



# Meeting Minutes COVID-19 Mitigation and Mangement Task Force

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>DATE</b>	September 17, 2020
	<b>TIME</b>	10:00 A.M.
	<b>METHOD</b>	Video-Teleconference
	<b>RECORDER</b>	Meagan Werth Ranson/Karla Delgado
<b>Task Force Voting Member Attendance</b>		
<b>Member Name</b>		<b>Present</b>
Caleb Cage		X
Richard Whitley		X
Terry Reynolds		X
Jaime Black		X
Justin Luna		X
Felicia Gonzales		X
Brett Compston		ABS
Meagan Werth Ranson		X
Chris Lake		X
Dagny Stapleton		X
Wesley Harper		X
Mark Pandori		X
<b>Task Force Non-Voting Member Attendance</b>		
Kyra Morgan		X
Lisa Sherych		X
Julia Peek		X
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. Austin Osborne, Storey County manager, read into the record a portion of a letter from Marshall McBride. “Storey County appreciates your dedication to keep Nevada citizens safe and businesses open. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Storey County Commissioners on May 6, 2020, approved a countywide business reopening plan and submitted it to Governor Sisolak. Storey County also respectfully requests to be placed on an upcoming Task Force agenda to discuss this plan further. The county plan asked the Governor to reopen during Phase 2 all licensed businesses in the county operating in accordance with Nevada COVID-19 mitigation guidelines and reopening plan requirements. This included general businesses and special businesses such as fitness gyms, bars, restaurants, theatres, and brothels. We are grateful today that almost all businesses in Storey County are open, and we are working tirelessly to ensure that they operate safely and within state COVID-19 mitigation framework. Brothels, however, remain prohibited from opening, regardless of mitigation efforts, and have been closed for six months. The county plan stated that brothels, if allowed to open by the Governor during Phase 2, would be

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“permitted for full or partial reopening when a brothel reopening plan is reviewed and consistent with Nevada State Health requirements for brothels and COVID-19.” The plan contained a specific brothel mitigation and reopening plan which was submitted to the county by the Mustang Ranch. That plan is enclosed herewith. We kindly request this statement to be entered into the record of the Task Force. We also would appreciate an opportunity to be placed on an upcoming Task Force agenda so that we may discuss this matter with you further, or respectfully request the Task Force to communicate with or provide advisory recommendations to the Governor. Storey County takes the COVID-19 health matter seriously and will continue working closely with the Quad-County region to administer community testing, mitigation health hazards, ensuring compliance with state directives, and engaging in public outreach. Your consideration in this matter is much appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact us.”

Daniel Corona, Mayor of west Wendover, asked the Task Force to approve the Elko County reopening plan. If not, please consider looking at the West Wendover plan separately from the Elko County plan. West Wendover currently only has three active cases. Local casinos have installed plexiglass barriers at bars to help assist in mitigation efforts and to ensure they are opening responsibly. Nick Flores, Council Member City of West Wendover, spoke to the desire to allow bars to reopen. Casinos and other establishments have gone above and beyond to ensure safety. West Wendover only has three active cases. Residents have done great work to keep numbers low. Steve Sirianni, General Manager of Wendover Nugget, requested the reopening of bars in West Wendover. Mr. Sirianni strongly believes that bars can reopen safely. Casinos in Wendover have done an extraordinary job with health and extra sanitization measures. In addition, bars are added real estate to casinos. Allowing bars to open would assist with allowing for social distancing measures. Ismael Gutierrez, Council Member City of West Wendover, requested the reopening of bars. Casinos have established guidelines. Currently only have three cases, compared to the rest of the county that is low.

Meagan Werth Ranson read into the record public comment from Daniel Dainton, “My name is Dan and I am a new owner of a small tavern with gaming located in Clark County. I am sending this "public comment" email on behalf of my two partners in this small business, the General Manager, and nine employees who have worked so hard to build this business since taking it over on January 1, 2019. Indeed, it has been a frustrating and challenging experience for our team over these last six months dealing with the ups and downs of this pandemic. Unfortunately, although we have been able to stay current with bills during these uncertain times, we are now reaching a point where our small business will not be able to sustain itself without some necessary revenue. It appears the COVID-19 infection rate is trending downward and I am asking that you please consider reopening the bars that do not serve food, maybe even at a smaller capacity, with the understanding that safety standards are adhered to according to the governor's and gaming commission guidelines. Being a small establishment, during the first reopening in June, we were able to handle small crowds of 15-20 people in a 3000 square foot space with sanitary procedures in place, face masks worn by bartenders at all times and worn by "standing" or "walking" customers, and with social distancing throughout. A very safe environment, in my opinion, when compared to what I observe at casinos, rallies, and other venues that have been allowed to reopen. It is disheartening to hear from some of my employees who are running low on their savings accounts and racking up credit card debt in order to keep their homes and carry on with the struggles of daily living without work. Especially when I know that we can keep them employed and sustain our business with a minimal number of customers who are patronizing our business while following safety protocols.”

