

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406

April 21, 2021

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the County Board of Health was called to order at 10:00 AM on April 21, 2021.

PRESENT:

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

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 15th day of April, 2021, between the hours of 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241 and the Governor's Emergency Directive related to posting during the Pandemic.

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

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted. Sheriff Richard Hickox seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

A- March 24, 2021.

The Minutes of the meeting held on March 24, 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:

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on March 24, 2021 as presented. Sheriff Richard Hickox 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 as follows:

Total COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered by Churchill County Public Health	Doses Administered	
	Total	7275
	Moderna 1st Dose	3798
	Moderna 2nd Dose	2968
	Janssen	341
	Pfizer 1st Dose	167
	Pfizer 2nd Dose	1

We went to Middlegate and Cold Springs last Friday to provide vaccinations and will be making another tour out there with the Moderna vaccine. We are finding several individuals who are waiting for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to be used again. We should have an update on that by this Friday. Moderna has applied to use the vaccine for use with those 12-15 years of age. We will evaluate providing that to youth and how to work with them to get their back-to-school vaccines because you cannot get two of them. There will be a lot of discussion on how to roll that out in the future.

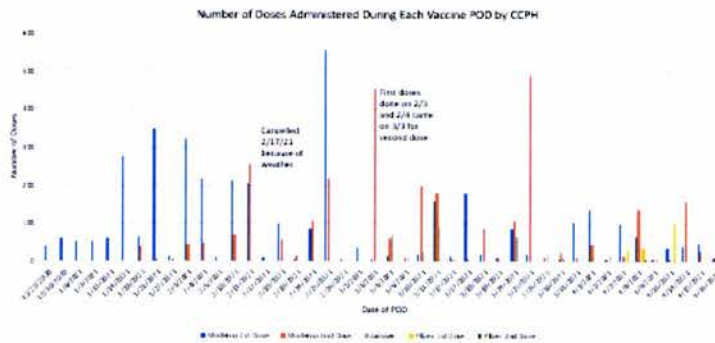


Figure 1. Number of Moderna (first and second), Janssen, and Pfizer (first and second) vaccine doses administered by Churchill County Public Health during each vaccine POD from December 23, 2020 to April 16, 2021.

We worked on a new plan for the vaccination site that enables us to do the POD without having 30 people to manage traffic because we are not seeing those large numbers now. We are lucky to see 200 people in a day now. Today was our first trial run for conducting the vaccination with just our health staff. We will be making some changes because we learned what didn't work this morning. It always involves a learning process and we adapt as needed.

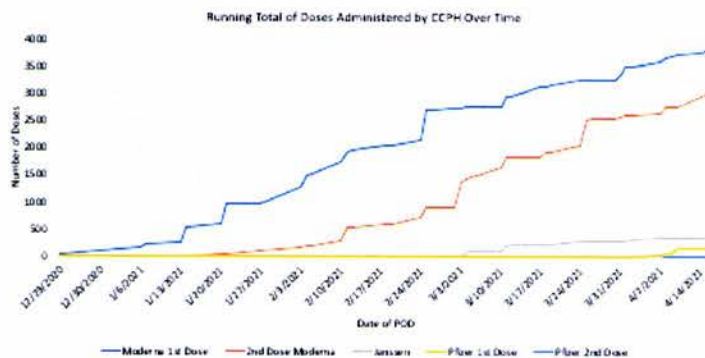


Figure 2. Running total of Moderna (first and second), Janssen, and Pfizer (first and second) vaccine doses administered by Churchill County Public Health from December 23, 2020 to April 16, 2021.

This slide shows just the Churchill County PODs and it shows the upticks with each of the vaccines and what we have given.

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

Total	112
Moderna 1st Dose	57
Moderna 2nd Dose	39
Janssen	12
Pfizer 1st Dose	4
Pfizer 2nd Dose	0

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

Total	1089
Moderna 1st Dose	526
Moderna 2nd Dose	454
Janssen	93
Pfizer 1st Dose	16
Pfizer 2nd Dose	0

For non-residents who have received their first dose here and do not show for the second dose, we are going into WebIZ to determine if they received the second dose somewhere else and, if they have not, we are calling to arrange that second dose. We have found that a lot of the Washoe County residents are accessing the second dose in Washoe County once they started opening up their PODs more. We want to make sure that individuals are getting that access. It is recommended that you get the second dose within that 45 day period, so we are pushing for that. We have found individuals who think they have timed out because they missed that date but they are able to still come in and we are processing those.

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Doses Administered to Churchill County Residents by CCPH

Total	6074
Moderna 1st Dose	3215
Moderna 2nd Dose	2475
Janssen	236
Pfizer 1st Dose	147
Pfizer 2nd Dose	1

Breakdown of Total Doses Administered by CCPH

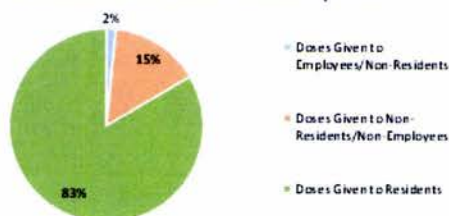


Figure 3. Breakdown of the total doses administered by Churchill County Public Health. With a total of 7,275 doses administered by Churchill County Public Health, 112 of those doses went to employees/non-residents of Churchill, 1,089 doses went to non-residents/non-employees of Churchill, and 6,074 doses went to Churchill County residents.

