

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406

March 24, 2021

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the County Board of Health was called to order at 9:03 AM on March 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
Deputy District Attorney Joseph Sanford
County Manager Jim Barbee
Social Services Director Shannon Ernst
Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore
Sheriff Richard Hickox

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 to the Board, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 18th day of March, 2021, between the hours of 9:00 and 10:00 AM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241 and the Governor's Emergency Declaration related to posting during the Pandemic, noting that a Revised Agenda had been posted this morning to include the correct Zoom meeting details.

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

**Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Agenda as revised.
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- February 24, 2021.

The Minutes of the meeting held on February 24, 2021 are presented 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 February 24, 2021 as presented. 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, 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.

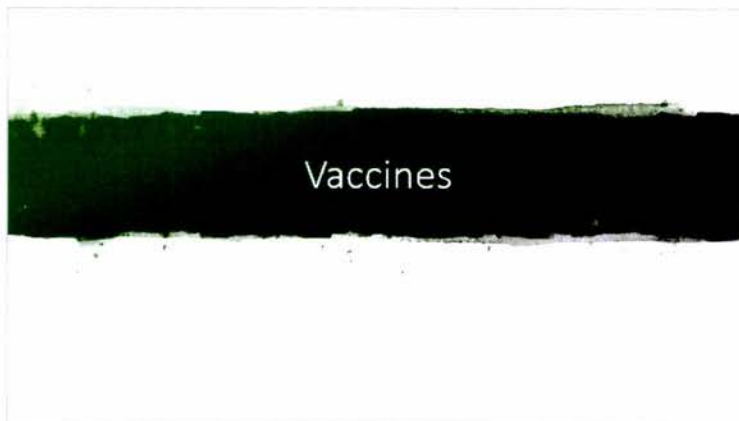
FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Social Services Director Ernst had a PowerPoint presentation related to Churchill County's COVID response as follows:



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Total COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered by Churchill County Public Health

Total Doses Administered	5275
Moderna First Doses Administered	3148
Moderna Second Doses Administered	1923
Janssen Single Doses Administered	204

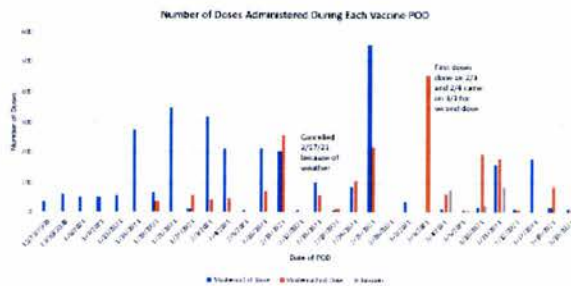


Figure 1. Number of Moderna (first and second) and Janssen vaccine doses administered by Churchill County Public Health during each vaccine POD from December 23, 2020 to March 19, 2021.

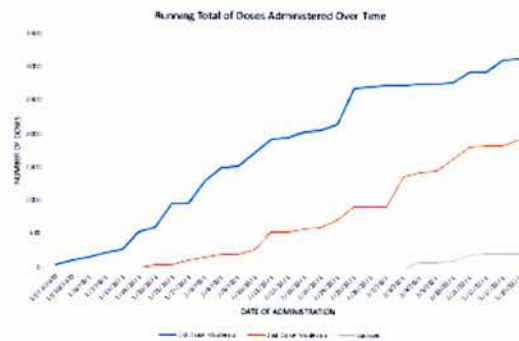


Figure 2. Running total of Moderna (first and second) and Janssen vaccine doses administered by Churchill County Public Health from December 23, 2020 to March 19, 2021.

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Doses Administered to Employees/Non-Residents
of Churchill County

First Dose	31
Second Dose	22
Janssen Single Dose	10



Doses Administered to Non-Residents/Non-
Employees of Churchill County

First Dose	454
Second Dose	160
Janssen Single Dose	71



Doses Administered to Churchill County Residents

First Dose	2663
Second Dose	1741
Janssen Single Dose	123



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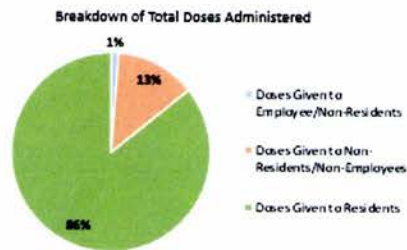


Figure 3. Breakdown of the total doses administered by Churchill County Public Health. With a total of 5,275 doses administered by Churchill County Public Health, 63 of those doses went to employee/non residents of Churchill, and 685 doses went to non residents/non-employees of Churchill.

