

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406

June 23, 2021

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the County Board of Health was called to order at 9:02 AM on June 23, 2021.

PRESENT:

Dr. Tedd McDonald
Commissioner H. Peter Olsen, Jr.
Commissioner Justin Heath
Commissioner Gregory Koenig
Sheriff Richard Hickox
Deputy District Attorney Joseph Sanford
County Manager Jim R. Barbee
Social Services Director Shannon Ernst
Deputy Clerk to 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 17th day of June, 2021, between the hours of 8:00 and 11:00 AM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241.

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

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Commissioner Gregory Koenig seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

A- May 26, 2021.

The Minutes of the meeting held on May 26, 2021 are presented for the board's consideration and approval. It should be noted that the audio file failed to record.

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 May 26, 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 said we are not seeing a lot of changes with COVID. We have been the same since the last meeting.

Dose Administered	Total
	8832
Moderna 1st Dose	3990
Moderna 2nd Dose	3715
Janssen	532
Pfizer 1st Dose	330
Pfizer 2nd Dose	265

We have the Ultra-freeze, so we have become the rural distribution site for Pfizer, which is pretty exciting. We do have other providers coming in and obtaining vaccines each week. They have found that it is even easier to pick Moderna and Janssen from us. We have not placed an order for vaccines for 2 weeks because we had so much and we don't want to run across them expiring. We look at those doses and are getting them out into the community. Once we start seeing an uptick or other providers joining us, we will place another order.

This next slide shows those upticks of the vaccine. These are over at the pod and also doing a pop-up pod in the community.

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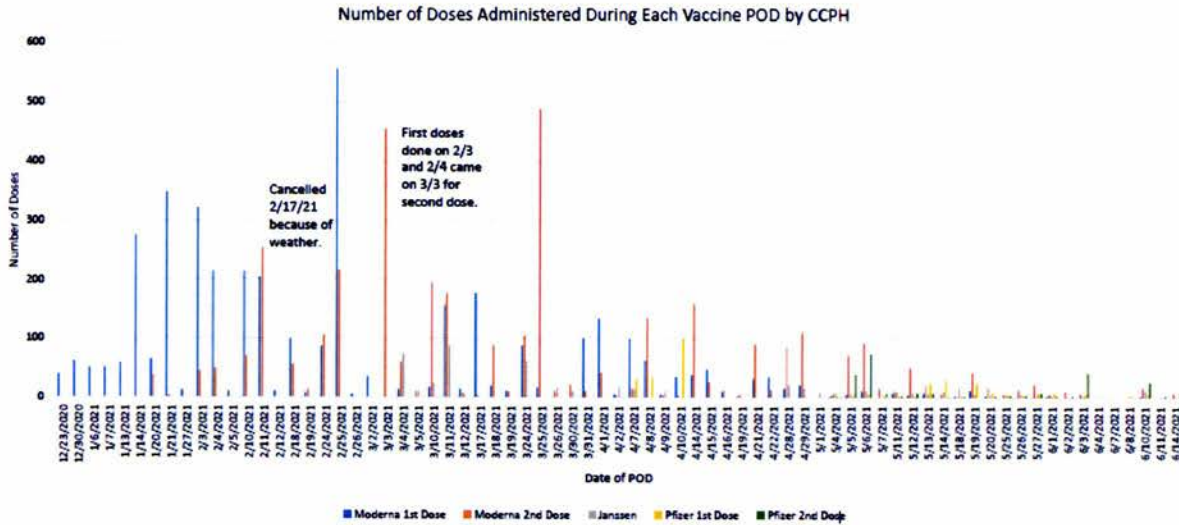


Figure 1. Number of Moderna (first and second), Janssen, and Pfizer (first and second) vaccine doses administered by Churchill County Public Health during each vaccine POD from December 23, 2020 to June 14, 2021.

This slide show a breakdown of total doses administered by our pod. This is not overall in the community.