Percentage of Residents Fully Vaccinated by CCPH

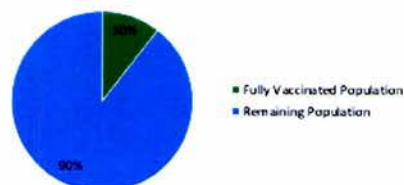


Figure 4. Population of Churchill County that has been fully vaccinated by CCPH. Combining the number of residents that received Moderna/Pfizer second doses and Janssen single doses gives a total of 2,712 fully vaccinated residents. Also, it should be noted that 24% of Churchill County's population consists of youth 17 years old and younger (NV DHHS, 2019). Therefore, most of that underage population currently does not qualify to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

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

This graph depicts the number of people who are fully vaccinated just by our POD, not including other providers here in the community. As of yesterday, 10% of our population is fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated means that they received both the first and second doses if it is

Moderna and Pfizer or just the one Johnson & Johnson dose.

Doses of Pfizer Administered to 16-17 Year Old's by CCPH

Total	59
Churchill Residents	56
Out of County	3



It was difficult to get Pfizer to serve the age group for those 16-17 years of age. We had purchased an ultra-freeze and had it up and going and the compressor went out and we lost all oil. We were not able to receive the Pfizer vaccine in the ultra-frozen state. We are sending that freezer back and have another one coming in this week because, once we picked up the Pfizer vaccine from Washoe County, we had 5 days from the time it was taken out of the freezer. They had lost some temperature in transit, so we lost two more hours on that vaccine, so we expired at midnight on Saturday. It is hard to project how many people will come in and we ended up losing 24 doses that we just could not get in arms before midnight on Saturday. Everybody tried every effort. We went out to dairies and other locations trying to accomplish this but were not successful. As soon as our freezer comes, we will get that plugged in and, once it gets to the negative 80 degrees, we will take the pictures and get it registered. You have to have a tray, which is 1,180 doses, that would come to us directly from CDC. We would then be the rural access point for Pfizer. It comes in a 5-dose vial. If we had Mineral County that wanted to provide 5 kids or 5 people with the Pfizer vaccine, they would pick that up from us. We will distribute the vaccine to rural communities and it is a little closer than having to go into Washoe County or Carson City and everybody can access that in a vial state and not have to worry about so many doses. I think that will be great. Once we get to doing our second doses, we will not have to waste 24 doses, as we will just pull out what we need. It only takes about 2 hours for it to completely unthaw. If we are running low, we can go in and pull what we need. Our goal is always to not lose doses and it was very disappointing to the entire crew that day.

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Senior Center Demographics

On April 7, 2021, CCPH held a vaccine POD at Pennington Life Center. A total of 7 doses of the Janssen vaccine were administered, 13 seniors declined the vaccine, and 30 seniors stated they have already been vaccinated.

Doses of Janssen Administered	7
Seniors Declined	13
Seniors Already Vaccinated	30

We also did an outreach to the William N. Pennington Life Center. The team went over there on a Wednesday and administered 7 Janssen vaccines, had 13 seniors who declined, and 30 that went through the drive-through that had already been vaccinated. It demonstrates that we are having individuals decline the vaccine and others who are truly interested in receiving it.

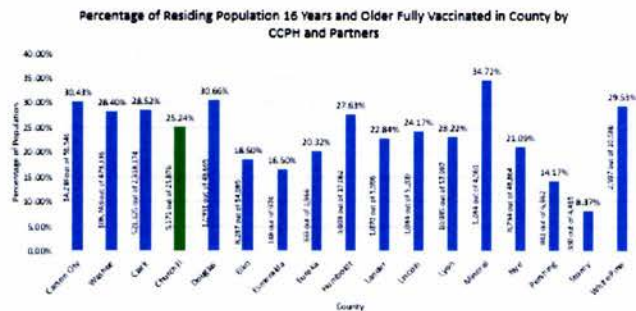


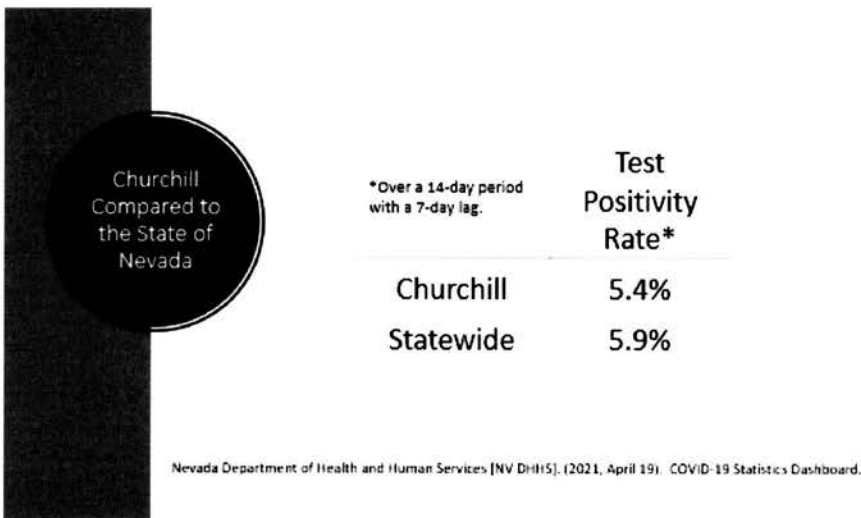
Figure 1. Out of the rural counties in Nevada, Churchill is currently ranked 5th out of 14 for the highest percentage of fully vaccinated residents 16 years and older, with 25.24% of the county fully vaccinated (NV DHHS, 2021).

