



Meeting Minutes COVID-19 Mitigation and Mangement Task Force

Attendance	DATE	August 20, 2020
	TIME	10:00 A.M.
	METHOD	Video-Teleconference
	RECORDER	Meagan Werth Ranson
Task Force Voting Member Attendance		
Member Name		Present
Caleb Cage		X
Richard Whitley		X
Terry Reynolds		X
Jaime Black		X
Justin Luna		X
Felicia Gonzales		X
Brett Compston		X
Meagan Werth Ranson		X
Chris Lake		X
Dagny Stapleton		X
Wesley Harper		X
Mark Pandori		X
Task Force Non-Voting Member Attendance		
Kyra Morgan		X
Lisa Sherych		ABS
Julia Peek		ABS
Melissa Peek-Bullock		X
Malinda Southard		X
Lesley Mohlenkamp		X

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Caleb Cage, Governor’s Office (GO), called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Meagan Werth Ranson, GO. Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Chair Cage opened the discussion for public comment in all venues. Sean Higgins, Golden Entertainment, spoke to bars and taverns in the state of Nevada. Most bars were following the guidance in the state from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Gaming Control Board (GCB) prior to the secondary shutdown on July 10, 2020. Social distancing and protocols had been established. Gaming taverns are different than other bars throughout the United States. Customers who are playing gaming devices do not congregate in large groups. Gaming taverns hold business licenses and are held to a higher standard than almost any other business in the state of Nevada. Nevada taverns employ thousands of people. Finally, the tavern industry is faced with overwhelming hardships that affect the entire state. Dai Graydon spoke to the hardships of having the bars closed for bartenders like herself and never understood why bars were shut down to begin with. The necessary precautions were taken to include partisans. Ms. Graydon advocated the reopening of bars. Deanne O’Rear Cameron, Senior Citizen Advocate, asked for further clarification when it comes to senior care. There is concern with seniors starting to feel the impact of the shutdown and the decrease in visitors. Ms. Cameron again asked

for more clarification moving forward. Robert Kingston noted concern with trying to track down all requirements regarding the virus. There is a lot of information out in the community. Mr. Kingston advised having one location, focal point for all important information. Randy Miller reiterate what Mr. Higgins had to say. Taverns are different than most of the bars that have been discussed. The taverns in Las Vegas, went above and beyond and taking proper precautions throughout the COVID-19 crises. Public comment was read into the record from Carl Pritchard. Mr. Pritchard states bars were shut to stop the spread of COVID-19, as we know the spread continues. Why do bars need to remain closed? Please let us open and let the Task Force conduct visits and shut down locations not under compliance.

3. Overview of Directive 030 Establishing the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force

Chair Cage opened this agenda item by restating why the Task Force is meeting today. On March 5, 2020, the first case of COVID-19 was discovered in Nevada. Since that time, the number of cases has continued to climb or continued to spread throughout the state. On March 12, 2020, Governor Sisolak signed an Executive Order Emergency Declaration declaring an emergency in the state of Nevada. The state has been in response since that time. This response has been challenging throughout the state and has required countless resources and countless efforts throughout the state to get us to where we are today. As the Governor announced a few weeks, Nevada is taking a new transitioned approach to COVID-19 in the state of Nevada. This approach is intended to be targeted and collaborative with local governments. Through this effort, private entities, business owners, community members, representatives, elected or appointed officials, and members of communities have worked extremely hard in this dire situation to ensure the spread of COVID-19 is stopped. From the beginning there has been an effort to protect the lives, health, safety, and livelihoods of Nevadan's. Since March 2020 more than 1,134 individuals have lost their lives to COVID-19 in the state of Nevada. This is extremely serious, and the actions taken today will be taken as such. Chair Cage noted work will continue with the counties moving forward to deal with outbreaks and continuing conversations to make certain the economy can return to a new normal soon.