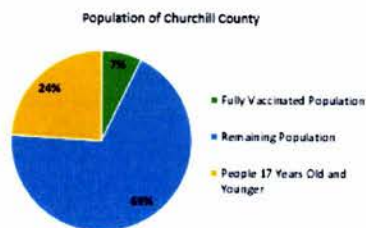


Figure 4. Population of Churchill County that has been fully vaccinated. Combining the number of residents that received Moderna second dose and Janssen single dose gives a total of 1,864 fully vaccinated residents. Also, 24% of Churchill County's population consists of youth 17 years old and younger (NV DHHS, 2019). They do not qualify to receive the Moderna or Janssen vaccine, currently. Therefore, they are excluded from the remaining population of residents eligible to receive the vaccine.

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (NV DHHS). (2019). Nevada State Health Needs Assessment.

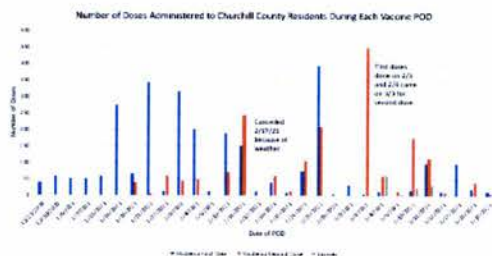


Figure 5. Number of Moderna (first and second) and Janssen vaccine doses administered to Churchill County residents by Churchill County Public Health during each vaccine POD from December 23, 2020 to March 18, 2021.

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Testing

Churchill Compared to the State of Nevada	
	Test Positivity Rate
Churchill	3.80%
Statewide	4.80%

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (NV DHHS). (2021, March 21). COVID-19 Statistics Dashboard.

Testing Completed since May 4, 2020

10,832 TOTAL TEST

9,935 TOTAL NEGATIVE

740 POSITIVES

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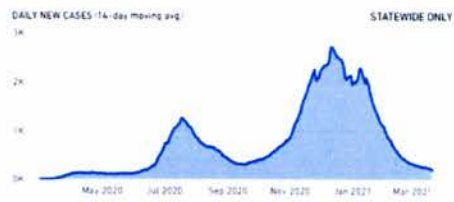


Figure 6. Statewide daily new COVID-19 cases from May 2020 to March 2021 (NV DHHS, 2021).

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (NV DHHS). (2021, March 21). COVID-19 Statistics Dashboard.

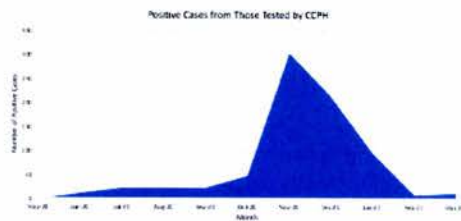


Figure 7. Number of COVID-19 positive cases from those who tested with Churchill County Public Health between May 2020 to March 2021.

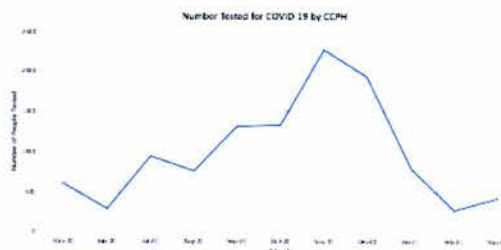


Figure 8. Number of people who tested with Churchill County Public Health between May 2020 to March 2021.

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180 Long Term Care Facilities
155 NAS Fallon
204 Fallon Tribal

It is hard to see the detail in the spreadsheet that I have included, so I would be happy to email this out to you. Since the Pandemic hit, Social Services has received a total now of four different funding sources. It started with the Treasury dollars that came from the Office of Public Health Investigation and Epidemiology (OPHIE) Office. The original amount was \$1,408,000.98. We

have a pending amendment now of \$472,000, which will take us to a total of \$1.5M from that funding source. This paid for our vehicles to start doing our outreach, it pays for our travel for those outreach efforts, our lab equipment, the generators, and development of that lab. The amendment will cover a large amount for the creation of our drive-through site. This is the first pot of dollars.

The next funding source is part of the OPHIE Office, which is another revenue source they received through the CARES Act, so we had to dole this out separately. It has made it a bookkeeping nightmare but, hopefully, this is clear for everyone. This dealt with working on our emergency response. It had a different priority. We put in to pay for a portion of our generator and HVAC system for Civic Center. It is a goal to ensure that we have an emergency shelter or place to respond in the future. I am proposing that this be the match and, hopefully, the board will approve for us to look at the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the remainder of that cost. This also paid for a lot of our computers, printers, and things for our new site and the health offices. A big piece of this is to start looking at our Health District. It is going to take a lot of funding to map that out and put that forward. We proposed \$200,000 and the UNR School of Medicine will be a huge partner with this. This funding is in an amendment state. We have emails stating that the funds have been approved but they are moving to make sure that they can get the longest feed for them. Some of these funds expire in November 2022 and then another pot expires in June 2023. With regard to our staffing and personnel, now we will be able to carry them until June 2023.

