms. Robards said the more options that we have for our seniors and shut-ins to help them, the better. I also did not say that the Binaxnow rapid test provides a result within 15 minutes, so that is also something that we have available should anybody need it.

Rob Carnahan, with **Banner Churchill Community Hospital**, said, when Dr. McDonald shared a little bit ago about creating that play book or historical perspective, we learn from the things that we did well and probably learn better from those things that we didn't do well. Looking back, during the height of the Pandemic in Churchill County, we got up 36 patients on December 9th, which is 144% of our capacity. Our ICU, at one point in December, went up to 200% capacity. We are a 25 bed critical access hospital, so to deal with that type of volume is really amazing. Like many of you have already shared, it has been incredible to watch the team come together to do what they need to do to support the care for the community. It is touching. We were probably one of the most consistent volume or highest volume hospitals for the longest period of time probably within the State of Nevada. As I watched other facilities in the state deal with the Pandemic and the numbers that they had, we were probably up there for the longest period of time and the most capacity, especially within our ICU. That also goes for our 30 facilities within the Banner family. We have moved mountains here over the past 4 or 5 months. I am just really proud of the community here. We started off with surge plans at the very beginning. Probably a year ago we were starting to put these surge plans into place. A lot of this was done in collaboration with the county and we followed those surge plans to a tee. We did have to adjust a little here and there but, again, I just want to give great kudos to the team here because they have done an amazing job and have worked with everybody within the community, as well.

We are encouraged by the decreases in the positive cases. We are seeing a lot less cases since February 9th, with only 5 positive cases within the hospital. We are experiencing extremely better results in the last couple of weeks. We are encouraged by that and our staff are encouraged by that. Dealing with 4+ months of high volumes like this really puts a heavy burden on the staff and we are trying to focus on resiliency now with the team because they have had a rough go for the last 4 months. Obviously, there are a lot of happy moments when the hospital came together and we saved lives, which is what we are here for, but, on the opposite side of that, is the sad time. We did have many deaths and, because of that, when you live in a community like this, we all know these people, as they are our friends, family, our neighbors that we care for and some of those deaths were our friends, family, or neighbors. It is really impactful. We need to get back to the business at hand and make sure that our team is ready to move forward, although we can't forget about the past and we have to make sure they are able to move forward in a good manner. Again, I appreciate the team here.

Banner has a gating status for visitation, which is red, yellow, and green. Right now, we are in a yellow gating status for visitation. Anything below 5% of the 14-day positivity rating allows us to go to green. Right now, we are in between 5% and 10%, which puts us in a yellow gating status, which allows for 1 visitor or companion to our in-patient, our Emergency Department, our out-patient, and our clinic. We are able to have 1 visitor or companion with a patient. Once we

get below that 5% 14-day positivity rate, we will be able to move to the 2 visitor or companion per patient. This is a great thing because, obviously, in healthcare, having support of your family and loved ones is key to healing, key to messaging, and key to communication, especially when it comes to the physician providing that information to the patient by having another ear with that. We are really super happy to be able to allow at least one visitor in the facility right now.

Earlier, like Jim shared, Banner is phasing out giving vaccines. We are continuing to provide the second doses right now and will be doing those for the next 2-3 weeks. Once we are done with the second doses, we will hand it over to the county because they are doing an amazing job. Working with Jim, Shannon, and Raylene has been amazing to watch their orchestrated movements with this. We can only do 10 vaccines per hour where the county can do 150+ per hour, which is much better, so we are going to hand it off to the capable hands of the county and I know they will do a great job with that. That concludes my report but if anybody has any questions, I would be happy to answer those.

Dr. McDonald said I was wondering if there would be any increased accessibility to the clinical area where there would be screening on the clinical side? I have had some feedback about folks coming in through the main screening area and then having to go all the way down to the clinic area or to physical therapy. Mr. Carnahan said we have had a lot of feedback on that. We just met yesterday to look at that opportunity. You are right, trying to have patients come in through the main entrance and then walk to those areas, especially considering the distance in the parking lot, makes for a long walk. We are looking at that right now and are hoping to have some type of a result within the next 2-4 weeks. We will try to open something on that side by the clinic.