Jessica Diss, GO, provided an overview of Directive 030. This directive formally adopts the *"Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal"* document, creates the Task Force and continues many of the provisions listed under the Phase 2 Mitigation efforts statewide. The first three pages of the directive is background information establishing the need for a state of emergency and the authority for which they operate. Page four is considered the bulk of the new directive. Section two and three discuss the federally supported, state managed, and locally executed reopening approach and that businesses may adopt practices that exceed the standards of the emergency directive but not be more permissive than provisions authorized. Section four is the formal adoption of the *"Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal"* document. Section five is the creation of the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force. Sections six through nine relate to the powers and duties of the Task Force. Ms. Diss noted specially in section eight, requires the Governor's COVID-19 Response Director and his designees to communicate with leadership from the counties flagged for elevated COVID-19 risk and inform them of the State's assessment of their county's exposure risk based on the county criteria data and critical statewide metrics as set out in the New Normal Plan on a weekly basis. The Task Force is authorized to adopt, modify, or reject a county's action plan and monitor the counties compliance with an approved action plan. This section also notes when a county fails to comply with an action plan or fail to show improvement in applicable disease measurement criteria as outlined in the new normal plan, the Task Force may enact mitigation and enforcement measures in addition to the action plan pursuant to the mitigation levels set out in the New Normal Plan. Section requires compliance with Open Meeting Law. Sections ten through fourteen relate to previously existing directives and restrictions that will continue or not continue moving forward. Ms. Diss noted section eleven as it relates to the expiration of section four, five, and six of Directive 027 expiring at 11.59 p.m. on August 20, 2020. At that time, section twenty-five and twenty-six of Directive 021 shall become effective as the statewide baseline for mitigation standards for restaurants and food establishments and breweries, distilleries, wineries.

Dagny Stapleton asked for clarification on the directives and what the changes will be for the counties. Ms. Diss noted that section eleven repeals Directive 027, sections four, five, and six. Section four limits gatherings in indoor restaurants to no more than six. Section five establishes for restaurants and food establishments, bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries, and wineries licensed to serve food in a restaurant type setting operate under the Phase 1 conditions that are set forth in Directive 018. If they are a county of elevated disease transmission at that time. This includes bar tops being closed, but alcohol can be served to tables for onsite consumption. Section six establishes the counties with elevated disease transmission according to the criteria in the directive bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries, and wineries not licensed to serve food were closed on the effective date of Directive 027. Provisions of Directive 021 reference in Directive 030 are the requirement of face coverings in Phase 2 directive. Directive 021, section 25, establishes that restaurants should operate under the Phase 1 guidelines in Directive 018. In the statewide baseline mitigation standards, food establishments may utilize tables and serve food in the bar areas. Section twenty-six, in Directive 030 is amended to say bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries, and wineries not licensed to serve food may open to the public.

4. Appointed Department Updates

a. Department of Business and Industry– Enforcement – Director, Terry Reynolds

Terry Reynolds noted that overall, Nevada has shown good compliance rates. Out of 308 visits there was an overall compliance rate of 86%, on second visits to businesses the compliance rate was up to 99%. It was noted that generally there is good compliance with business employees. This is a positive sign. Mr. Reynolds also noted there are current relations with county law enforcement and city managers when compliance checks are scheduled. B&I does notify counties in advance if they are on the list for compliance visits. Counties are also notified of compliance visit findings. There is a lot of collaboration that happens with the counties from the state level.

b. Division of Emergency Management – PPE Status – Incident Commander, Brett Compston

Brett Compston spoke to the stockpile plan as outlined in the Disease Outbreak Management Plan and the goal to contain 120 days' worth of personal protective equipment (PPE). The changes from last week include the purchase of 80 million more gloves and 3.5 million more N95 masks. The stockpile should be at full capacity by 1 October 2020 in advance for the upcoming flu season.

c. Fiscal Update – COVID-related Funding Coordination –Executive Budget Officer, Lesley Mohlenkamp

No update to provide.

d. Nevada Department of Education – School Opening Plans – Deputy Superintendent of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement, Felicia Gonzales

Felicia Gonzales noted that DOE has received the school reopening plans for all counties in Nevada. Each district, private school, and charter school have also received copies of the Disease Outbreak Management Plans for the corresponding counties. This is important as all schools within the state will be open by early next week. Ms. Gonzales also noted the work that is being done with the Governor's Finance Office concerning funding for all educators to be provided COVID-19 tests for all educators.

DOE received school reopening plans. Each district, private school, charter schools have received diseases outbreak management plans. All schools will be open by next Monday. Largest school district opens next week,

distant learning, critical for disease outbreak plans. Working with Lesley at GFO to provide COVID testing for all educators.

e. Nevada Association of Counties – Executive Director, Dagny Stapleton

No update to provide.

f. Nevada League of Cities – Director, Wesley Harper

No update to provide.