The next little area, which is broke out into two sections, is a new grant that we received, which is for vaccine and getting people vaccinated. We put in for a lot of marketing and some time for our Public Information Officer to dedicate to doing our outreach to get people vaccinated. We have done some billboards. They mentioned on the call that they had driven through our community and saw the billboards. I explained to them that we started that in the beginning. Education is a key factor in this, so we started with messages about ways to stay safe and we have now moved into the vaccination aspect. These funds were for a total of \$193,000 but we had to allocate 10% for an equity. We are looking to determine ways to get our Hispanic population to come and get vaccinated. Ten percent has to be dedicated to that aspect. In order to meet the outcomes of this grant, we are going to Middle Gate, Cold Springs, and some mobile home parks because you have individuals that do not want to come to the Fairgrounds. With regard to our homeless population, we will receive our allocation next week to vaccinate through a mobile pop-up. We have already completed our inmate population at 100% as of last Friday for those who wanted to receive the vaccination. We will continue to check every week since that population changes.

The last source is through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which is under our Community Action Group. It was part of the CARES funding. We have a large amount that is for rental assistance but I wanted to dedicate pieces to the emergency response related to supporting our community. We have some funding that was allocated to our Resource Liaisons (RLs), which are our outreach workers. They are going with our nurses when they go out to the homebound clients to determine if there are additional needs, such as medical supplies or things they need to stay safe. One of our ideas is to provide a gift card to Walmart or Safeway if you

come and get tested when you have not been vaccinated. That is the incentive within this aspect. Again, it is being used for vaccine site computers. We are trying to launch more of our events or things that Social Services does in the community, such as Pinwheels for Prevention, which will be done on April 2nd. This will help to build awareness in our community about things that we have outside of COVID. We will also be hosting our Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) during the last week of May to help with behavioral health and ways in which we address those issues in our community. We are doing more with a smart TV with cameras in our conference rooms so we can go back to budgeting classes so that people who are afraid to come out can do this from their homes. That will give us that capability in that area. We have partnered with Churchill County Parks and Recreation through the CARE Program for distance learning, so we provided funds to them to support the low to moderate income (LMI) families. We boosted that amount from the normal \$2,000 to \$25,000 this year to help. Also, the HERO Club supports kids who are not in school when parents are working. We had provided them with \$5,000 and that has been increased to \$15,000. We have contracted with Churchill Area Regional Transportation (CART) to bring people to the test and vaccine site to get testing and vaccinations done, so they are getting some funds, as well.

This gives you an overview of those budgets. There is quite a bit of information, if you were able to see the spreadsheet in a method that shows the detail. I am happy to email that out to you so that you can read it. We are tracking these funds and our bookkeeper has a running total every day.

This item was presented for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Presentation from the Churchill County School District of their plans for reopening schools in Churchill County.

The Churchill County School District will make a presentation of their plans for reopening schools in Churchill County.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Dr. Summer Stephens, Superintendent of the Churchill County School District, said I provided the Reopening Plan to you in your packet, so I will not read through the report in detail unless you want me to but I am happy to answer any questions you may have. After I am done with my presentation, I would appreciate it if Stephanie Utz, our Chief School Nurse, can provide an update so that I can leave to attend another meeting. This Reopening Plan is not different than what was shared at the beginning of the school year. I know that Commissioner Koenig attended the School Board meeting in February, which was held the evening of your last board meeting. He was able to hear what was shared with the School Board related to the decision to remain in the current hybrid model. I certainly can answer any questions or, if there is something specific you want me to share, I am happy to do so.

Commissioner Olsen said my understanding is that most of the rural communities in the state

have gone back to full-time instruction or are headed back to full-time within a week or two. I wonder how we square that with our community still remaining with the hybrid model. Dr. Stephens said I could not speak to every school district but I can tell you that, in terms of schools our size, we were one of the few that was actually in school every day and we saw our kids in-person every day from the beginning of the school year. Some of those communities were not open every day. Some were going every other week and some students were going in-person two of the five days a week. I cannot speak to their reopening plans and how they are following their particular guidelines or what their set-ups are. I can only speak to what we are doing and what we are seeing in our evidence. I would not want to speculate on any of those other school districts.

