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Public Workshop - LCB File No. R174-24.

MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 20, 2025

11:00 AM – 11:17 AM

Meeting Locations:

The workshop on the proposed amendments Nevada administrative code chapter 4418 under LCB File No. R174-24. This meeting was convened using a remote technology system and in physical location 10375 Professional Circle, 3rd Floor for this meeting. Melissa Bullock opened public meeting at 11:00 am.

1) INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL

DIVISION OF PUBLIC & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DPBH) STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Bullock, MPH, *State Medical Epidemiologist, Office of State Epidemiology (OSE)* Cindy Beard, PhD, MPH *State Epidemiologist | Office of State Epidemiology*, Kagan Griffin, MPH, RD, *Operation Manager, Office of State Epidemiology (OSE), DPBH*; Chantelle Batton, *Wastewater Epidemiologist, Office of State Epidemiology (OSE)* Aja Branch, MHS, *Executive Assistant, Office of State Epidemiology (OSE)* and Kevin Dodson, *Administrative Assistant III, OSE*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Theresa McCrorey - NNAMHS; Anilkumar Mangla, *Director of Disease Surveillance and Control, SNHD*; Joy Domogan, *Psychiatric Nurse 4/Nurse Manager, Lake's Crossing Center*; Tricia Graaf, *Roots Home Healthcare, Inc*; Stephanie Van Hooser, *Administrative Director, Nevada State Public Health Laboratory*; Chantelle Batton, *Wastewater Epidemiologist, Office of State Epidemiology (OSE)*; Gwenn Snook, *Infection Preventionist, UMCSN*; Norman Jamero, *PN 3, Lakes Crossing Center*; Michael Arrasate, *Laboratory Manager, City of Henderson*; Jennifer Budzinski, *Employee Health Director, CCSD*; Kylie Rogers, *Nurse Assessment Coordinator, Silver State Pediatric*; Nicole Graham, *Executive Director at Lumina Las Vegas*; Kawai Domingo, *Regional VPCS, I Care Hospice*; Victoria Burris, *Communicable Disease Manager, SNHD*; Jennifer Carmona, *Administrator Silver State Pediatric SNF*; Melanie Sandquist, *Applied Epidemiology Fellow, SNHD*; Lei Zhang, *Informatics Manager, SNHD*; Noël Chounet, *Deputy Director, Healthy Communities Coalition*; Lydia Sedano, *State Charter school Authority, The education Programs Professional*; Sylvie Smith, *Care Services of Nevada. President/CEO*; Donielle Allen, *Public Health Preparedness Program Manager, DPBH*; Sheri McPartlin, *Chief Nurse, Clark County School District*; Ying Zhang, *Epidemiology Manager, Southern Nevada Health District*; William Raines, *Health Emergency Preparedness Evaluator, DPBH*; Lauren Draper, *Sr. Quality, Safety, IP Manager, Banner Churchill Community Hospital*; Rebecca Rothe, *Infection prevention RN, Harmon Hospital*; Olivia Mitchell, *Health Resource Analyst, NV DPBH*; Robert Colbert, *Executive Director, Compassion*

Care Hospice of Las Vegas; Jeanne Freeman, Director Carson City Health and Human Services; Teneale Chapton, Deputy Director of Carson City Health and Human Services; Rosanne Sugay, MD MPH | Medical Epidemiologist | SNHD; Patricia Malloy Director of Clinical Operations, Compassion Care Hospice of Las Vegas; Dan Fischer, Deputy General Manager, Clark County Water Reclamation District; Barbara-Ann Keller, Clinical Program Manager, DPBH - Lake's Crossing Center; Raechel Freshman, Epidemiologist, Carson City Health and Human Services; Kimberly Franich, Communicable Disease Manager, Southern Nevada Health District; Emma Rodriguez, Communications and Legislative Affairs Administrator, Southern Nevada Health District; Christin Morgan, Director of Human Resources, South Lyon Medical Center; Pilica Mendezona, Director of human resources, Comfort Hospice & Palliative Care; Logan Cayton, Argentum Partners; Katherine Luna, Comfort Hospice and Palliative Care Office Manager; Joelle Gutman Dodson, Government Affairs Liaison, Northern Nevada Public Health

Melissa Bullock reviewed housekeeping items and noted that the meeting was not a question-and-answer session, with feedback to be collected through public comment. It was stated that the meeting was conducted in accordance with Nevada's Open Meeting Law (NRS 241.020) and recorded to support accurate transcription of the minutes. Virtual participants were instructed to enter their name, title, and organization in the Teams chat, while phone participants were informed they would be called on to unmute and provide their information. Aja Branch confirmed the participants joining by phone.