5. Current Situation Report

Kyra Morgan, DHHS, provided an overview of the current situation in Nevada as it relates to COVID to include the following:

- 769,298 molecular tests
- 63,028 confirmed cases
- 1,1340 total deaths, this makes COVID-19 the third leading cause of death in Nevada, behind cancer and heart disease
- 13.5 tests per 1,000 per week
- 12.5% daily positivity rate
- 10.7 Cumulative positivity rate
- 667 confirmed hospitalizations
- 200 Suspected hospitalizations
- 262 patients in intensive care units

Ms. Morgan spoke to more of the slides provided in the handout that show trends in the daily new tests reported, daily new cases, and daily deaths. It was noted that Nevada is starting to see a plateau in daily new cases and daily test positivity rates. The next slide of the handout shows COVID-19 testing turnaround times. For specimen collected since August 1, 2020 shows it has taken approximately two days after specimen collection for results to be reported. Ms. Morgan noted back in July the lab test turnaround time was approximately four to five days. This is good news for the state. The next slides show hospitalizations were following an increasing trend until August 3, 2020 and have sense been decreasing for the past fifteen days. As for the test positivity rate it was following an increasing trend until August1, 2020 and has been stabilizing for the past eighteen days, with only vey slow increases. Ms. Morgan noted the updated COVID-19 county tracker data from August 13, 2020 to the data as of August 19, 2020. The only big difference is that Churchill County has been flagged for having an increased disease transmission rate. Churchill County is now meeting two of the three criteria. Ms. Morgan also provided an update on contact tracing efforts around the state. The goal of contact tracing for every Nevadan who Every Nevadan who tests positive for COVID19 will be contacted by a contact tracer within 24 hours of that confirmatory lab report being received by the health authority and within 24 hours of identifying a close contact of a case, those individuals will be communicated with by a contact tracer. As of August 18, 2020, 10,951 or 17.4% of cases were identified through contact tracing efforts. Ms. Morgan ended the presentation by highlighting resources that have assisted in COVID-19. There are now an additional 844 individuals who have been brought on to assist with disease investigation and contact tracing.

Chair Cage noted the information on slide eight, shows the addition of Churchill County being on the list. If Churchill County remains on the list next week as having met these two criteria, then it will be time to consider the counties mitigation plan. The other six counties that have remained on the list for longer than two weeks will have decisions made regarding the mitigation plans that have been submitted under Directive 030. Chair

Approved at approval the August 27, 2020 Meeting

Cage noted again the decisions that are made today will affect the lives and livelihoods and, in some cases, will affect both. These decisions are not ones the Task Force takes lightly. The job of the Task Force is to try to find a balance between the two. This Task Force will work hard to protect lives, capability, and capacity to respond to this crisis, as well as ways to support the economy. This has been a challenge from the very beginning. The decisions we make today will have a direct impact on our communities.

Lander County Self-Assessment and Action Plan

Chair Cage noted Lander County was on the list from the beginning of the implementation of the new plan and have remained on the list for the last two weeks. Lander County is on the list for elevated disease transmission for average number of tests per day per 100,000 and for an elevated level of test positivity. Testing remains difficult in Lander County. Since August 1, 2020 77 COVID-19 tests have been completed. Lander County has had a total of three COVID-19. Many of the Lander County cases have been associated with mining and employed by various entities and reside outside of the county limits. Lander County approved maintaining the guidelines at the last county commission meeting on August 13, 2020. Lander County is also offering a community-based testing event to being the week of August 31, 2020. This is a good step forward and are addressing targeted actions. As far as the plan is concerned, contact tracing has been completed within twelve hours. The goal of the county is to contact positive individuals immediately to ensure the individual has received the proper results. The average lab turnaround time is approximately seven days through the Nevada State Public Health Lab. The delays in receiving results adds to the workload of the contact tracers. Lander County has made every effort to comply with the Governor's directives and will continue to do so. Lander County is actively promoting social distancing messages, mask usage messages, and messages tailored based on current phases and trends that are observed. There are currently zero patients in the hospital for COVID-19 and at no point has the health care facility been overwhelmed. Terry Reynolds, Business and Industry (B&I), noted that 22 businesses were visited for compliance in Lander County. The overall compliance rate was 81%. Upon second visits to the businesses, the compliance rate was above that original 81%. Richard Whitley, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) spoke to the positive engagement for the county hospital and participating in training and opportunities that have been presented. Kyra Morgan advised she can substantiate the statement regarding testing being out of the jurisdictional. Looking at the positivity rate and the number of confirmed cases, I can see tests being handed off to the resident jurisdiction. Jessica Diss advised per Directive 030, three sections under Directive 027 will expire at midnight for baseline mitigation levels unless the Task Force would like to keep those in place for Lander County. Mr. Whitley made a motion to approve Lander County's plan as is. Mr. Reynolds provided a second on the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Humboldt County Self-Assessment and Action Plan