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

Although this changes daily, this graph shows vaccinations by all providers throughout the state. If you look at Churchill, as of yesterday morning, they reported 25.24% of our population is fully vaccinated for people 16 years of age and older. When we are working in the database, we do not have access to see what everyone else is doing and we are only tracking our county. I was excited when the state started doing this breakdown. Previously, they were showing our numbers at 60-70% because we were doing so many vaccinations, so they were taking the number of vaccines provided and applied that. Now, they are looking at the number of residents to get that number.

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As of yesterday, we were at 5.4% positivity rate and the state was at 5.9%. Remember, this is a two-week lag. This is something we have always battled. We increased two weeks ago but have come out of that and we should be dropping. Our positive cases have reduced tremendously. We have maybe 1-2 a day, if that. Within our own testing, we are not seeing positive results. We have not had a positive through the month of April through our testing site.

County Manager Barbee said there is significant recognition that the percentage is based on the total number of people being tested. As I looked at the rate this morning, our current positivity rate is 6.9% for Churchill County, which is right at the bubble for 7% but they go over to 7.5% before you go onto the tracker. I am adamantly making the case that 6.9% today is extremely different than 6.9% in November 2020. The total capacity of testing that we are doing is significantly lowered. People are not testing; people are getting vaccinated. You are going to see a much larger percentage of folks that are testing because they may have symptoms rather than just helping us with surveillance testing in terms of what the disease represents in terms of positivity to the whole population within the county. I just want to reinforce that, as we transition to the next topic, when we look at these numbers, we will be looking at the baseline numbers that create this positivity rate. We are running about 20 right now for positives over a 14 day period. In November, with that percentage at 6.9%, we were running much higher than 20 positive cases over a 14 day period, with a 7 day look-back. Those numbers are not comparable.

Social Services Director Ernst said, in November, we were seeing an average of 75 positives per day. It is a very different climate. Remember, with people who are vaccinated, they are not supposed to test unless they are symptomatic. You are seeing more and more people who are not testing because they are vaccinated. If you have been vaccinated and come into contact with someone but are not symptomatic, you are not to test. We are coming up with some strategies because we do need unvaccinated people to test still. We still need to do that community-based testing. We are trying to develop some strategies and incentives for people to test to help us with these numbers. Through our drive-through, we are seeing maybe 10-12 people testing in a week. It has dropped off tremendously.

Testing Completed by CCPH since May 4, 2020

11,154 TOTAL NEW TESTS

10,399 NEGATIVES

742 POSITIVES



We are coming to one year since we started our testing. Our goal, at that time, was to test 2,600 people but you can see we have tested 11,154. When we look back to a year ago, this was to see where we were experiencing the positives in the community. We were tracking it by Commissioner Districts and we wanted 10% of that population in each to get tested. We found that this was not a good strategy and we maintained that testing and, a year later, this is what we have completed.

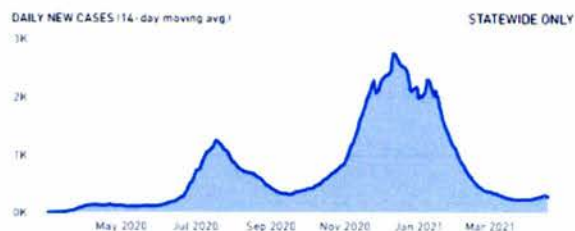


Figure 6. Statewide daily new COVID-19 cases from May 2020 to March 2021, updated April 18, 2021 (NV DHHS, 2021).

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

This slide shows you where things are at across the state. You can see the uptick in November through December-January and now we have dropped back down.

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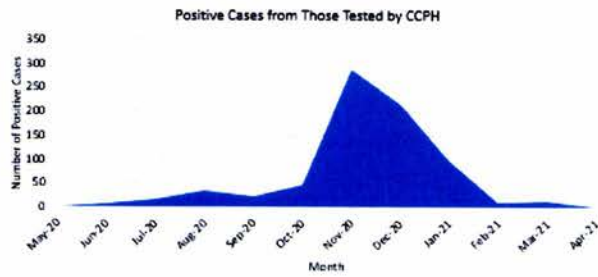


Figure 7. Number of COVID-19 positive cases from those who tested with Churchill County Public Health between May 2020 to April 15, 2021.

This slide depicts our testing through the Churchill County Public Health Department.

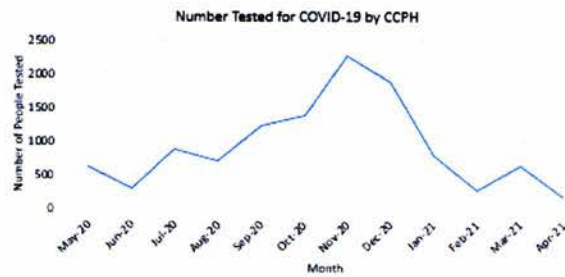


Figure 8. Number of people who tested with Churchill County Public Health between May 2020 to April 15, 2021.