Commissioner Olsen said I think what you and your staff and the teachers managed to pull off with this hybrid model was remarkable and it was a superior way of doing things, given the facts on the ground that we had at the time. I applaud you, the staff, and the teachers for that because it was much harder than what a lot of other districts did. To do what you did was much more complicated than being open full-time. That is why I am puzzled now at why there is reticence to going back to a full-time schedule, given that there are two months and change left in the school year. Most other districts were nimble enough to make that decision. I wonder at the fact that we were nimble enough to pick the really hard choice when it was difficult and now it seems like it would be easier to go back to the open model than what we are doing now, even with the restraints that we have now. I have heard from people who are under great duress with their time, time management trying to keep kids focused on school, having someone to watch the children when they are not in school, and people are just worn out from what they have had to do and would welcome the chance to get back to a regular schedule. That is the only reason that I keep pushing on this because people would like to get back to normalcy. Dr. Stephens said one comment I would make to that is that I do not think it is about not being able to be nimble. Some of the things that we shared at the School Board meeting is that we are extremely nimble and we made choices based on the evidence that we were getting and that we are getting, as well as the value of what we are seeing in what is happening in the classrooms. I certainly would encourage you, if anyone does speak to you, to send them to the school to have a conversation because we do have a lot of solutions for any family that is struggling or that their student is struggling. If we are aware of the matter, there are some solutions and the Principals have been working with students. We have a number of students who are in school for a full-day right now. Busing may not be an option for some of those students. That is one of the challenges that remains. The busing solution did not help us in our community. That was a barrier that we were just not able to overcome that would have changed the story for a significant number of students, many of whom chose full-time online for that very reason who lived inside of the city limits. I certainly would encourage anyone who is listening or anyone who has talked to one of the Commissioners to come to the school. Talking to a Commissioner is the furthest away from someone who can help them. The schools are always open to help find a solution. We have a number of students who attend full-time, as I said. All of the schools are certainly willing to help any of those folks who approach us. I know that is possible and it has been possible. We encourage anyone who has been full-time online, for whatever reason, as it was their choice, if they want to come back in-person, that is also open to them. We also have a number of families who called us and thanked us for staying in the model. I think, obviously, you will find people

on either side of the coin in our community related to that. I have appreciated the great partners from all of the childcare facilities who continue to work hard to provide supports. We have a number that are continuing to help families find ways to get kids to school that need help getting there. We continue to appreciate those supports, as well. If people are reaching out to other people, I certainly encourage them to reach out to their school directly to have a conversation because I know that every single Principal has worked with anyone who has needed to be at school all day. I have never seen anyone turned away.

Commissioner Koenig said I sat through about four hours of that School Board meeting. I had forgotten what four hour board meetings were like. I left before it was over but I stayed through the part that dealt with reopening the schools. I think, Summer, as a board member, I probably would have gone in there thinking I wanted to open the schools back up but, after listening to your presentation, I probably would have voted the same way that the board did to keep things as is until the end of the year. I heard some feedback from some people on your leadership team that said they really like the way that things are going and that they potentially wanted to keep that for the fall. I think you are the Captain of the Titanic, not of a little school bus, and to get the Titanic headed in a completely opposite direction is not something that you can turn on a dime. It involves a lot of things. Another thing you have to consider, although not so much in the county, is that you are dealing with teachers' unions and administrators' unions where it is not quite as easy just to tell them exactly what they have to do. They have a certain say in what they do. The feedback we heard from a majority of the teachers is that they like where we are at. I respect the decision made by the School Board. I think it probably was wise but I really think we need to do everything we can to get back to normal come fall and not to continue with the hybrid model. There are some positives to what you are doing but I think the goal needs to be to try to open things up and get back to as normal as possible so that, come fall, it will be more of a traditional day instead of what we are doing now. Dr. Stephens said I can totally appreciate the concept around the day being longer. That is our full intent when reopening. I am not ever going to say anything is going to be normal because this has been something our district has already been looking at is to determine what learning looks like differently anyway. This had nothing to do with COVID but having a longer day, returning to that piece specifically, and there has never been a question that we weren't looking to that.

County Manager Barbee said, for clarification, if you are looking at different directions but you are looking at a full day, what does that look like? I have a child who will be a 7th grader, so will Jack go to school for a full day next year or are you looking at options where people can choose to be distance learning versus in-person? Dr. Stephens said we have always had the pathway at the Middle and High Schools to have distance learning, so that is going to continue. We are just adding the elementary schools as an option that had not been there before. It is there this year just because it had to be but we are adding that option. The Middle School is looking at a bit of an adjusted schedule. Some of the things that we learned from this year about the number of classes kids take and, when we focus on learning, what has really been manageable in seeing a focus on retention of information and really truly getting deep into the work. The Middle School is just adjusting some of how they will do that. In terms of the open and end times, I do not yet know. We are looking at ways to do bus stops differently. Instead of having bus transfers, we are looking at having different bus stops in town. That will, obviously, be

dependent upon the number of drivers we are able to secure. The transfer system is not effective for us. It is cumbersome and causes a lot of problems for us, so we are looking at how to provide more stops so that we do not do the transfer system. Right now, the system we use for busing has been very effective because we go to every school and drop the kids off. It is a little bit longer sitting on the bus for the kids but it is much better to manage. It also gets everyone who is able to ride the buses now where they need to go. Those are some of the changes. Even if it came back and we were only at 75% capacity, for example, although I do not think that will be the case but, if it was in the fall, we have a little bit more time to realign and move sections and to re-establish potentially hiring more teachers than we have right now. Ultimately, that is also some of the issue -- to do some of those things midstream is also more difficult. We do provide different services than the other school in town, such as providing transportation. That, in and of itself, was some of our challenge with students who chose the online option. It was because some of those families told us that they did not have an option to get their children to school with the capacity to bus students that we had.