Chair Cage spoke to the self-assessment and action plan submitted by Humboldt County. Humboldt County is on the list for elevated disease transmission for average number of tests per day per 100,000, case rate per 100,000, and for an elevated level of test positivity for the second week. Chair Cage noted the test positivity rate has decreased from 15.4% this past week down to 8.2%. There is importance in looking at trends and not just data on a single day. It needs to be sustained over time. Humboldt County noted in the plan there has been a reduction in number of cases however, exposures are still occurring. Chair Cage noted the complexity when dealing with sovereign nations and Tribal Governments. These numbers are more difficult to address for this reason. In addition, the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation has had an outbreak with 72 cases. There are 50 active cases. The county has conducted outreach efforts and worked with Tribal Leadership. The state is in the process of this communication as well. The bottom line for Humboldt County, like Lander, have a reduced number of overall tests. Humboldt County continues to target high risk communities and outbreak mitigation efforts. In the Humboldt County action plan, it is requested to delineate the number of COVID-19 cases in Humboldt County and the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation. Humboldt County has had a total of 105 positive cases. Of those cases, 96 have recovered, 4 are deceased, and only 5 are active. The 5 positive cases are self-

Approved at approval the August 27, 2020 Meeting

quarantined and following medical advice and guidance to prevent further spread of the virus. There are no COVID-19 patients currently admitted to the Humboldt General Hospital or other medical facilities because of the virus being contracted in Humboldt County. The Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation has had a total of 77 positive cases. Of those cases, 36 have recovered, 1 is deceased, and 40 are active. Brett Compston agreed with the counties recommendation to look at Fort McDermitt's independently of the whole county. Kyra Morgan noted looking at the date, specifically, the case rate for a 30-day period. Most of the cases were diagnosed early and the numbers have since increased. Richard Whitley spoke to the exemplary work of Dr. Charles Stringham. Dr. Stringham is actively engaged and responsive. Mr. Whitley also noted the hospital took an extra step by expanding its services and capabilities to surrounding counties. Meagan Werth Ranson noted the partnership between the county and the state has been beneficial in being able to look at county level data clearly. Terry Reynolds noted for the record from an enforcement standpoint, there is improvement for more community involvement. Mr. Reynolds encouraged expanding on public messaging and would like to see more public service announcements. Dagny Stapleton, Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) confirmed Humboldt County does have a contract in place for media outreach campaigns in both English and Spanish. Mr. Reynolds advised if the county plan was approved, he would like to see more engagement on the enforcement level and offered the assistance of B&I. Chair Cage made a motion to approve the Humboldt County plan with the following three provisions: provide an update, collaboratively, at future meetings between the state and Humboldt county regarding outreach and coordination efforts with the Fort McDermitt Tribe, provide and overview regarding outreach and communication plans with the local communities, and provide an overview of enforcement activities within the community. A second was provided by Mr. Reynolds. Motion passed unanimously.

Elko County Self-Assessment and Action Plan

Chair Cage began this agenda item by noting the Elko County self-assessment and action plan was updated but not included in the documents for today's meeting. The plan will be circulated at a future date. The plan states "with the assistance of the Chair, Elko County plans to meet with localities to develop a collaborative plan to reopen establishments that are currently closed and meet with localities no later than August 25, 2020 and recommendations will be provided no later than August 26, 2020." Chair Cage noted his understanding of the plan was to extend the provisions of Directive 027 and there is not a current plan to approve. Jessica Diss advised if the provisions to extend the bar closures for another week that currently exist, the Task Force needs to act. Under Directive 030, the Task Force is authorized to adopt, modify, or reject a county's action plan and monitor the counties compliance with an approved action plan. This also applies to counties who do not submit plans or if there is a late submission. Chair Cage made a motion for Elko County to continue to operate under the guidelines mentioned above with the three provisions defined earlier to include a limit of 6 person gatherings, bar tops, and closures of bars for possible review next week based on the development of an appropriate plan by Elko County. A second was provided by Terry Reynolds. Rob Stokes, Elko County, noted Elko County plans on meeting with the municipalities. Elko County does not have business licenses, the cities do. Work will continue regarding the enforcement at a city level. Mr. Stokes also noted the compliance rate from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) report was above 90%. The motion passed unanimously.

Break at 11:36 a.m. and resumed meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Nye County Self-Assessment and Action Plan

Chair Cage noted Nye County submitted an updated plan. Nye County is one of the county's that has shut down bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries, and wineries within the county per Directive 027. The request from Nye County in the action plan is to be able to open bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, and distilleries in all rural counties outside the Town of Pahrump. One point of favor for this request is the immense work that has been done on the contact tracing front. Most cases are coming from large family gatherings, law enforcement and detention centers, and Vegas based employment. The self-assessment and action plan also outlines the hospital