Ms. Werth Ranson read a second statement of public comment into the record from James Osterberger, “I am asking that you allow reopening of bars which do not serve food in Clark County at your September 17, 2020 meeting. I own two taverns with gaming in Las Vegas. In the last 180 days we have only been open for 30. I am on the verge of losing my life's work at this point. Many of my employees are still trying to collect unemployment benefits to no avail. My landlord has not been willing to work with me on rent expenses, but I am current for now. Infections have decreased drastically in Clark County. When we were open back in June, we passed every inspection with flying colors. We were inspected sometimes three times a week. That being the case I cannot

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understand why when there is no data released to the public about infections in taverns, taverns remained closed while casinos and restaurants and gyms may continue to operate. A couple of months ago, Governor Sisolak announced that the health authorities would be targeting individual businesses rather than shutting whole industries. Why hasn't that happened with mine at this point in time? There is no life support left (federal or state) for businesses like mine other than your decision to allow them to reopen responsibly with restrictions. Please reopen our businesses before it is too late, and the industry is wiped off the map in Clark County.”

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Cage called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes from the September 10, 2020 meeting. Dagny Stapleton, Nevada Association of Counties (NACO), made a motion to approve the minutes with non-substantive, spelling, and grammatical corrections and a second was provided by Terry Reynolds, Business and Industry (B&I). Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Appointed Department Updates**

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

Terry Reynolds spoke to work being done by B&I and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regarding compliance visits. OSHA has conducted 531 first visit compliance checks from September 10, 2020 through September 16, 2020. The overall compliance rate was at 90%, 91% in the North, and 86% in the South. Industries with lower than average compliance continue to be parcel delivery/logistics, automobile sales and maintenance, and grocery/convenient stores. OSHA's cumulative first visits are now up to 8,020 and second visits total 83. The total cumulative number for second visits is now around 1,373. Overall, OSHA is experiencing good compliance rates.

**b. Division of Emergency Management (DEM) – PPE Status – Incident Commander, Brett Compston**

Justin Luna, DEM, provided an overview of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) status per the Disease Outbreak Management Plan. DEM is beginning to receive large quantities of the 120-day surge supply. This includes gloves, masks, and gowns. These emergency management supplies will be available statewide based on emergency needs. Chair Cage asked for a current assessment on where the State stands with fulfillment of this surge supply. Mr. Luna advised the status was at approximately 95% of 120-day stockpile has been ordered and all items should be received by mid-October.

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

Lesley Mohlenkamp, Governor's Finance Office (GFO), provided an overview of COVID related funding coordination efforts. Ms. Mohlenkamp noted the GFO is continuing to work with the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) to finalize the purchase of PPE and supplies for school districts statewide. This is expected to move quickly. Ms. Mohlenkamp also noted working being done with the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) in terms of support and a few initiatives looking for funding sources. Julia Peek, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), noted Ms. Mohlenkamp and her team did a great job at the Interim Finance Committee Subcommittee meeting regarding Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding.

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

No current update to provide.

**e. Gaming Control Board (GCB) – Chief, Jaime Black**

Jaime Black provided an update on the GCB enforcement efforts. For the month of September, the GCB Enforcement Division has conducted 742 compliance checks. There are 197 open regulatory cases, with only one new case opened from last week and the GCB is seeing a high rate of compliance overall.