County Manager Barbee said one thing that I would add is that I know how important it is to be there for those Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. Dr. Stephens said we are seeing really good results. Our results with testing this year is better than last year, even with the six week courses. Mr. Barbee said how do you learn or become a certified welder from a distance? Dr. Stephens said I am not talking about distance learning but, for our students who are in-person, even with the shorter class periods, have improved test results from last year. Commissioner Heath said is that in proficiency with all of the kids throughout, from kindergarten up to 12th grade? Dr. Stephens said we do not have some results yet to know. Commissioner Heath said then how can you say right now that they are better? Dr. Stephens said I am talking about CTE specifically. Commissioner Heath said so that does not mean math and science? Dr. Stephens said I am talking about CTE specifically to Jim's point. There is a skill attainment test that they take and our students are tested yearly in those areas that we have pathways for. They are just taking their skill attainment test now and their workplace readiness skills. Again, I guarantee that statewide it is going to be hard to know. They didn't test last year in the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) but they are going to test this year. However, the percentage required is different, so not everyone will test this year across the state. I think those numbers will be really interesting to look at. For the first semester grading, we had the same or better results at the Middle and High Schools related to the number of As, Bs, Cs, Ds, and Fs as compared to the first semester last year. We have higher attendance rates and lower behavioral rates comparing first semester to first semester. County Manager Barbee said you think this is going to be a different bubble than what they are saying nationally where they are saying they are going to see a definite hit in test results? Dr. Stephens said I do not about the national test results but I can tell you that we do not have the same results as Washoe or Clark Counties have reported. Commissioner Koenig said, at that School Board meeting that I sat through, I believe it was reported that math or reading, one of them, was significantly lower and the other was barely lower. Dr. Stephens said that was in the MAP testing from fall to winter. Commissioner Koenig said one was a bit lower and the other was barely lower, so both of them were at least a little bit lower than previously. Dr. Stephens said that is one of the things that will be interesting to look at. We have a research study being conducted right now with the University of Nevada Reno, so we will have some other data that somebody else is tracking, which has been tracked over the

course of a couple of years. We will see both non-COVID and COVID timeframes related to reading and math as it relates to the MAP testing at the elementary and Middle Schools. I think, in most places, you will see the results of COVID learning loss, not necessarily now but several years from now, that you will use to measure that anyway. It will be hard to know because so many places will have such a variation in what they are testing and when they test. Some places are not testing until the fall. We even have that option. I don't think anyone in the state is doing that. I heard that Washoe County may test in the fall for SBAC. We are not all going to be comparing the same things. It will be interesting for sure. I know our teachers are working super hard and they are measuring all of our standards, as I am sure the others in the community are doing. I also know that I am hearing, in our school system, about good relationship building. That was a part we were very concerned about before. I know that this has been improving, which is a good thing with kids.

Dr. Stephens said I understand the concerns and I do not want to minimize that because I know that is a concern from families. That is why I ask, if people do reach out to you, please have them reach out to us. I know it is not easy but we do not want people to be suffering and concerned, while feeling like they are alone. We do have solutions that we can help them with. We have tried to work really hard, even if it is not to be at school, to help connect them with what they need. I can answer any other questions about reopening but I would also like to have Stephanie share a little bit about our COVID update and some other information she wants to share.

Commissioner Heath said just one more question. If we stay at the 50% in the fall, like we are at now, are we going to keep the same curriculum that you are doing right now? Dr. Stephens said, technically, schools are at 75%. In the fall, we could certainly be at 75% and adjust, reimagine, and reinvent. Commissioner Heath said your plan is still at 50%? Dr. Stephens said we are at 50% right now. Commissioner Heath said are you going to stay at 50% in the fall? Dr. Stephens said not in the fall. We do not intend to stay at 50% in the fall but this is for what we are doing right now. Commissioner Heath said you will have another plan for the fall? Dr. Stephens said we will probably not have a plan like this one, unless the state says we have to have one. We will just be back in school, unless they say we have to put out something else. Commissioner Heath said I see it staying at 75% and I doubt we will go to 100%. Dr. Stephens said I do not know. I have not heard from the Nevada Department of Education. I have a meeting tomorrow and I have that question on our agenda. Commissioner Heath said what is your plan? Do you have one already that you are developing? Dr. Stephens said, if we are at 75%, we are intending to be fully open, so we will, at that point, work to adjust to figure out what we can have in rooms and how much of our CARES funds we can afford to spend if we need to do anything. We did not spend our CARES funding to do retrofitting like some schools did. We spent it on people, personal protective equipment (PPE), and things like that. If we need to do any retrofitting, moving, or hiring new teachers to split things up further, we will do that. We have not had an indication that we have to put forth a new planning phase to the state. I will find out more tomorrow and I can let you know.