Approved at approval the August 27, 2020 Meeting

capacity, PPE, disease investigation, and protection of vulnerable populations. At 18,159 square miles, Nye County is the third largest county in the contiguous United States. The estimated population of Nye County is around 48,000 with the Town of Pahrump representing approximately 85% of Nye County's population with approximately 41,000 individuals. Of the 107 cases in Nye County, 104 are within Pahrump. The largest challenge is geographically, and Nye County would like to be able to take a geographical approach in the response. In addition to this mitigation effort, Nye County will continue contact tracing efforts, testing efforts, and outreach efforts. Nye County will also be increasing enforcement and compliance for the bars as they are able to reopen. Meagan Werth Ranson noted the partners in Nye County have been actively involved in all conversations regarding the self-assessment and action plan and have stepped up to take a targeted approach. Brett Compston echoes the great work that Nye County has done on testing efforts and identifying the contact tracing hotspots. Bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries, and wineries, if allowed to open, would fall under Directive 021 for the specific guidance with operation at 50% capacity limit, standing in open congregate areas, bars that don't serve food to close, requires employees to stay home if symptomatic, provide staff PPE, require frequent hand washing and good hygiene, and frequent disinfecting. There are numerous other best practices in place as well. Chair Cage noted with the expiration of Directive 027, the Task Force may want to consider extending the six-person party limit size. Jessica Diss noted Directive 021, section twenty-five and twenty-six which becomes the statewide baseline mitigation level requires patrons to wait outside, staff to wear facing coverings, those guidance terms are written into the directive. Terry Reynolds made a motion to approve Nye County's plan and a second was provided by Dr. Chris Lake, Nevada Hospital Association. Directive 027 will be extended for the town of Pahrump. Motion passes unanimously.

Washoe County Self-Assessment and Action Plan

Chair Cage opened the discussion on Washoe County's self-assessment and action plan. Washoe County has provided an extensive test plan through the POST activities and are currently over the test requirement. The current testing requirement is at 171.9 and the case is at 381. This is an elevated case rate. The test positivity rate is at 8.7. Last week, the data was at 7.8. Washoe County has remained the seven to eight percent range since the state began evaluating these criteria. Chair Cage noted Washoe County has been an exceptional partner. Washoe County is looking at specific mitigation efforts to address the outbreaks and well as the continued community spread. The plan submitted from Washoe county addresses the following areas in detail to include hospital capacity, surge capacity with the Renown buildout, PPE, and the PPE distribution priorities. Since August 18, 2020, Washoe County has received an average of 839 test results per day or 175.4 tests per 100,000 population. The test results for the last week reported to Washoe County averaged 727.43 per day or average of 152.3 test per day. Washoe County has been active in targeted symptomatic and high-risk individuals. Contact tracing workforce to is now up to 67 and currently working with the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) for 10 additional staffers by the middle of next month. Washoe County is working with the state to ensure contact tracing efforts are substantial and able to reach out within 24 hours. It was noted disease investigations are associating positive cases with workplaces, recreation, and a significant increase in private gatherings. The plan submitted also details the enforcement and compliance piece in great deal. Based on current contact tracing and disease investigations, and enforcement inspections, Washoe County believes that private gatherings are the primary cause of increased COVID-19 cases and the positivity rate in the region. To address this, the county's Incident Management Team (IMT) has collaborated to create a community engagement campaign to encourage Nevadan's to comply with the CDC and health district guidance. Local CARES act funding will be used to assist with this mitigation effort along with utilizing the emergency powers declaration to expedite the process. In addition, the county will work on mask recommendations, social distance enforcement, and reaching out to OSHA and law enforcement as needed. Washoe County is advising that bars should be allowed to open under stricter standards to provide a controlled environment that can be regulated. This will help mitigate the occurrence of "party houses" per Washoe County. Washoe County has proposed several changes locally. The business guidance aligns with all personnel wearing face coverings, six-foot distance, signs, OSHA plans, hand sanitizer, symptom checkers, and enhance environmental disinfection.

Approved at approval the August 27, 2020 Meeting

Washoe County is requesting , bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries, and wineries, regardless of food service may operate at no more than 50% capacity, no live entertainment, waiting customers must be outside, and table top bars must have adequate spacing and frequent disinfecting.

Chair Cage advised this plan is excellent and a lot of work has gone into the self-assessment and action plan. I have significant concerns and am uneasy about approving this plan. Washoe County has persistent elevated positivity case rates, although an overall decline in cases. Washoe County is currently in the process of opening schools and could very well see an increase in cases due to this. The plan comes up short as it is essentially the opening of Phase two guidance. The plan is lacking significant enforcement tools. Finally, Chair Cage is not convinced the “party house” disease spread will have positive effects with the bars opening. There may be other measures in place that would not drive folks into the bars. Terry Reynolds noted the “party house” issues is very real. This is an issue that is being seen in Northern Nevada and Southern Nevada. This is especially true with college students returning to campuses. Mr. Reynolds noted he would like to see done in the ways of enforcement and would like to see more. Mr. Reynolds also advised he had mixed feelings about the plan.