**f. Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) – Executive Director, Dagny Stapleton**

No current Update to provide

**g. Nevada League of Cities – Director, Wesley Harper**

No current 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 (slides were also included in the meeting packet):

- 953,155 Molecular tests
- 74,248 Confirmed cases
- 1494 Total deaths
- 13.0 Tests per 1,000 per week
- 7.0% Daily positivity rate
- 10.1% Cumulative positivity rate
- 373 Confirmed hospitalizations
- 115 Suspected hospitalizations
- 150 Patients in intensive care units

Ms. Morgan provided the group with an update regarding the slides provided in the handouts showing the trends of COVID-19 in Nevada. Nevada has experienced a sustained decline in new cases since July 13, 2020 and is starting to see a decline in COVID-19 deaths. As far as testing turnaround times, there is not a significant change from last week. The average time between specimen collection for results to be reported is approximately two days. Several rural counties are experiencing longer turnaround times. Ms. Morgan also noted there is an extended lab turnaround time regarding Quest labs in Churchill County. Unsure if this due to the rural location and distance. Hospitalization data has been decreasing significantly since August 4, 2020. Test positivity rates have been decreasing since July 9, 2020. The seven-day moving average of test positivity rate has been decreasing since the beginning of July 2020. Ms. Morgan spoke to results for county tracker criteria for the previous week comparatively to the current slide as of September 14, 2020. Churchill, Eureka, and Washoe Counties are no longer being flagged as having elevated disease transmission. Lyon and Mineral Counties are indicated as having elevated disease transmission. Clark and Elko Counties continue to be flagged as having elevated disease transmission. Ms. Morgan spoke to additional slides included in the handouts to allow for review of trends over an extended period. Chair Cage noted the historical overview is helpful and appreciates the effort that went in to providing these slides. Chair Cage spoke to slide #6 regarding testing turnaround times per county. Having this slide as an ongoing conversation with the counties would be of benefit to compare what the state is seeing versus what the county is seeing. Dagny Stapleton thanked Ms. Morgan for this slide and would like to include this in the upcoming NACO Board meeting. Chair Cage spoke to slide #8, Washoe County has been removed from the list with a test positivity rate of 7.0%. Kyra Morgan advised that

was correct, the threshold is below 7.0%. Overall, seeing positive movement with only three counties now being currently flagged.

Julia Peek, DHHS, provided an update concerning the status of COVID-19 in Nevada. Nearly 18,055 individuals or 24.3% have been identified as having COVID-19 through contact tracing. The goal remains that same that every Nevadan who tests positive for COVID-19 will be contacted by a contact tracer within 24 hours of the confirmatory lab report. Within 24 hours of identifying a close contact of a case, those individuals will be communicated with by a contact tracer. The COVID Trace full launched in Google and Apple with roughly 30,277 downloads as of September 15, 2020. DHHS Continues to work on the EN Express tool. This app is complimentary to the COVID Trace app for Nevada.

Ms. Peek spoke to how public health collects data related to possible COVID-19. During the case interview with an individual who has contracted COVID, the investigator asks questions related to how the individual may have contracted the illness and who they may have exposed after their infection. They also ask about sites such as the individual's worksite, businesses the individual may have visited, or events attended. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided guidance to public health agencies on this process. Ms. Peek explained how the data is used. Data collected during case investigation of any diseases is used to identify possible risks associated with exposure, contacts that may have also been exposed to the illness, opportunities to intervene or prevent further spread, and disparities related to those risks (i.e. occupational risk, racial/ethnic disparities, geographic disparities, etc.). This data is analyzed and released according to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 441A. This data may also be shared with the appropriate regulatory authorities for additional investigation. Any data released cannot allow an individual case or contact to be identified. Ms. Peek also explained how the data should be interpreted. All data obtained in case investigations and contact tracing is obtained voluntarily and is self-reported. This data is often incomplete due to memory or the case simply not wanting to share certain information. Lack of sharing of such information delays or impedes the ability for public health to identify and intervene when a risk is present. All data obtained in case investigations and contact tracing is obtained voluntarily and is self-reported. This data is often incomplete due to memory or the case simply not wanting to share certain information. Lack of sharing of such information delays or impedes the ability for public health to identify and intervene when a risk is present. If there is a specific activity or location identified through exposure data, this could mean a variety of things and requires additional follow up beyond the investigation. For example, a business that is identified at a high rate may be offering routine testing of employees, so cases are identified timelier and at a higher rate than a business that does not offer testing to their employees. Or a business who is identified often may have areas that could be improved to lessen risk to employees and patrons and identification of that risk allows for future exposure to be minimized. Identification of a business, event, or individual that the positive person was in contact with does not mean the person became infected from that encounter.