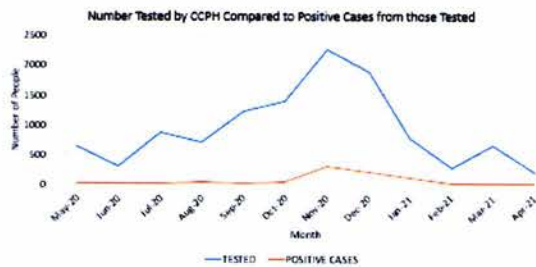


Figure 9. Number of people who tested with Churchill County Public Health compared to the positive cases from those tested between May 2020 to April 15, 2021.

This slide shows the number of people being tested and it depicts the downturn in testing.

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OVERVIEW
As of April 20, 2021

2010 Total County Positives
1945 Total Recovered
16 Active
49 Deaths

180 Long Term Care Facilities
156 NAS Fallon
204 Fallon Tribal



This slide is an overview for the whole county, showing we have had a total of 2,010 positive cases, with 1,945 recovered, 15 active currently, and 49 deaths. When we had these outbreaks, it shows on the right where we were seeing those high positivity numbers.

Dr. McDonald thanked her for this presentation, as it was very enlightening. I sat in on a meeting not too long ago regarding the doses of vaccines and we are not the only community facing this now where we are having to waste vaccines. Some communities had a .001 waste in the past and now they are wasting 4-5 doses or more at a time. The way they are beginning to look at it is how many doses did you put into somebody's arm? That is much more important at this point because of the amount of doses we have than what we actually waste. I appreciate the fact that you guys are going to Middlegate and Cold Springs and reaching out. The next portion of this is going to be difficult as everybody is having a hard time now that we are up to 40% as to how do we get to the next part. It is going to be very difficult reaching out to those individuals to bring them into the immunization herd. Thank you very much for all of the hard work and the things that you are going through. Wasting some vaccine, at this point nationally, is sad because we want to use it, but the vaccines that you get into arms are important.

Social Services Director Ernst said one of the things we have changed, to help, is that, while we have our PODs, we might have 4-5 doses after the cars stop coming. We have changed to where we are going to the homebound and dairies or things like that in the afternoons. We will call these places, once we know how many we have left over, and will go out. Stockmen's has been a great partner. They have employees who are working during the hours we have the POD open, so we will call and say we have 5 doses and they have an area for us to go over and administer the vaccines. We are trying all of the creative measures that we can. There were no further comments.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Presentation and approval of the Churchill County Reopening Plan for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners.

Churchill County Board of Health will review and request input on the draft reopening plan to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners during their regular meeting scheduled

4/21/2021. Once final approval is obtained the plan will be submitted to the Nevada COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Taskforce for review and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

County Manager Barbee said what we have in front of you today is our local COVID-19 Transition Plan. As a framework, today we are presenting what staff is recommending as we seek your input and input from the community on what we are presenting. That will then be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners, along with the input received, later this afternoon at 1:15 PM. The product that comes out of that meeting will be presented to the Nevada COVID Task Force tomorrow at 10:00 AM. I believe we are first on the Agenda tomorrow to present our Reopening Plan.

Additionally, some things have changed since this process started in February. The Governor has come out, in the last couple of weeks, and made some other changes specifically identifying that they look to open up the state on June 1. Again, this plan is requesting local control as of May 1. Additionally, the initial plan parameters that were put forward on February 15th by the Governor included the continuation of the social distancing requirements but, in his most recent comments, he has pulled back on the social distancing requirements that are put out by the CDC, and they are no longer requirements but are recommendations, with an eye towards the fact that it would be impossible for a local community to open 100% specifically, for example, in restaurants because of the distancing component if that were to stay as a requirement. Basically, the plan parameters that the state would continue with between May 1st, if we got local control, and June 1st, is that the mask requirement will continue. It sounds like the Governor's intention is that the mask requirement will continue after June 1st and then the existing organizational boards, for example, the Gaming Control Board, would still maintain control over the casinos. The school district would still have some of their controls, although some of that, in the Governor's updated comments, has been broadened to include the fact that large events, for example, graduation, would fall under the control of local authority rather than the State Department of Education. I believe we have the Superintendent of Schools here so, after I present, hopefully, she can make comment on those components and we can get that input.

With that, I will click through the plan. It appears much larger than it really is. This is the template that the state requested that we put the information in. I would note that the data that Social Services Director Ernst shared with you is a deep dive into county-specific data and largely county health department engagement in that data. Currently, if you look on the statewide Task Force website, for Churchill County, there have been 11,673 doses administered within the county. Some of those clearly could be from folks who live outside the county but then that also takes into consideration folks within the county that were either administered at pharmacies or the hospital, so that number is a little bit larger. If you look at that total dosage number, if you look at it from the 100,000 population comparable, that is basically a little over 45,000 to 100,000 population and the number that they have on that specific dial represents

34.24% vaccination rate within the county. Additionally, I went to CDC and reviewed the county data that they had posted and, as of last week, we were just at 60% for vaccines administered within the county for people who are over 65 years of age. The population of those who are 65 and older, per CDC data, shows that we are at a 60% vaccination rate. I think those are important to overlay as we start through this process.