Kyra Morgan, noted for the record as a non-voting member, there was concern with reopening of bars. Cases have declined since mitigation efforts went into effect. It is hard to define case growth with school reopening and business reopening and it is hard to identify the cause or impact of each directive. Ms. Morgan is not optimistic opening bars will stop house parties. Richard Whitley noted one fact that should be highlighted is the ability of contact tracing as it is proven to work. Mr. Whitley expressed that in the bar setting, it is much easier to enforce regulations. Chris Lake pointed out the amount of COVID patients that require hospitalization is about 6%. With the increase in cases, Nevada will see more cases, not an increase in hospitalizations, irrespective of mitigation efforts that have been implemented. Dagny Stapleton advised adding a section regarding collaboration. One request could be for stricter measures in the urban areas. There is opportunity to refine the Washoe County plan. Kevin Dick, Washoe County, expressed concern with not approving the plan. The “party house” issues a difficult challenge to navigate in terms of law enforcement. Mr. Dick advised he believed Washoe County would be in a better situation overall with the reopening of bars and the enforcement pieces would be easier to enforce. Mr. Dick advised the county has not seen a positive impact in cases since the bar closures and is willing to work on better compliance and enforcement aspects of the plan. Chair Caged advised the Task Force may want to consider the continuation of the current plan for an additional two weeks to better view the data trends.

Chair Cage made a motion to maintain the current standards on bar closures in Washoe County for an additional two weeks. In that time, Washoe County should work directly towards concerns regarding enforcement and have additional plans on the “party house” issue. Continue to watch the numbers and trends for the next two weeks. Terry Reynolds provided a second. Richard Whitley supports to Dagny Stapleton’s suggestion to finetune the opening plan and is hesitant to make the link that opening bars is the solution to party houses if there is no evidence of that. Mr. Richards does support opening a regulated location more than an unregulated location. Mr. Whitley supports the motion and action if the plan was refined. Terry Reynolds, agrees and thinks the Task Force needs to be cognizant of regulated business. The other part of shut down of bars is the original compliance rates were from 39-45%, not above 50% in those areas. There are taverns and bars in casinos where is a need to have effective enforcement to ensure compliance. Mr. Reynolds supports the two-week measure. Mr. Reynolds supports the need to move to a regulated environment to ensure that is process is working. Chris Lake inquired if it would be possible to get an idea of how many cases are being tracked back to bars that serve food versus restaurants and grocery stores. Chair Cage reiterated areas of concern identified in the plan and the overall status of Washoe County. Chair Cage noted for the record the amazing work that Washoe County has been doing since the beginning. The motion on the floor was unanimously approved.

Clark County Self-Assessment and Action Plan

Chair Cage noted he had the same concerns with Clark County’s plan as he did with Washoe County plans, especially with elevated case numbers. Clark County provided a robust effort to address hospital capacity and continue to work with various agencies. Clark County was instrumental in the overall establishment of the PPE warehouse. The plan from Clark County includes a request to open bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries, and wineries at 50% capacity and increase compliance and mitigation efforts. Contact tracing numbers are excellent with approximately 79% contacted within the first 24-hours. Chair Cage stated this is a great plan, however, there are significant concerns that relate to elevated case counts, elevated percentages, and the openings of schools. This is going to be a consider challenge in the weeks ahead. My second biggest concern, behind the case counts, is the collaboration between the county and local jurisdictions in carrying out this plan. This comes from several things, including a report that came out yesterday regarding the discontinuation of the ambassador program which is a key to the enforcement piece. This was a reduction of 60 individuals down to 12. Another aspect is the public scrutiny of elected public officials degrading the enforcement measures and not being supportive of the plan. Terry Reynolds advised Clark County has done an amazing job regarding enforcement and working closely with OSHA. A little over 7,000 businesses have been visited and over 4,000 complaints have been received, 80% are in the Las Vegas area. Of this, only about 26 businesses have been cited but most of them have been repeat offenders and this is disheartening. Mr. Reynolds noted there is room for improvement in the long run. Kyra Morgan noted that Clark County has been on the list since the beginning and has not seen much progress in this regard and has the same concerns as previously stated to Washoe County.