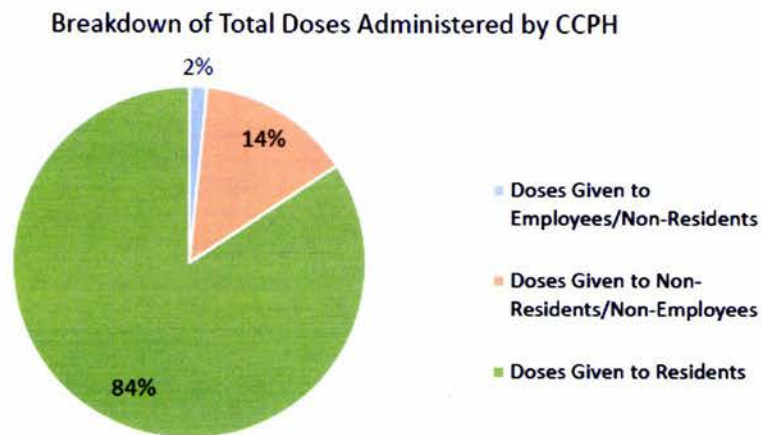


Figure 3. Breakdown of the total doses administered by Churchill County Public Health. With a total of 8,832 doses administered by Churchill County Public Health, 140 of those doses went to employees/non-residents of Churchill, 1,247 doses went to non-residents/non-employees of Churchill, and 7,445 doses went to Churchill County residents.

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

Total	140
Moderna 1st Dose	58
Moderna 2nd Dose	58
Janssen	16
Pfizer 1st Dose	5
Pfizer 2nd Dose	3

Doses Administered to Churchill County Residents by CCPH

Total	7445
Moderna 1st Dose	3390
Moderna 2nd Dose	3124
Janssen	398
Pfizer 1st Dose	293
Pfizer 2nd Dose	240

This next slide really looks at doses of Pfizer administered to 12-17 year old's by CCPH. This is quite surprising for us, so we want to highlight this. This is really important as you look at

schools are going to start opening up and looking at the population that has been fully vaccinated.

Doses of Pfizer Administered to 12-17 Year Old's by CCPH

Total	293
Churchill Residents	270
Out of County	23

Senior Citizen 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

As of June 6, 2021, 80% of residents 70+ years are fully vaccinated (NV DHHS, 2021).

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

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Churchill as a Whole



- **7,861** total residents are fully vaccinated (NV DHHS, 2021)
- **35.93%** of population 12 years and older fully vaccinated (NV DHHS, 2021)



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

This slide shows how we compare to the rest of the state.