Again, as you look at the plan, our intent would be to gain local control on May 1 and fully open at 100%. With regard to monitoring, I already addressed in the previous comments regarding the test rate, we will monitor the data, as we have done over the last year, and utilize that in making wise recommendations to the Board of Health and to the Board of County Commissioners as we, hopefully, take over local control and move forward. The data really needs to drive the actions we are taking and, in many cases, some of these percentages, although I don't think the state agrees with me on this, but I am just going to be blunt, again, there is a huge difference between 75 positives in a day and 20 positives over a 14 day period and both of those numbers equating to 6.9%. It is unrealistic to try to look at that as the same meaningful data. We want to look at a much larger piece and take a much higher elevation look at the data. Again, we have been actively engaged here at the county and we have worked tirelessly with the community to take care of our population. Many counties have had the National Guard come in or had other state groups and facilities come in and help, which is great for those counties that did that, as they surely did so out of need, but we are very prideful and very proud that we were able to handle that within this county on our own. We made things happen. We put things into place and that is why we believe that we have had as good of an outcome as we could have. We are not trying to brag, by any means, but we feel very comfortable and confident with what we have accomplished over this time period. That addresses the monitoring and the data for those 65 years of age and older, which is our vulnerable population.

Mr. Barbee continued that, with regard to the contact tracing, we have already talked about a large part of that but we are currently opening up a state satellite laboratory under the authority of the state lab that exists at the University of Nevada Reno under Dr. Pandori. We have hired our microbiologist lab technician and she will be reporting to the state lab next week for training on how to run the tests. Currently, the test equipment that the state has purchased and will on loan to this laboratory is being built and will be located over here. We were able to place a chemical hood into the laboratory but it appears we are going to need a biological hood, so that is on order to get in place. We are hopeful that, somewhere in the June time period when we hit the fully open status by the state, the lab will be open and fully functioning. We know how those things go, so we have all of our fingers crossed. We do not foresee any other hiccups as we move forward, but we will have 1 of only 2 regional satellite laboratories in the State of Nevada. I believe the other is at the hospital in Elko. It is our intent that we will be able to serve a lot of the rural communities around us, which will then offset the workload at the UNR laboratory. We need to give big kudos to Shannon Ernst with her working with the state to come up with the funding to put these things in place the way that we have been able to.

On page 2 of the plan, we will continue our close working relationship with the hospital by looking at the data that is consolidated and comes in from the statewide dashboard and through the data that we have available to us. Currently, I do not believe we have anyone who is

hospitalized.

We go through what our totals are for PPE. It appears that the Department of Emergency Management at the state is starting to wind down and back away from their activities, so they have a tremendous inventory of PPE there and they put out requests to the counties, so we put in a request for 6 months' worth of PPE. We are currently setting up facilities at our test site where we will be able to store that 6 months' worth of PPE as we move forward. We will continue all of those things that we have been doing over the last year in terms of site testing and the vaccination distribution.

With regard to mitigation measures, as we start to move further into the plan, you will see that there are a lot of things, such as youth/adult recreational large event gathering, etc. that come under baseline between May 1 and June 1 by the state. We are not recommending to add any further or more restrictive measures. You will see that as a common theme throughout. I would note, on the general social distancing, PPE, hygiene requirements under mitigation measures, that we are identifying the directives for social distancing but, again, those directives have been converted to a recommendation. Our local restaurants who have had tremendous challenges over this time period, if our proposal is approved, it will get them back to 100% occupancy. We tip our hat to those restaurants.

Under public sector work plans to support in-person work-from-home services, Churchill County has mechanisms in place to support in-person or work-from-home services currently. We have some folks who are doing that but we evaluate that department-by-department and what specific roles are involved. For the largest percentages, the county businesses and county departments have been fully returned to work for some time and have continued in such fashion. We do not have a regional enforcement partnership coordination structure and are not pursuing one. Our enforcement monitoring activities for Churchill County agencies, including all departments and law enforcement as needed, the county has maintained its acceptable control of disease spread through data collection and monitoring and we observe good compliance of mandates within our community. Even when we had plans that were mandated that we had to provide as our numbers got larger earlier in the fall and moving into winter, those plans dealt with enforcement through community outreach and public information. We have one enforcement leadership officer in the county and that is the Sheriff. The Sheriff has been on the record on their piece of the enforcement and they have been great in terms of public outreach, as well. We have definitely focused on public information distribution and working through those channels versus a heavy hand. The next item reinforces that through our public information plan that Anne McMillin has been helping us with, so kudos to her.

With regard to the emergency management and where those pieces are, we are continuing to work with them as we move forward and will continue to try to get that 6 months' worth of PPE. Noteworthy, overarching again, we are also bringing forward a proposal later today in the County Commission meeting to remove ourselves from the Declaration of Emergency effective May 1st. Much like the state Department of Emergency Management and other organizations, we are moving back on what our stance is.

As you move through the rest of these items in the plan, they are either under existing restrictions with the State of Nevada between that May 1 to June 1 timeframe or further out, depending on how those have been identified but fall under other authorities that would not be inclusive or that we would not add any additional restrictions on. I will not read through all of those because they are pretty obvious and our statement is consistent through the rest of the document on what our stance would be on those. That is my presentation of our recommendation for the Reopening Plan that would be submitted to the County Commission later this afternoon.

Chairman McDonald asked for comment from the board and said I will then open it to the public.