Commissioner Koenig said I have a question, which is a bit of a tangent, but it is related. We just heard from the school district that only 60% of their employees opted for the vaccine. I think it was only 33% at New Frontier Treatment Center. I know I have staff at my office who refused to get it. Do you know what percentage of the hospital staff opted to get the vaccine? Mr. Carnahan said it has been a couple of weeks since I got the rates, but I think we are at about 65%. I should be able to get another update and I can get back with you but that is where we were a couple of weeks ago. Dr. McDonald said, in healthcare, the national trends seem to be around 60%. If you do have an outbreak within your facility, it will usually increase your vaccination requests by about 15% after that. Commissioner Koenig said that is when some of the standards to go from one Tier to the next is that we have to hit 70% in this first Tier before we can move to the second Tier but, if you can't get 60% of your hospital workers or teachers to get it, there is no way we are going to get 70% of the general population. It is pretty unrealistic to have to hit 70% in one Tier before you can go on to the next. It is amazing that we, as a county, have just moved on instead of just waiting for that 70% that might never happen. Commissioner Heath asked, with regard to those employees that decide they want to get the vaccine now, will they have to go to the county for the vaccine? Mr. Carnahan said yes, from now on they will have to go to the county.

Commissioner Olsen said I was reading an article this morning that talked about Connecticut that goes by age in their vaccinations and that is the only criteria. They even mentioned by name the acronym KISS and they kept it simple. The states that have tried to muck this up with this, that,

and other requirements and I have heard Dr. Heath mention that there are problems with our older population and by making it so that you just show up and it is first-come, first-served. There is no requirement for people to get on the internet and do all of that nonsense with the online registration. We have the luxury of doing that. I was in Phoenix a couple of weekends ago and spoke with a gentlemen. They are doing vaccinations at the Cardinal's stadium and this man came in at 2:30 AM to get his vaccination. They are going 24 hours a day. The man was very thankful for the opportunity and thought it was working well. With our community, where we can do it all in a day or two every week, it seems the KISS principle is working really well here, to our advantage.

Pamela Krause, **Community Health Nurse**, said we are still providing clinical services here, other than the COVID response that we are helping with. We are still seeing patients by appointment only. Of course, I will also be assisting the schools every Tuesday. We will testing the athletes and coaches as Summer mentioned. There is not much new on this end except assisting the county with the vaccinations and testing, except for the Binaxnow testing. I mentioned to Shannon that I have about 43 of those test kits that will expire on March 20th. I am pushing to get these used before they expire. I have been bringing them to the vaccination pods to be used if needed. We have been testing from 4:30 - 5:30 every Wednesday and Thursday and I bring those test kits so that they can be used if a rapid test is needed. That is all that I have as a report.

Lisa Erquiaga, Executive Director with the **William N. Pennington Life Center**, said we are still in our longstanding method of serving our seniors with Meals-on-Wheels and our drive-through meals. Some of our seniors tell us that this is their only outing each day as they come to get their lunch. They are thankful to have that opportunity. We have seen a decrease in the number of people receiving meals in the last week, although we are not sure why that is. The weather was not too bad, so that may not be it and everybody needs to eat no matter what the weather is. Something kept our numbers down the last week. We do not know if that might be because they are getting tired of the road construction because we are all tired of that but that is just something we have to endure. We are all tired of a lot of things but we still have to eat, so I am not sure why our numbers were down.

We have no plans, as of yet, to reopen. I was just on a meeting where some of the senior centers in the state were talking about the possibility of reopening some things at different times in the next few months and what their plans are for that and how they will do that. I will pass that information to my board and staff. Physically policing that and having people social distanced for different things must be well thought-out. There is no real talk about opening the dining room. That makes me feel better because I did not want anyone to think that we should be reopening our dining room and not doing it because of how you would have to police that. What they are talking about with these other agencies is doing activities and different things in small numbers. I will have to really think that one through also because we are going to have to have a lottery system or something because we have a lot of people who think they should be first or that they are entitled to be at the top of the list. There are a lot of things to think about and those discussions are in the works.