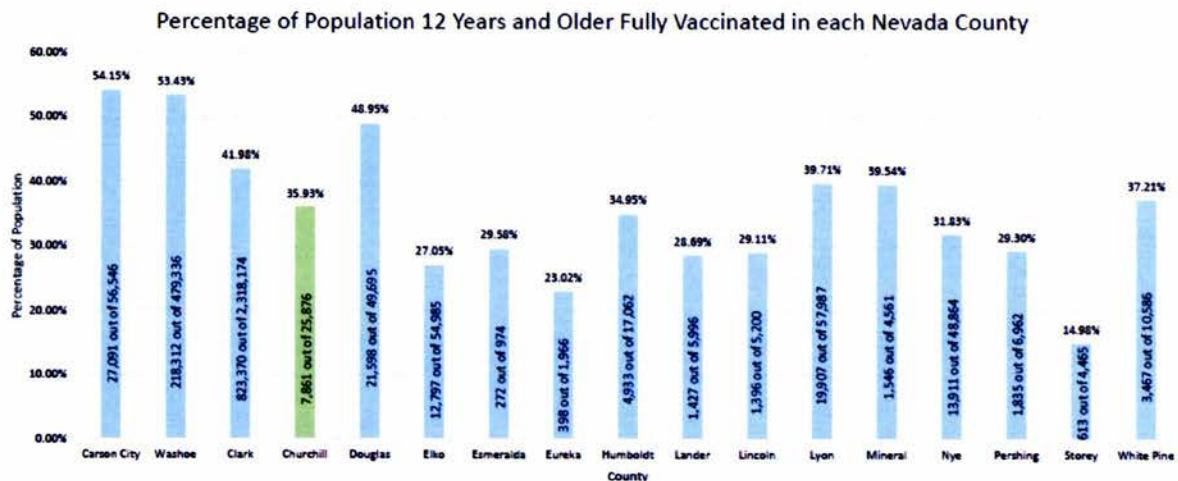


Figure 6. Out of the rural counties in Nevada, Churchill is currently ranked 5th out of 14 for the highest percentage of fully vaccinated residents 12 years and older, with 35.93% of Churchill County residents 12+ years fully vaccinated (NV DHHS, 2021).

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

Testing

Updated June 21, 2021

Churchill
Compared to
the State of
Nevada

*Over a 14-day period
with a 7-day lag.

Test
Positivity
Rate*

Churchill
Statewide

4.0%
3.7%

Testing Completed by CCPH since May 4, 2020

11,482 TOTAL NEW TESTS
10,716 NEGATIVES
753 POSITIVES

This slide shows our uptick in July and then went back down and then up again in November through all the way. We continue to have a reduction in our positives. At this point, we are seeing 1-2 a day. The tracing goes out and about. We had a higher uptick from the Tribal population, so we did have an outbreak. USA Parkway continues to see those 1-2 a day.

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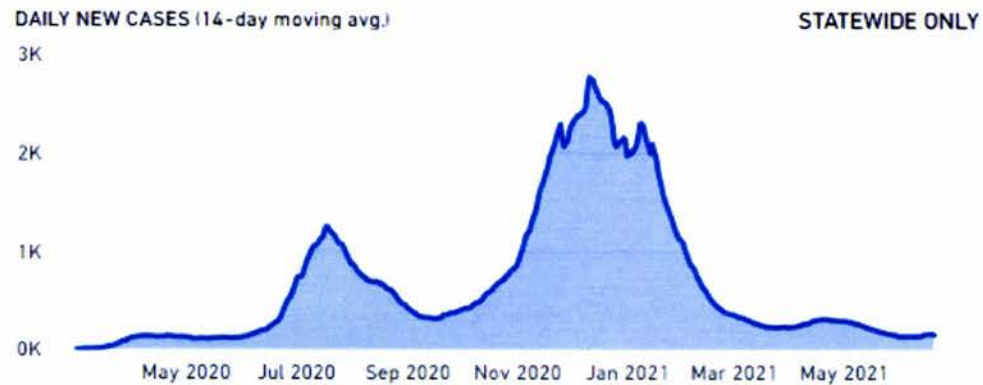


Figure 7. Statewide daily new COVID-19 cases from May 2020 to June 21, 2021 (NV DHHS, 2021).

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

When we look at our breakdown, it really shows where we have seen those higher amounts. As of today, we have only 4 active instead of 11 and no new deaths. One of the things we are really watching is, again, at those facilities. We did have a small outbreak at an assisted living facility. Two individuals are considered an outbreak. We did monitor that for 2 weeks and there was nothing further.

COVID-19 Positive Case Overview As of June 21, 2021

2116 Total County Positives

2056 Total Recovered

11 Active

49 Deaths

182 Long Term Care Facilities

157 NAS Fallon

216 Fallon Tribal

Chairman McDonald said, regarding the 12–17-year old's, is that now a focus area for vaccination or have we refocused looking at that population? Social Services Director Ernst said we are outreaching to all of them. Our focus is all populations. Truly, when we look at July and looking at our pods, we will only be open at the site one day because we are going to focus more on pop-up pods. Also, with the expansion of the Life Center, we will start, effective Monday, being there. We will have somebody doing vaccines and doing health checks there daily, so we are moving a refrigerator so that we can keep our vaccines at that location. We are really looking at how we get to the Farmers Markets where their people are.