Chair Cage noted there is room for improvement and will working with Clark County to make any necessary improvements to the plan that was submitted. There is an opportunity to work with the political subdivisions to gather data to make sure there is constant communication. This is an extremely important decision and balances the needs of the population and the state. Chair Cage made the recommendation to move to continue the bar closure and the other items associated with Directive 027 for the time being. Chair Cage would like to work with Clark County over the next two weeks to enhance the action plan in terms of enforcement, mitigation efforts, and other refinements, as necessary. Consider this plan based on numbers again at a later date. Jessica Diss asked if there were any parts not included in Directive 027 that the Task Force would like to include in the motion. Chair Caged noted most of the mitigation efforts in the plan are continuing the efforts that are already in place. The motion on the floor is to continue the provisions of Directive 027, which is specifically to the bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries, and winery closures within Clark County for the time being, to continue that closure going forward, to continue to review the plan and work with Clark county on enforcement and reporting, and finally continue to review any proposals for future mitigation efforts. Terry Reynolds provided a second. The motion passed unanimously. Chief John Steinbeck, Clark County, thanked the Task Force for working with Clark County and how difficult these decisions our to get our residents back to work. Chair Cage noted that Chief Steinbeck has noted an opportunity for a workshop to discuss compliance and enforcement. Chair Cage inquired if this were a recommendation that Chief Steinbeck would like to see move forward. Chief Steinbeck mentioned this would be a great idea and would appreciate the clarification to operate in line to provide a service moving forward. Chris Lake asked if the Task Force could start looking at the differentiate between bars, and taverns. Phased in approach, or if this makes compliance and enforcement difficult. Chair Cage noted this makes sense and working with the counites moving forward. Mr. Reynolds noted the Local Empowerment Advisory Panel (LEAP) is currently working on guidance for this issue.

6. Overview of the State’s Laboratory Reporting System

Richard Whitley, DHHS, provided an overview of the State’s Laboratory Reporting System. Laboratory data ensures public officials have access to comprehensive data to inform decision making in response to COVID-19. Regarding regulatory authority, Laboratories must comply with all of Nevada’s regulations including the

Approved at approval the August 27, 2020 Meeting

reporting requirement for communicable disease in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 441A.235. NAC 441A.235: Duty of director or other person in charge of medical laboratory to report findings of communicable disease, causative agent of communicable disease or immune response to causative agent; contents of report; submission of certain microbiologic cultures, subcultures, or other specimen or clinical material; required reporting of results of certain tests relating to human immunodeficiency virus. Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 439.200, 441A.120, 441A.167. The Department licenses labs and has regulatory authority for enforcement: NRS652.080, license requirements, NAC 652.491, grounds for denial, suspension or revocation of certificate. (NRS 439.200, 652.125), and NAC 652.530, disciplinary action. Labs processed from January to July 2020 increased 8200%. Prior to COVID-19, the average number of labs processed was approximately 5,000 per month. Mr. Whitley provided a breakdown of the error rate and labs failing to import for January & July 2020. January 2020, was at 0.1% or 5 out of 5,116 and as of July 2020, was 0.2% or 9, 619 out of 424,189.00. In terms of information technology (IT), as of August 7, 2020, IT staff are examining every instance of import error into the National Electronic Disease Surveillance Based System (NBS) to mitigate future error. One recommendation is to provide the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) support to examine data ingestion errors into TriSano.

Advantages of Nevada's current Electronic Lab Reporting System (ELR) include the following: the ELR vendor has upgraded system to automatically de-duplicate lab reports, Nevada has surpass the CDC's requirements of testing 2% of the population, this is approximately 61,600 tests, and in July, Nevada had 424,000 test results reported which is about seven times the CDC goal. ELR vendor has made several changes to system that has addressed backlog. There has not been a backlog since August 7, 2020. Weaknesses of ELR include the following: no direct link to or from Nevada labs or out-of-state labs to NBS, community businesses contract with labs without notification and coordination with DPBH to ensure we receive information, SNHD and the rest of the state use two different ELR systems, current IT staff infrastructure not to scale for IT platform, laboratories have increased staff and testing capacity rapidly that has resulted in some coding errors and correlating failed uploads to the ELR, new COVID-19 tests are continually being developed and if the lab does not use the test "code" the ELR vendor is familiar, with this could result in missed lab tests not being counted, and a combination of electronic lab reporting and paper lab reporting. Three factors impacting Nevada's laboratory reporting are the following: commercial labs experience delays in processing and transmitting electronic labs, Nevada's electronic lab reporting system, and unlicensed and/ or out-of-state lab companies. Mr. Whitley noted the following recommendations: Utilize regulatory authority to require all laboratories doing business in Nevada to be licensed, impose penalties for failure to report, increase IT staff to support SNHD data ingestion into their electronic lab reporting system TriSano. Develop and promote a webpage dedicated to providing information on lab reporting, contact info for ELR staff, forms for ELR, description of penalties if labs are not reporting timely, and reciprocity of other states labs.