Stephanie Utz, Chief School Nurse, said we have had a huge improvement in our COVID situation. For students, in the last two weeks, we have had only 1 positive case. We have had 8

excluded for primary exposure, 12 sent home symptomatic, 39 called in by their parents as symptomatic, and 13 tested. Our total exclusions for the last week was only 58. That is a huge improvement. We have only had 1 staff member excluded in the last two weeks. Our totals for the year, for primary exposure, we have excluded 817 students, we sent home 265 symptomatic, and we have had 690 called in by their parents as symptomatic. We had 382 that we know have been tested because the parents told us. I am sure the numbers are higher. We have had 112 positive students this school year. For staff, we have had 39 positives for the school year.

Another thing I wanted to report is that we went through the process and now have a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waiver to perform the Bianox test, if needed, within the school district. We probably will not start that this year because, at this point, if a staff or student comes back negative and is symptomatic, we still have to follow the exclusion guidelines. The only way to get around the exclusion guidelines is through a PCR test and we cannot give those. The state inadvertently sent us an extra 1,500 tests that we have no use for, at this point. They accidentally tripled our order, so I have been given permission to give those extra 1,500 to any of the other agencies in the county who might be able to use them. If anybody has a use for a lot of these tests and you have a CLIA waiver or if the county could use them, I can provide those. I spoke with the Community Health Nurse already and she does not have a use for them at this time because she has more than an adequate supply. I did want to let people know that we have those and they could be given to another agency. Social Services Director Ernst said we can discuss off-line the testing for the athletics to come up with a plan for use of some of those. There are many in the community that expire soon and they did extensions on some of those, so we can look at that when we have a discussion. Ms. Utz agreed to have that discussion.

Dr. Stephens said my understanding from Mr. Daum is that he thought he had arranged the testing to finish up with the Community Health Nurse for the football program and not to switch over to the school district providing that. They have to test through the first week of April and then they are done. I think his intent was to stay with the Community Health Nurse. We were not sure how long this process was going to take. Having the CLIA waiver now is good for the future, should we need it, but I believe his hope was to stay with the Community Health Nurse. She asked Stephanie if that was her understanding, as well. Ms. Utz agreed and said I can tell you, at this point, because we tried to go as fast as we could, we only have 3 nurses on staff now, which includes me. We have two RNs and one LPN for the whole district. I now work at four schools as the only Certified School Nurse. I now work at four schools, in addition to being the Chief School Nurse: Lahontan, the Middle School, Northside, and E. C. Best Elementary. Our staff is spread very thin. We have one Health Aide, who is a Certified Lab Assistant, as well, so we only have four people on staff who also have to staff our health offices. If we were to start giving them to our athletics, we would need to go through the process of getting non-healthcare personnel certified who are not responsible for health offices, per se. County Manager Barbee said we are jealous of your staffing levels. We wish we had that many staff. Ms. Utz said I was talking to Pamela Krause earlier and my heart goes out to her. What a blessing she is to our community because she gets it done but I do not know how. Dr. Stephens said we are grateful and if that is something you can do for these remaining two weeks, we would appreciate it. I know you have it down to an efficient process now. It has been catching a couple of things,

which we appreciate it. If you can continue that, we are grateful but, if we need to do something else, we can have a conversation about that, as well.

This item was presented for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

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 February 13, 2020 to March 15, 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:

- Churchill County announces next date for additional groups eligible for vaccine (02-22-21).
- Free drive-through COVID vaccines available March 4th (03-01-21).
- Churchill County now serving 55+ Johnson & Johnson vaccine (03-08-21).
- New traffic pattern for vaccines effective March 10th (03-10-21).
- Churchill County vaccination schedule for March 17th and 18th (03-15-21).

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

Social Services Director Ernst said our Public Information Officer, Anne McMillin, has been making updates on our vaccines, our testing, and we will be making changes, as of April 1st, about our testing just because of staffing levels to make sure that we can accommodate the community but also have adequate staffing. We are seeking approval of the media releases that have gone out since the last board meeting.

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the submitted media releases on behalf of the Board of Health as related to COVID-19. Commissioner H. Peter Olsen, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried by majority vote, with Commissioner Greg Koenig temporarily out of the room when this vote was taken.