We were told that a casino in Tahoe is having trouble getting the vaccine and so we did a pod in that area. We were told that there was about 100 people with interest, but we only did 8, so they are very small. The CDC reminds us weekly that it's about getting at least one in there. We don't want anything to expire, so that is why we stopped ordering. We can get vaccine, that is not a problem, but we are really targeting each of those populations.

When we look at the school, we are going to try to coordinate the drive-through to get kids vaccinated for all of their shots to start school. That has been an issue in the past of trying to get enough appointments to get into providers to get their vaccines to start school. So we will really use our pod and we can also offer them the COVID vaccine.

Chairman McDonald asked if there was any public comment but there was none. This item was presented for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

Consideration and possible action re: Review and approval of funding recommendations regarding RU92 Marijuana Tax Revenue Grant Program.

Churchill County has allocated the RU92 Marijuana Tax Revenue to support community partnerships that increase outcomes in the board's strategies. Approximately \$88,000 is received annually in March by Churchill County. The funds are then made available, by application, from Churchill County Social Services and by approval of the County Board of Health to fund collaborative partnerships that increase outcomes for strategies pertaining to the reduction of teen pregnancy, mental and health wellness, and reduction in substance abuse. Once requests are approved, Churchill County Social Services enters into Sub-recipient Agreements with the agencies on behalf of the Board of Health, monitors progress, completes funding reimbursements, and reports to the board on the progress.

FISCAL IMPACT: Approximately \$88,000 to be distributed to partners.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Funding received from the State of Nevada for the RU92 Marijuana Tax Revenue Fund.

FUNDING SOURCE: RU92 Marijuana Tax Revenue.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Social Services Director Ernst said when the RU92 Marijuana Tax funds got allocated to the communities, the Board of County Commissioners voted to put the funds towards the Board of Health priorities. Commissioner Bus Scharmann was extremely passionate about this. The Board of Health adopted 3 major priorities and that is substance abuse, mental health, and teen

pregnancy. This is based off a community assessment and really seeing those high rates and we wanted to target our efforts into those areas. We receive around \$88,000 a year from the state from the tax revenue. As you know, we have no dispensary for recreational marijuana here, so our tax revenue is quite low. What we do is open this up to our nonprofits to allow them to submit requests to obtain those funds but \$88,000 does not go that far. What we have done at Social Services is also take a portion and put it towards mental health out of our indigent budget. We split this up for those priorities.

New Frontier Treatment Center requested \$6,472 to do the teen support groups and really provide teen support, overall, in the schools and in different locations. They do go over to the Youth Center. This one is definitely a direct support for substance abuse and some mental health issues. I have recommended that we fund the full amount.

The next one is the Churchill Community Coalition Mental Health Project. This is doing your billboards, the murals, those things. They came up with a campaign for mental health awareness sayings. I am really looking at not funding this with the marijuana dollars but with the mental health. It is a direct relation to indigent and mental health, so that is my recommendation there. They also submitted a second request, which is the Too Good for Drugs and Mindfulness Program. This is really going into the schools where the Resource Liaisons provide those supports for reduction of use. I did split this based on the activity because the amount is so limited and I am looking at funding \$4,528 out of the RU92 fund and then funding the remainder from the Social Services Mental Health Indigent fund.

The Resource Liaison Program is match for the county. One of the things is usually we obtain \$76,000. It provides a match to our ADSA grant, which is support for mental illness with individuals out in the community. I have to be cautious when we do grant match and where we take it from in the county. What I did, based on the fact of the little amount, was reduce ours to \$66,728 and I requested the match from the Family Resource Center so that we could still meet our obligations to the state.

The next one is the Churchill County School District Mental Health Project. This is a partnership with the UNR School of Medicine, which brings those master level social work interns into the schools so we can expand our providers and access for our youth in the community. I am recommending that we fund \$10,272 from the RU92 and then I would fund the remainder from the Social Services Indigent Budget.