Chair Cage noted the request for this agenda item was to offer insight as to the Task Force taking responsibility to provide input and guidance into making the response effort more effective and efficient. Chair Cage noted the State of Nevada is not alone in having to continuously review and adjust COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Due to the lack of a unified national strategy, each state across the country is constantly working to develop new approaches to mitigate the spread, increase testing, and respond effectively. As Nevada continues to deal with the COVID-19 crisis, there are specific areas within our response plan and infrastructure that should be regularly reviewed to identify potential areas for improvement. Over the last five months since the first case of COVID was identified in the State, there has been a consistent flow of new information on the virus from medical experts, in addition to the development of best practices to respond to the disease from public health and emergency response officials from around the country. As Nevada embarks on a new targeted mitigation effort, the Governor has worked with the newly created Mitigation Task Force to identify three initial critical areas for potential improvement. The role of the Task Force is to review each of these areas and determine current challenges, potential solutions, and implementation plans, all with the goal of ensuring our statewide response is meeting the needs of our residents. For each of the identified areas under review, the Task Force should ultimately develop recommendations on available resources and policies that

will address challenges and strengthen Nevada’s overall response to COVID-19. The initial list of areas for review are as follows:

Testing Expansion

Community-based testing is critical to Nevada’s effort to reopen the economy and keep it open. Testing for the virus in communities throughout the state will allow local, state, and tribal leaders to assess the effectiveness of preventive measures and to identify and facilitate interventions into future outbreaks. With the frequent development of advancements, Nevada must continue to aggressively ramp up our statewide capacity through procurement of high efficiency solutions and innovative measures. The Goal is to r Review Nevada’s current testing capacity and progress-to-date in efforts to expand testing. Update Nevada’s statewide testing strategy and policies to ensure it maximizes resources to meet a desired outcome. Develop strategies for incorporating antibody testing into statewide testing strategy as well as coordinated plans for distribution of vaccine upon availability. In the absence of federal coordination, identify potential regional partnerships that may improve testing, reporting, and contact tracing outcomes

State Laboratory Reporting System Review

The State’s laboratory reporting system is the central point of COVID-19 case and testing data. Due to Nevada’s unique bottom-up reporting system, it’s critical to continue reviewing the process of reporting COVID-19 test and case results from the local level to the State on a regular basis. The goal is to review the current state lab reporting system to, develop an overview of how our system currently works and strengths and weaknesses of this system, identify any structural or technological challenges preventing efficient flow of information, and Identify any policy or enforcement challenges preventing efficient flow of information

Presentation of Accurate and Relevant COVID-19 Data

Over the last 5 months, the State developed and has been operating a COVID-19 data dashboard with the goal of providing transparency and relevant information to the public. In order to ensure the State is sharing the most accurate and relevant information possible, it’s critical to conduct a review of the current dashboard and assess whether any updates need to be made. The goal is to review the current State COVID-19 Data Dashboard, identify ways of presenting data that focus on trends over time. In the absence of federal reporting standards, identify best practices from other states, CDC, and other private/public methodologies. Make recommendations on data reporting changes that should be incorporated into Nevada’s model to provide accurate and actionable information to Nevadans

Conclusion

These initial focus areas are intended to address immediate opportunities as Nevada transitions into the Road to Recovery model. At future meetings of the Task Force, members will hear presentations, discuss options, and make recommendations. This same process will continue for other focus areas in the future as well. Terry Reynolds spoke to importance of lab tracking and getting on a timely basis for accurate information. Mr. Reynolds appreciates the report provided. Mr. Reynolds noted he was appreciative for the opportunity to provide input and assist with creating standards within the state.

7. Action Items for Next Week

Chris Lake noted he would like to see an overview of the type of establishments, from contact tracing, that have a high disease transmission rate. Dr. Lake would like to see this list broken down in detail of restaurant, bar, water park. Follow up will also be conducted with the counties that are meeting two or more of the criteria for increased disease transmission. These conversations will be held offline before the next Task Force meetings.

8. Public Comment

Chair Cage opened the discussion for public comment. Robert Kingston spoke to the Task Force may want to consider revamping the public comment section of the Task Force as it is unclear what is a topic that can be discussed. Mr. Kingston noted it is difficult to understand why repeat offenders are still allowed to operate while other businesses are shut down. Deanne O’Rear Cameron, Senior Citizen Advocate, thanked the Task Force for the working that is being done and understands how difficult these decisions are. Ms. Cameron offered her assistance towards working with the labs to improve for accuracy and compliance. Jacob Kolosov provided written comment that states his disdain in the closure of bars yet schools and casinos are allowed to be open.

9. Adjourn

Chair Cage called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was presented by Jaime Black, Gaming Control Board, and a second was provided by Richard Whitley. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.