Sheriff Hickox said would you like to hear the Sheriff's Office plan in conjunction with the county's plan? He was encouraged to do so. He said early on in this COVID pandemic, we had a meeting with the County Manager and Social Services Director Ernst and one of the big concerns was to make sure we didn't get COVID in the jail. We have taken some pretty extraordinary measures within the jail to prevent that. We created quarantine wings within the jail so that, when new inmates came in, we took their temperature and repeated that 3-4 times throughout the day, we kept them in a separate wing, and we required that they wear masks, and we kept them in that wing for 10 days so that we could monitor them for any kind of symptom. We kept a log of those things. Early on, in agreeance with other counties, some of which they went back on, we stopped the use of the BA and PBTs within the building. We felt that our employees' safety was paramount and didn't see the point in having inmates blow air, which could possibly be COVID-laden directly towards an employee or within a confined area where our employees are located. We stopped that and only did blood draws. We sent out letters to our partner agencies, the Fallon Police Department, Nevada Highway Patrol, Tribal Police, the Courts, and our District Attorneys, to let them know that. As of the last meeting that we had, we went back and drafted a Policy that reverses some of that. We submitted that Policy to the DA's office and our partner agencies to let them know that, as of May 1st if everything goes well, we will be reverting back to fully open. We will continue to monitor for temperature and symptoms. If somebody shows up with symptoms for COVID, we will request that they go down and get tested to be determined if they are fit for incarceration. The only thing that we will not be doing is reopening the in-lobby visitation simply because we do not have a mechanism for cleaning that completely and thoroughly between visits. Right now, we have in-home visits where people can use their computers or tablets to visit their inmate and we have had really good success with that. We feel that, if we open the kiosks in the lobby right now for everybody to come in, it would be extremely time consuming and a burden upon our staff to go out there and clean in between each visit, as well as the whole lobby because they come in and touch everything, so it would not be a good environment for people coming in to get their CCWs or other law enforcement endeavors done. We have been in contact with Washoe County and they have gone as far as to test the hailports of the BA machines and they are ready to test on those to see if there is any kind of trapped COVID residue in there. So far, they have come up with nothing, so we are feeling pretty confident about opening that back up. We didn't want to open it up and have them blow directly into the face of or in a confined space with our employees. If everything goes well with the Reopening Plan for the county, then we will be fully reopen again on May 1st, with that one exception. We will continue to wear masks and to monitor new inmates that

come in to make sure they are not bringing anything into our facility because that is still of paramount importance to keep COVID out of our facility. It has created havoc in other facilities.

County Manager Barbee added that, when we get that satellite lab opened up, we will probably be able to assist you with some of that testing relative to residue on equipment and things like that. We can work that out. Sheriff Hickox said that would be awesome, so thank you.

Dr. McDonald asked if there were any further comments from the board but there were none. He then invited Mayor Tedford to make comment on the City of Fallon's perspective.

Commissioner Olsen asked to make comment before the Mayor starts. I would just like to say that I wholeheartedly approve of our plan and, if anything, there could have been more brevity. We are just trying to get our community going again and safe. In a lot of ways, just to recognize what is already happening in our community. I wholeheartedly support our community opening at 100%.

Mayor Ken Tedford said, in light of that, I will be brief. I just wanted to be here this morning to offer my complete confidence and support of this Transition Plan that was laid out this morning by Mr. Barbee. We have been fortunate, since 2020 when we got going down this COVID path, that Pete, Jim, Robert Erquiaga and I worked very closely on behalf of the community to try to do the best that we could to save lives, which was first and foremost in our minds. We are very fortunate to have had Shannon, Jim, and their staff to do what they did, all the way up to this vaccine portal that is second to none in this state. We are very fortunate and they should get a lot of credit for what is going on with the vaccination of people in our community. While I support the feelings and rights of those people who do not want to get the vaccine, I encourage everyone to get those vaccines. Maybe we will get people safe from COVID. As Pete and Jim know, I had COVID really bad around Thanksgiving and into December and really didn't get back to work until mid-January, so I know how it can really touch people's lives. I got involved with this Transition Plan in mid-March when people were coming to me and saying the city and county could open on May 1st under total local control. We realized that people had not read the fine print that it was local control of state parameters, so we really were not going down any different path than we had been down. We discussed it in March and were going to meet again in April to come up with something different for our community that more fairly reflected how those who elected us felt and even those who didn't elect us felt. I think what you have before you and what the Commissioners will have before them later today is something that I think we can all live with. It is something that all people in rural Nevada can live with and will be favorable to them, although it may not be perfect but it is something that is good and fair and is probably righteous, I think, for our people. I know the City of Fallon supports it. I know that a lot of hard work went into its preparation and I cannot thank Shannon and Jim enough for all of their hard work in what they are doing to help our community stay healthy. There is nothing in this plan that would hurt the health of our people. You all know that we are realistic people and, if a surge were to happen again, this plan goes away and we have to do certain things to take care of that surge, like we did in the past and we would have to do other things. We know that and the people who are understanding are going to be allowed to open, if our plan is accepted by the state, to further their businesses and what they do in their personal lives and not feel the encroachment of

government upon them for the first time in a long time and I think will understand that too. That is all that I want to say today. I know that Pete and Jim think that is very brief for me but I would welcome any questions that any of you might have. There were no questions, so he said I want to thank you for the work that you do to further health and healthcare in our community, as it has not been an easy job.