Allocation Recommendations - BOH 6/23/2021					
AGENCY	Request	Recommended	APPROVED	SS Mental Health Indigent	AGENCY TOTALS
NFTC	\$6,472	\$6,472			\$6,472
CCC Mental Health Project	\$3,100	\$0		\$3,100	\$22,600
CCC Too Good for Drugs	\$20,500	\$4,528		\$14,972	
RL - Match County	\$76,000	\$66,728		\$0	\$66,728
CCSD Mental Health	\$25,200	\$10,272		\$14,928	\$25,200
Total	\$131,272	\$88,000	\$0	\$33,000	\$121,000
		\$88,000		\$33,000	

Dr. Summer Stephens, Churchill County School District, said I wanted to thank you for the proposed allocation of funding. We know that this year we were not able to fulfill the project quite like we had the previous year, but I wanted to let you know that we are actually serving students and their families all summer with the intern from UNR. That has been very effective, mostly at the middle school level. Thank you for that funding. I also want to thank Shannon for the clinic idea to get more kids vaccinated. If there is a time later in the Agenda to talk about our reopening plan, I would surely talk about that more. I wanted to say thanks because I think that it is a great partnership to be able to try to bring more vaccination with drive-through clinics because that is always our struggle.

Lana Robards, New Frontier, said I also want to thank you for the recommendation. As you might imagine, last year and the first part of this year posed some unusual challenges that, hopefully, we will never face again. We are very active over at Juvenile Probation and at the Youth Club. We are hoping that our participation with the school district will be able to come back when the children return to school, so thank you all.

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

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve recommendations for funding as presented. Sheriff Richard Hickox seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Update on Health District Development:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Update on the development of the Health District.

An update will be provided on the development of the Health District.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Social Services Director Ernst said I do want to introduce Dr. John Packham and also Dr. Gerald Ackerman. They are with the UNR School of Medicine and this is a partnership we are working on for that Health District. Dr. John Packham, Associate Dean with the office of statewide initiatives at the UNR School of Medicine, and Gerald Ackerman, Assistant Dean of Rural Programs with the office of statewide initiatives were present via Zoom. Social Services Director Ernst said what we are working on is contracting. It is always difficult to get the contracts working with UNR and the county and making that happen. Overall, the goal is to get that in place and then we would start developing that work plan to evaluate in other communities and what aligns with Churchill County to partner to develop a Health District. We do meet weekly to kind of keep on task and look at other things that are coming about. At the previous meeting I did mention that we have been awarded about \$1M per year for the next 2 years to evaluate and start the expansion prior to becoming a Health District. What it would look is kind of an emergency order for Churchill County to provide services in other communities. We have received

commitments from Mineral County, Pershing County, and Eureka County to move forward with this so, it is just really waiting on those grant awards and then we will be coming before you because we will have to double the staff to make sure that we have presence in those communities. In the beginning with that grant, it will just be as a COVID response. We will start doing the tracing, testing, and vaccines in those areas, but the overall goal is to start adding on all infectious diseases and building those relationships. I think this will align nicely with the other project in developing the Health District because we can learn what will work and what will not before we are an official Health District. That goal is to be November of 2023.

Dr. Gerald Ackerman said we are actively working with a consultant that will work with our office to assist on this project. I can't mention her name yet because we are still in that process of contracts and going through our personnel office, but she will be a valued asset and it comes with experience and lots of knowledge of helping to bring a similar project in another county and we are working on that. Sometimes, moving through the university system, you can almost get a degree going through contracts, but it is working and moving forward and we will update you when we have more information. Dr. John Packham said this is a pretty exciting opportunity for our office and for counties in rural Nevada that are in a great position to explore and develop a Health District. I feel like the stars are aligning on this one.