Melissa Bullock explained that the proposed regulations, small business impact statement, and workshop notice were available on the Office of State Epidemiology website (NVOSE.org), the Nevada Legislature website (leg.state.nv.us), or by request via phone or email for a mailed copy. The websites and contact information were displayed and added to the chat for convenience, and it was noted that the meeting minutes would be available on the website after the meeting. The workshop was described as an opportunity to solicit public input on the proposed regulations. Following the workshop, the draft regulations were set to move into the formal hearing and rulemaking process, including review by the State Board of Health. Updates and notices for that process were to be posted on the Office of State Epidemiology website, with contact information provided for follow-up questions. The proposed regulations under LCB File No. R174-24 were summarized as establishing procedures to control tuberculosis in educational institutions, outlining screening requirements for healthcare personnel and certain facilities, defining reporting and investigation requirements for COVID-19, establishing terminology for reportable conditions, requiring reporting of wastewater surveillance test results related to infectious pathogens and other biological substances, and authorizing public health outreach to individuals who had experienced an overdose to connect them with supportive services, treatment, and other interventions.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

Melissa Bullock opened the floor for public comment.

Jeanne M. Freeman, Director of Carson City Health and Human Services, expressed concern regarding the availability of funding to support required testing. She requested additional clarification on testing requirements, particularly for schools, including whether testing would be required following screening, whether financial support would be provided for those activities, and whether a specific type of test,

such as a quantiferon test, would be expected. She noted that these details were not clearly addressed in the proposal.

Anilkumar Mangla, Director of Disease Surveillance and Control at the Southern Nevada Health District, provided comments on the tuberculosis (TB) school screening provisions. He explained that TB is an airborne disease transmitted through prolonged close contact and noted that school-related TB investigations in southern Nevada currently had a positivity rate of about 12 percent. He stated that each positive investigation triggered extensive downstream activities, including contact tracing, medical evaluations, lab testing, case management, and ongoing monitoring, creating a significant burden for health departments, healthcare systems, businesses, and school systems.

Anilkumar Mangla indicated that the proposed regulation established a practical, evidence-based approach by requiring TB surveillance for individuals with frequent or prolonged contact with students, aligned with CDC recommendations. He noted that the regulation allowed flexibility through the use of either a TB test or a standardized risk assessment and symptom questionnaire reviewed by a licensed medical professional. He emphasized that this approach would reduce costs for schools and public health agencies, as a single investigation typically required the screening of almost 500 to 1,000 individuals, and that proactive screening would be beneficial for both schools and public health departments.

Sheri McPartlin raised concerns regarding the potential costs associated with the proposal and asked whether any cost assistance would be available, noting that the impact on the Clark County School District could affect about 60,000 individuals. She also expressed concerns about the survey component, including protections related to the questions and other related issues. Additionally, she suggested that if the proposal were to move forward, implementation in Clark County could be phased in over a period of at least two years to accommodate the large number of currently employed and volunteer individuals.

Sylvie Yveline Smith, President and CEO of Care Services of Nevada, requested clarification regarding tuberculosis (TB) testing requirements for workers. She stated that there had been ongoing confusion about whether the TB test was required annually and noted that different regulations appeared to apply to blood-based TB tests, which might allow for longer intervals between testing. Sylvie Yveline Smith asked for clarification on the specific testing frequency and requirements for workers. Melissa Bullock reminded Sylvie that the meeting was limited to public comment and stated that a follow-up would be scheduled after the meeting to address her questions in a one-on-one setting.

Sylvie Yveline Smith put into the chat at 11:16am: “Would you like a phone number to reach out to me?”

Cindy Beard put into the chat at 11:17am: “Phone number or email yes Please Sylvie”

Aja Branch put into the chat at 11:17am: “Hello Sylvie! Can you provide both email and phone number.”

Cindy Beard put into the chat at 11:18am: “Hi there! If you’re just joining us, we have already finished with public comments”

Sylvie Yveline Smith put into the chat at 11:18am: “[redacted]”

Cindy Beard put into the chat at 11:18am: “The meeting is adjourned. Thank you all!”

3) ADJOURNMENT- *Melissa Bullock*

Melissa Bullock adjourns the meeting at 11:17 am.