Dr. McDonald said there are people here in our audience that we will go to first and then, if there are others online, we will go to them next. He invited Dr. Stephens, Superintendent, to provide an update.

Dr. Summer Stephens said I also have Stephanie Utz, Chief School Nurse, on the line so she can help me out if there is anything that I forget. I wanted to mention that I think the plan is pretty thorough. One concern I had is, obviously, you are going to present this plan to the state, in terms of the monitoring or mitigation, clearly you know if they are going to throw it out if there is not like a specific number or threshold plan or something, although I have not been involved in the conversation to know if you need that. We closed a classroom today to full-time remote learning for the next two weeks due to a case of COVID. As you all probably know, Bishop Manogue in Reno is closed down completely. We are clearly still in those kinds of situations. That is the one thing that I would throw out, as someone who I thought, at one point, was approving the plan or whatnot, is whether you have to have those kinds of numbers or specifics. I clearly do not want it to get thrown back here because you don't have those levels. I just didn't see a specificity of what it means to go back into some sort of a level of close-down. That is a question that I had. County Manager Barbee said we have looked to the state to give us some sort of level of what they are looking for and they have not done so, so that is where we have left that open. I think the idea is that, again, we would go back to the example of 75 per day versus 21 per two weeks and it being the same percentage. It is more important to look at what those numbers represent. If we start seeing a rise that puts us anywhere in that fashion of 10-15 per day, that is a significant increase and I think that makes a significant change in the play, recognizing that in the youth we are just now getting to the capacity of being able to provide vaccinations for those 16 and above and no opportunity for those below the age of 16. There are certain realities with a virus. A virus will spread and, if you are in a population that does not qualify for being vaccinated, you are going to see disease spread.

Dr. Stephens said, ultimately, the county has been super responsive anytime something has happened, so I am sure you would just reconvene yourselves if something needed to happen. I also wanted to echo what everyone shared about the plan. I continue to support the county and its vaccination efforts. I do not think we are there yet, so keep going. Keep promoting it and we will keep promoting it for you. Keep testing and that sort of thing.

We understand that, with the large group gathering and that sort of thing, we support how that is going to work. We will continue our plans accordingly and know that no plan is required. Unless we are told differently, we will not report to you on anything, with the exception of the fact that Sheriff Hickox is meeting with us tomorrow to talk about graduation. At this point, we are intending to have a fairly typical graduation but we are going to ensure that we can handle the logistics of everything. We will talk more about that tomorrow. If we do not have enough staff

and, if we feel like we are in a situation, we will have a backup plan if, in fact, we have an outbreak or anything that we will not have as large of an event as normal, possibly. We will ensure that all of the kids have their families and that we have resources so that, if people cannot be there physically, they can view it. We are feeling pretty confident that it will look pretty traditional, outside on the field with a large crowd. That is looking pretty good.

Dr. Stephens added that the last item that I would have, which is something that I am pretty sensitive to, is the face covering mandate, which is something that we will continue through the end of the school year. We get out on June 4th, so we are just carrying forward the plan throughout the school year. Things are continuing to go well and we are just going to make it through and kids are doing well. I will restate that, if families are having struggles at all, they should contact their school and we will help them with anything that they need. If they need to get a student back in a full-day situation or they need help with their childcare or whatnot, we can help them. We are going to make it through. With regard to the face covering mandate, obviously, although I do not know the status of people as to whether they have vaccinations or not in this room, but I am the only one wearing a face covering in a face covering mandate situation. I would reiterate that, as we reopen, it is important to us in school that that not become something that is a challenge for us with kids. If they see people out in the community who are not wearing face coverings, I would state that it is important for us to have help from the community to support this mandate. I know people have a lot of personal preferences and beliefs around it, but we will continue with the face coverings in our schools and I felt like I could not leave here today without making that comment as a leader of the system.

County Manager Barbee said, as a follow up to that, the mask mandate in this plan does not go away. That is overlaid by the Governor and we are not making a recommendation that it go away or that anything like that. We do address enforcement of that in the plan. With regard to the school component of large gatherings or events, please do not misinterpret that our lack of identifying a benchmark or number is in any way an unwillingness to work and coordinate with the school district. We are right here with you, as we were a little over a year ago. We want to work with you and we want to do everything we can to help support you guys coming into a positive end of the COVID school year and then as you start to move forward to your future transitions and what those look like. We will always be a resource for you, as we have been from the very beginning.

Dr. Stephens said that sounds great and, again, we have been super fortunate. I wanted to add that, if Shannon ever ends up any of those extra vaccines and it is still the school day, although that may not be typical as you probably end after that, but certainly feel free to call the school buildings and see if any staff are still interested. We have a pretty high staff number of vaccinated staff. As an example the other day there were a couple of staff members that were not vaccinated that were exposed to a staff member that was sick. Then it gets dicey and we start losing people. Thanks to you guys. I appreciate everyone in the community for the support throughout the year. We have made it a long way.

Dr. McDonald said, before I open it to the online folks, is there anyone else in the audience who wants to make comment on this matter? There were no comments, so he asked to move to those

online.

Melissa Mackedon, Oasis Academy, said we are back in-person, except for those kids who want to remain online, which is 23 students in K-8 and 19 kids in the high school. Everyone else is back to a full day. Like the district, we are planning our in-person graduation in a few weeks. It will be here before we know it. I would just reiterate what Dr. Stephens said. We appreciate the county and their efforts with the vaccines and testing. We feel very fortunate compared to some of our colleagues in other counties and states, so thank you.