Chairman McDonald asked if there was any public comment but there was none. He said I am excited to be a part of this. This all kind of started years ago and now it is picking up momentum and out of kind of a natural disaster, we have had the opportunity to move forward. There is light at the end of the tunnel and it is not a train. Dr. John Packham said we look forward to meeting with some of you on Monday for a tour of the new lab. Dr. Gerald Ackerman said we are excited for that.

Social Services Director Ernst said we are still working on the development of the satellite lab with Dr. Pandori and others One of the worst things we can do is go through licensure and find out we have the We have our inspection for our pod on July 8, 2021. We are moving forward and progressing. COVID is kind of dipping down, but we are still moving forward.

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 May 17, 2020 to June 11, 2021 related to COVID-19 on behalf of the County Board of Health. The press releases have the county's logo on them and the web stories do not. The releases include the following:

- Churchill County Vaccination, Testing Schedule for May 24-28.
- Churchill County Vaccination, Testing Schedule for June 1-7.
- County's COVID Testing Program Now Incentivized.
- Churchill County Vaccination, Testing Schedule for June 7-11.
- Churchill County Vaccination, Testing Schedule for June 14-18.

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

Consideration of Future Agenda Items:

There were no future Agenda items suggested.

Consider and schedule future meeting date:

The next meeting will be held on July 28, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

Public Comment:

Chairman McDonald asked if there was any public comment. Sheriff Richard Hickox said law enforcement suicides are on the rise, which is a big concern because we are a very tight family. The possibility of losing a family member is devastating just to think about. We started looking into ways to possibly address this and how to deal with it. We knew that the legislature was working on some wellness stuff, but it was very much undefined. While doing a presentation and some research, I found Blue Help, which is a leading nonprofit that catalogs and assists agencies with suicides. They have a link up there and they are policy makers and they do a bunch of other stuff. They had a link to an app that you could purchase for your phone, so we reached out to them and sat through several product demonstrations. Their product is a customized app designed by your agency for your active and retired people and their families. It contains a number of things about mental health, resiliency, financial assistance and guidance and physical nutrition. A lot of the stuff will help them get back on track or keep them on track. We also have the ability to customize it with any faith-based leaders and local resources we have in regards to mental health or alcohol abuse or substance dependency. We have been working with some of our faith-based leaders to get information and get them on board so we can put that to use within the app. I just sent a message to Lana Robards to see what resources we can put from her organization into the app, as well. I did reach out to POOL/PACT because I thought they could help us with this because it is not cheap, but it is something that, if we can save an officer's life or marriage, it is well worth it. We did not get a response from POOL/PACT, but I have had several conversations with Alan Kalt who was very much excited about it and plans to sit in on the conversation we are having with the developers on Friday. He said that if he finds it to be as

interesting and useful as we are looking at, there is a good chance that POOL/PACT will help make us a pilot program for the state. Reno does not have it and they have looked at it but we would be the only one in the State of Nevada that has this for our officers. I think it is a good option for our office to have. If one of our officers gets into a near death experience and their spouse is struggling with it then they can log in and get some of the same resources that the officer would have. We are pretty excited about it.

Chairman McDonald said it is exciting to hear that we are reaching out and providing resources for our people on the front lines. Chairman McDonald asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Social Services Director Ernst said the Board of Health has been a huge supporter of the Crisis Intervention Training that we held last month and we had 17 graduates, which was very exciting. It all went smoothly and we will plan again for next year.

As we move forward at the Life Center, I wanted to let you know that we will be releasing the activity calendars, menus and everything on Tuesday and working with Anne McMillin to really highlight the things that we are adding over the next 30 days. We hope to have a robust activity calendar starting July 1. Additionally, they wanted me to let you know that they have roasted chicken, rice pilaf and fruit for \$6 if you are under 60. Come by and see what is going on. We have a great staff and everybody is working closely to make this transition and I really appreciate their help. I will be spending the majority of my time over there for the next few weeks. We have linked the Social Services phone system to the center and now have an option 3 and it rings over there, so if you need anything or have public comments just let me know.