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

Rob Carnahan, CEO with **Banner Churchill Community Hospital**, said our gating status for visitation has improved, which is a good thing. Banner has a visitation gating status that goes from red to green. Anything below the 5% 14 day positivity rate allows for a patient to have two visitors. That is a great thing for those who are in the hospital. We were able to do this over this past week. We are in the green visitation status, so we can have two visitors in the hospital. That really helps with a patient's healing, support, and education for the patient to have a visitor there. We are moving in the right direction. Our volunteers will be able to return to the hospital on April 5th. We will get our gift shop back open at that time, as well. We will keep screeners at the entrances of the hospital, so you will still need to be screened to come into the hospital and masks will still be required, as well as the temperature check and questionnaire. As far as the census in our volume is concerned for COVID-positive patients, at the beginning of March we had about eight days where we had no COVID patients in-house, which was an inspirational change for us. Over the past five or six days, we have had one COVID-positive patient in-house. As of this morning, however, we have two patients, one requiring ICU care and the other in our med-surge telemetry unit. We have experienced a slight uptick over the past couple of days. Overall, it is very manageable. For the month of March, we have had zero deaths, which is another great thing, as well.

Lana Robards, Executive Director of the **New Frontier Treatment Center**, said our unit has been quarantined for the last several weeks due to some positive COVID testing with our clients and a few of our staff. We have three individuals remaining in quarantine until the 26th, at which time we will be completely sanitizing and fogging the unit. We have no scheduled intakes for next week. We are keeping things the way that they are over here in order for us to get complete control. It has been a heavy lift to quarantine the unit. I wanted to thank the Banner team for being responsive to the needs of our clients. As we have made it through this, there have been a few that have needed Banner's help and I am very appreciate of the support that our clients have received from them. We are still limiting foot traffic as much as possible and nobody is allowed on or off the unit. I said from the very beginning, if we were going to get COVID on the unit, it would come in by a staff person and it did.

Our food pantry is going strong. We served 856 unduplicated families for 2,618 participants coming anywhere from 1-5 times per month. The drive-through food service is working great. We are still delivering food boxes to homebound seniors and those without transportation. Those numbers are increasing slowly. Tuesdays and Thursdays, after commodities, are generally the days we reserve for deliveries.

Pamela Krause, **Community Health Nurse**, said we are still seeing patients in the clinic by appointment and we are also doing the screening. We are going to provide the back-to-school immunizations and we want to start early so we do not get into the time crunch like we did last year where we had to do them all in one day. I would like to give the option for several more days this year to get more kids in, especially the uninsured children. I will be in touch with Stephanie Utz to coordinate those dates for immunization. Ms. Utz said we can do that as soon

as we have our school calendar finalized. Ms. Krause said I also wanted to piggyback on those COVID tests, the last I reported they were expiring but now we have an extended expiration date. My office and the other office are now full of the Bianox tests. Perhaps I can talk off-line with Shannon about those tests.

Lisa Erquiaga, Executive Director of the **William N. Pennington Life Center**, said I wanted to lighten everybody's day because I thought it was very interesting because I am going to compare our little boat here, in comparison to the school district's Titanic turn around, by saying that we are the S.S. Minnow and we are not going to turn until we know for sure that even our little boat can turn around. With that, I preface what I have to say. We are in the process of hiring five Homemakers. If you know of anyone who is looking for a job, it starts at \$10 an hour and it is for up to 25 hours per week. We will be opening up our Homemaker Program to those people that have been waiting for over a year now. We opened for about three weeks previously but that did not work and we closed the program again. We are confident that the program will be successful this next time.

We also have plans to start bringing in about 6-8 people starting in the middle of April to do a couple of different classes, such as gardening, cooking, and Bingo-cize. They will be socially distanced and we will follow other protocols that we are supposed to follow. We have Zoom of our own now that we will be using on a regular basis. We had been piggy-backing with everybody else but we have our own now.

As soon as we know that our ship can sail behind anybody else, we will let you know. We are thinking that we will not consider anything until probably July and then look at that when the process is getting a plan together. We have a board meeting in April and Commissioner Heath sits on that board. Come the end of April, we will have some ideas and plans, which may get moved up or moved back. It depends because things are up in the air. We will go from there. I am happy to answer any questions.