Deputy Clerk Moore asked if there was anyone else who wants to comment on the Reopening Plan. County Manager Barbee said we would specifically love to hear from Banner Churchill Community Hospital but there were not online. Dr. Heath said, with regard to the hospital, they are in a green status and have been there for about a month now. County Manager Barbee said, for the record, I did reach out and share the Transition Plan with the hospital and asked Rob if he would be available today to make comment or put any information forward. He indicated that he had a busy schedule, so I was not sure if he would be able to make it. Again, we have open, ongoing communication with the hospital and a wonderful relationship. We have coordinated all along the way with those folks and will continue to do that, regardless of where we land in front of the Task Force.

Dr. Heath said, in response to the comments about numbers, the numbers are not what is important. It is the trend. If we start seeing a trend, that is when we have to start looking at ways to address that.

Dr. McDonald asked if there were any further comments about the presentation or comments from the audience but there were no further comments.

Commissioner H. Peter Olsen, Jr. made a motion to approve the plan as presented to be submitted to the Churchill County Board of County Commissioners for final approval. Commissioner Justin Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Reports/Notification of Items Received:

- 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 March 16, 2020 to April __, 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 Vaccination Schedule for March 24 & 25.
- Churchill County Vaccination Schedule for March 31 & April 1.
- Churchill County Vaccination, Testing Schedule for first week of April.
- Churchill County offering COVID Vaccines on Saturday, April 10.
- Churchill County Vaccination, Testing Schedule for April 12-16.

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

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

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

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

Consent Items:

Deputy Clerk Moore said this section should have been removed prior to posting the Agenda as there were no Consent items.

Consideration of Future Agenda Items:

The following future Agenda items were suggested: quarterly reports for Board of Health strategies and the funding we have provide, as well as community partner updates.

Consider and schedule future meeting date and location:

The next meeting will be held on May 26, 2021 at 9:00 AM. Sheriff Hickox and Social Services Director Ernst will both be at the Crisis Intervention Training that week. If you would like to consider another day, we could do that or you can proceed without us. Dr. McDonald said I have been considering taking the CIT class, as well. Commissioner Koenig said it makes it a lot easier for me if we are not doing this on the same day as a Commission meeting because now I have lost a whole day of work instead of two half days of work. If we could not do that on the same day as a regular Commission meeting, that would benefit me. If we could be consistent at 9:00 AM and not switch it like we did today to 10:00 AM, that would help because I know I was not the only one who showed up at 9:00 thinking they are always at 9:00, so I had to go waste another hour. Ms. Ernst apologized and said today was different for the Reopening Plan as we had to work with this before the Board of County Commissioners' meeting. We apologize but we do try to be consistent. Deputy Clerk Moore said if we wanted to go the third week of the month, again, that is the same day as the Commission meeting. On May 20th, that Thursday, the budget hearing is scheduled, so Dr. Koenig would have to leave his office for that. I don't know when Dr. Koenig's days off are on Fridays or Mondays in May. He replied that it would be May 14th and May 28th. Deputy Clerk Moore said the 28th is during the CIT again. Dr. Heath said would Jim be able to present on May 26th so we could just leave it on that date? Ms. Ernst said yes, he can proceed without us. We would need to ensure that Commissioner Olsen will be here to reach a quorum. Ms. Ernst said the Chambers could be available during that time because that

is during their resource tours or we could move the meeting to Room #102. Deputy Clerk Moore said you had told me that the Chambers was going to be available to keep the meeting in the Chambers, so I will check to see if Room #102 is available. Ms. Ernst said the resource tours this year will be done virtually rather than going into all of the buildings. Deputy Clerk Moore said as long as we are done by 11:00 AM, Room #102 could be used. Ms. Ernst said I would propose that we move the Board of Health meeting to Room #102 on May 26th at 9:00 AM. We will make sure that the Sheriff and I are present for support.

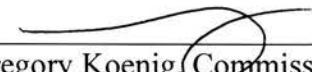
Public Comment:

Chairman McDonald asked if there was any public comment. Sheriff Hickox reported that he is required to file a semi-annual report to the Board of County Commissioners related to deaths in the jail and he wanted to share with this board that the report has been filed and will be heard by the Commissioners at their meeting this afternoon as required by statutes but he is happy to report that there have been no deaths at the jail.

Adjournment:

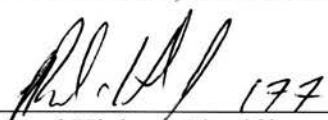
The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

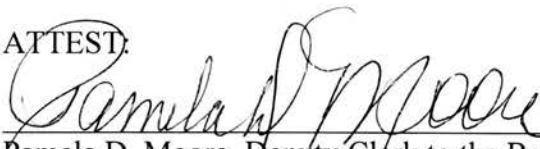
APPROVED: 
Dr. Tedd McDonald, Chair

APPROVED: 
Dr. Gregory Koenig, Commissioner

APPROVED: 
H. Peter Olsen, Jr., Commissioner

APPROVED: 
Dr. Justin Heath, Commissioner

APPROVED:  177
Richard Hickox, Sheriff

ATTEST:

Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board