County Manager said the liver and onions were awesome yesterday. Commissioner Heath said I think it is only \$3 for Dr. McDonald. Social Services Director Ernst said for 60 and older, we recommend a \$3 donation. I do not state anyone's age. Chairman McDonald said I have no comment.

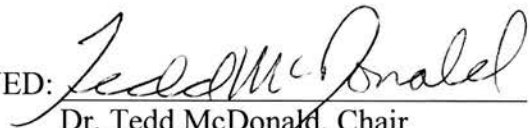
Summer Stephens said I don't have a full reopening presentation for today but I will direct us back to the beginning of the last school year the School Board approved a reopening plan for a fully distanced hybrid model so what we are doing is taking our fully reopen plan and doing some adjustments based on some of the elements that have to be present for the federal government funding and some of the requirements that have come out with some of the last directives from the state and the last directive from the governor. Our plan is to reopen on the 23rd of August, fully open. The hours will be different. We are starting school a little bit earlier for elementary and they would get out a little earlier in the day. We are returning to our shorter day on Fridays, which has been in place for a couple of years now. We will still have a number of health protocols in place regarding wellness of students. Attendance will be addressed around those protocols. I was super happy to hear the number of staff in the county that have had the vaccine, although it is student vaccination is clearly lower than I would like to see because that is one way that students have a better opportunity of not being excluded if exposed to COVID. We will continue to work with the Division of Behavioral Health. We have not fully worked through all of the testing protocols that may be in place. We did sign up for the opportunity to have access to federal funds for testing. We did that earlier in the spring. We have not made any

decisions. Last year, we actually had random screening as one of the things we had hoped to get to, which we never did, but that may something that comes back around. We assured everyone that they had a right to pass on the screening but our goal to test people has made it one of the ways that Churchill County is successful because we can test people and the want to be tested. We think we would see something similar in school. Again, it is not required, nor is the vaccination required, unless the state moves that forward. That would be a whole different conversation. We have such a high number of our staff vaccinated, and we feel good about that. We are all waiting to see if there is some sort of booster that is needed. We are basically reopening to pre-COVID situations. The only change is bussing. We have not been given a green light that face coverings don't have to be used on busses so we will have to wait and see if that shifts at all. The social distancing spacing on busses is no longer an issue so we can get more kids on buses and next year we are not doing transfers. We are just increasing the number of stops in town, so we are returning to our previous busing rules, which were any student K-8 who lives half a mile from school can ride a bus from the location. It is not guaranteed that that bus stop is a half a mile from your home; it could be a little bit further so, for some people that will be a consideration. We are going to view kind of a rotating bus stop situation instead of the transfer system. It will alleviate some of our issues with supervision at the transfer sites. We are looking forward to being fully reopened and continuing to work with you guys. I will have to be in touch with Dr. McDonald a little bit here coming up. We also need to add someone from the Board of Health to make sure they are on our school safety and security committee and we will be doing that over the coming months.

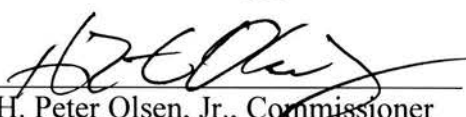
Chairman McDonald asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Adjournment:

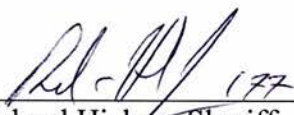
The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 AM.

APPROVED: 
Dr. Tedd McDonald, Chair

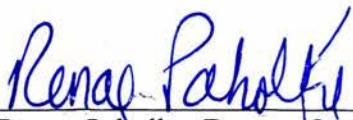
APPROVED: 
Dr. Gregory Koeng, Commissioner

APPROVED: 
H. Peter Olsen, Jr., Commissioner

APPROVED: 
Dr. Justin Heath, Commissioner

APPROVED:  177
Richard Hickox, Sheriff

ATTEST:


Renae Pahlke, Deputy Clerk