Commissioner Olsen said I am wondering, with the CDC Guidelines saying that people who are vaccinated can get together, considering the fact that we have offered it to everybody 65 years of age and older, most of your clientele has had an opportunity to be vaccinated. I have seen that people in other states are opening up their senior centers again, with some restrictions. I hear you say that you really do not want to reopen. I am not understanding the reticence to open when there is a pathway there for at least part of your clientele to get back together. Ms. Erquiaga said I appreciate that but what do I do with those people who have not been vaccinated and refuse to get vaccinated but want to come in and sit less than 3 feet in distance? That is the issue. Nobody has addressed the issue, at this time. At this time, nobody has said you cannot come in some place without a vaccine. Commissioner Heath said it would be just like the issue of wearing a mask. You can set the same policy that you set for the mask and require that they must be vaccinated. You can do this with the senior center with regard to the COVID vaccination. You can tell people that they cannot come in unless they have been vaccinated and show their card. That is starting to happen across the nation already. We see that right now with the airlines and things where you have to be tested to go or you have to show a vaccination card. There are policies that we can put into place. Ms. Erquiaga said give me the go-ahead. She asked Civil

Deputy DA Sanford if he could give her some guidance on that offline because I will take that guidance if it is given. Civil Deputy DA Sanford said I would be happy to help you with that if you would reach out to me. Commissioner Olsen said I would just bet that you and I, Lisa, share the same concerns for those people who have been shut-in and it has been even harder on them. I saw this with my own parents. That is the only reason I am pushing on this. I know there are people who have been shut-away and shut-in but that time at the senior center is really good for them. For a lot of them, they are on the other end of their life and do not have a lot of days left, possibly. If there is a way forward where we do not have to keep them away and we are able to get everybody together, I just see a positive benefit for as much of the population as we can. Ms. Erquiaga said I appreciate that. You just said that I do not want to reopen but I do not want to reopen when it is not safe. I do want to reopen because, like you said, we have so many lonely people out there and it is killing my staff when we see them from a car distance when we hang their meals on their door, so we know very well what it is doing to these people. If anybody has any ideas or any guidance, I would appreciate it. I will talk to Civil Deputy DA Sanford and I will be glad to consider reopening but it has to go in front of my board. We have time to put that together before our next meeting in April. Commissioner Olsen thanked her for being willing to take a look at it. I appreciate that. Commissioner Heath said we can keep it at 50% capacity and follow the CDC Guidelines to keep people safe.

Ms. Erquiaga said 6-8 people at a time for me is what we have been roaming around with for activities, not for meals. Having 6-8 come in and be distanced to do a cooking class or a Bingo-size class is a big step. County Manager Barbee said Shannon and I are looking at each other and we will give you a hand with this. We have some CDC recommendations, such as the 50% occupancy, and this is where we are at right now today. I think your area will handle 400-500 people, whatever it is. We can help you put together a plan to address the masking and all of those things. That is what we are here for. We are a resource for you. We can help you with that. We will schedule a meeting as soon as we get through these vaccinations this week. Ms. Erquiaga thanked him.

There were no further updates and no action was taken as this was presented for informational purposes only.

Consideration of Future Agenda Items:

The following future Agenda items were suggested: Reopening Plan, which will be the emphasis for our next meeting. We have to get approval for this plan at that meeting. We will be on a time crunch that day so that we can get the Reopening Plan presented to the Board of County Commissioners that same afternoon. We will include just basic COVID updates, partner updates, and then focus on the Reopening Plan at the next meeting.

Consider and schedule future meeting date and location:

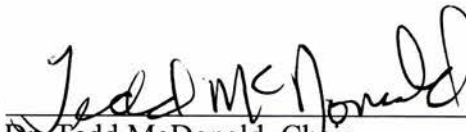
The next meeting will be held on April 21, 2021, at 10:00 AM in the Chambers. This reflects a change to the regular meeting schedule to accommodate the approval of the Reopening Plan to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners that afternoon.

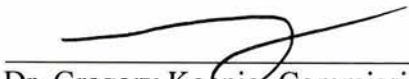
Public Comment:

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

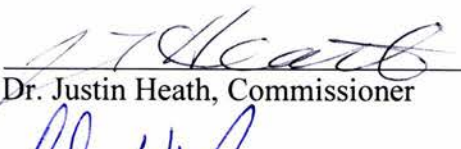
Adjournment:

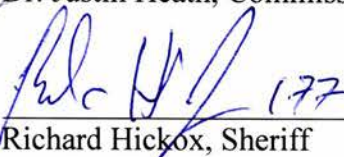
The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 AM.

APPROVED: 
Dr. Tedd McDonald, Chair

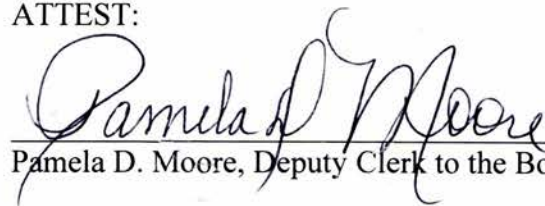
APPROVED: 
Dr. Gregory Koenig, Commissioner

APPROVED: 
H. Peter Olsen, Jr., Commissioner

APPROVED: 
Dr. Justin Heath, Commissioner

APPROVED: 
Richard Hickox, Sheriff

ATTEST:


Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board