I have been working with Raylene Stiehl and she has a good number of our Meals-on-Wheels homebound seniors already vaccinated and we thank her for that. That was something that we said in the very beginning would be needed and that we wanted to see take place because they cannot get out. We are very pleased that this has taken place. Other than that, everything is status quo. If you need anything, my staff and myself are here 5 days a week from 8:00 to 4:30. If you have any questions or have a need that you know of for somebody, we will continue to respond like we always have.

Commissioner Olsen said I heard you say that you are holding off about opening up the dining room and looking at a limited way to do activities. Has your board discussed what would be the metrics to open back up the dining room and so forth? Ms. Erquiaga said we discussed it a little bit at our last board meeting but without going into great detail because we did not know what it was going to be. I have been waiting and, hopefully, taking guidance from our sister centers in the state. From what they said today, they are all waiting to see what the Governor says. In the beginning, the senior centers were not even on the map to be considered. We just made a decision that we could not have people be that close. I think, when we get ready to reopen, it is going to depend on what I have learned from outside sources because there is no guidance, except if the Governor were to include it in his executive plan. I am in the process of seeking guidance from our national agencies that do the aging programs, including the Meals-on-Wheels Program. We will take it from there. People are thinking that perhaps in May, June, or July things will reopen in other places, so we will start to put something together just in case. For us, it may not be until October, who knows. Do not quote me because I am just saying it could be that much longer. I keep hearing different stories every day. I have a paper that I will send to Pam to send out to everybody from AARP and it has 8 things you can do prior to having your second shot. One of the things it talks about at the end is telling people that once they have their first shot and then once they have the second shot, if they wait for 2 weeks after that, they can be with someone who has had COVID or someone who has been exposed and they will not get sick. Maybe I read it wrong yesterday, so I will look at it again today to make sure I understood it correctly because I am not sure that is correct. Let me look it over and if it does say that, I will send it to everyone and we can brainstorm from there. Commissioner Olsen said I do not envy you and your board about the decision to open back up, as I am sure there are a lot of folks who would like to get back to normal, as we all do, as quickly as possible. However, you are dealing with the most vulnerable population, so taking extraordinary precautions is probably warranted. I just see there is real tension there between people who have probably been vaccinated, to your point about what you mentioned in the AARP article, and they are feeling pretty sporty that they can go out with reasonable safety and resume their lives. I know, for a lot of folks, the senior center was a big part of that. I sure appreciate what you guys have done to keep our seniors safe and keeping the Meals-on-Wheels Program active and maintaining that contact with our seniors and shut-ins. That is a really important and vital part of your mission but I would like to see you guys, when it is safe to do so, reopen that dining room and get the activities going again. I most certainly want you to take an abundance of caution in getting that done. Ms. Erquiaga said I totally agree and that is where I am going. I just hope that, when it comes time, it is not a forced thing by anyone because I sure would hate to see it backfire.

Commissioner Heath said I would like to say that I agree with Commissioner Olsen on the

schools that 6 hours is better than 3. What the studies have shown, especially at the elementary level, is that spread does not happen the same as it does everywhere else. That is something that we need to pay attention to and watch. Hopefully, at the Board of Trustees meeting tonight, they come up with a plan for us because I think May 1st may be too late to get a lot of these kids back in school that need to be in school now. There were no further updates.

Consideration of Future Agenda Items:

The following future Agenda items were suggested: Presentation by the Churchill County School District regarding their reopening plan and a presentation on grant revenues received.

Consider and schedule future meeting date and location:

The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2021, at 9:00 AM in the Chambers.

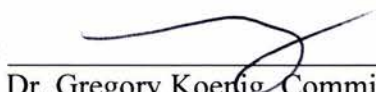
Public Comment:

Chairman McDonald asked if there was any public comment. Lana Robards, New Frontier Treatment Center, reported that Chuck Doucette, from Top Gun Restaurant, called her yesterday to report that he is serving a free lunch every Tuesday at noon to help feed members of our community who are hungry.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

APPROVED: 
Dr. Tedd McDonald, Chair

APPROVED: 
Dr. Gregory Koerig, Commissioner

APPROVED: 
H. Peter Olsen, Jr., Commissioner

APPROVED: 
Dr. Justin Heath, Commissioner

APPROVED: 
Richard Hickox, Sheriff

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pamela D. Moore", written over a horizontal line.

Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board