Kyra Morgan inquired about the COVID Trace app and asked if this app was specific to Nevada. Ms. Peek noted COVID Trace app is specific to Nevada, but anyone can download the app, the EN Express Notification is a complimentary tool to the COVID Trace that runs in the background without download. Chair Cage inquired about the exposure data. The potential exposures, if an industry or location comes up on the list, to be clear it does not necessarily mean the person was infected there. Ms. Peek noted when going through the investigation, potentially the person went to ten different businesses. This is just data that can be collected to determine further actions. Chair Cage spoke to if a business or industry is coming up on the list frequently this could be due to a robust testing regime and finding cases. Ms. Peek noted that was accurate. Chair Cage noted this data being collected could be used for better enforcement measures.

**1. Churchill County Self-Assessment and Action Plans**

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Jim Barbee, Churchill County, provided an overview of the plan submitted from Churchill County. Churchill County is still working on increasing testing number and has opened a second testing date for Thursday morning. Today was the first day it was open, and 28 tests were completed. Mr. Barbee noted the county is at a 1.3% positivity rate. Churchill County is still witnessing a slight difference between the state's numbers and the counties numbers. This is believed to be an issue with how the hospital is coding the zip code for patients and an issue with duplicated tests. Chair Cage advised Churchill County is no longer on the list for elevated disease transmission. Chair Cage would like to see an updated assessment for next week and to continue this discussion. No action taken.

**2. Eureka County Self-Assessment and Action Plan**

Chair Cage noted Eureka County was flagged last week as having an elevated disease transmission. Eureka County is no longer being flagged as of this week and if Eureka County remains of the list, the Task Force may vote to remove the county from observation. No action taken.

**3. Washoe County Self- Assessment and Action Plan**

Kevin Dick, Washoe County, provided an overview of the plan submitted by Washoe County. It was noted Washoe County is no longer being flagged as having an elevated disease transmission. Washoe County is continuing with testing and contact tracing efforts. PPE is in good shape. Washoe County did have a team respond to the skilled nursing facility in Reno that is being shut down to collect specimens. Residents need to be tested prior to relocating and a total of 41 specimens were collected. Washoe County has been working hard on the operating standards for bars and providing information to the public. Bars were reopened in the county as of last night. Washoe County is continuing to see community spread being at the school district and University of Nevada Reno (UNR). This is believed to be due to the size of the institutions. There is concern with new cases occurring due to individuals attending gatherings off campus. Washoe County did have an increase in cases yesterday due to Labor Day. Eric Brown, County Manager, spoke to work being done to execute the guidance for the reopening of bars and ensuring compliance. Chair Cage noted the Task Force is looking forward to information coming in from the reopening of bars in the county. No action taken.

**4. Lyon County Self-Assessment and Action Plan**

Jeff Page, Lyon County Manager, spoke to the letter provided to the Task Force. The biggest issue that Lyon County is facing is regarding testing. Lyon County is currently sitting at 7.4% for test positivity. Lyon county will continue to work with Carson City Health and Human Services to work on offering testing opportunities for different dates and times and understands many of the county residents travel out of county limits for work. Lyon County will also continue to push messaging around the importance of testing. No action taken.

\*\*\*Break at 11:10 a.m. and meeting returned at 11:20 a.m.\*\*\*

**5. Clark County Self-Assessment and Action Plan**

Billy Samuels, Clark County, provided an updated on the plan submitted by Clark County. Mr. Samuels read directly from the plan. "The State of Nevada and Clark County have continued to decrease in the cases of COVID-19, along with the positivity rate, for the past several weeks. Early on in this pandemic, the State of Nevada intentionally created "our own recession" to make sure the hospitals can handle the surge capacity. Since that time, our hospitals have shown the ability to handle both COVID and Non-COVID patients. With these needed actions taken by the state, it did create time for the hospitals to make the necessary changes to their operations. During this period, the hospitals were able to review their internal overflow procedures along with their surge plans to ensure they had the capacity to handle any influx of patients. The Southern Nevada Hospitals are in a

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solid position to begin re-opening in incremental phases. According to the State of Nevada Department of Business & Industry which released its' press release on September 14, 2020, "During follow up visits conducted last week, Nevada OSHA officials found 100 percent of 53 businesses visited were in compliance with required health and safety measures to slow community spread of COVID-19. A total of 1,322 follow up visits have been conducted." This data shows the community, businesses, and enforcement are doing their part to ensure safety is still important. The State of Nevada has focused on the initial problem with COVID-19, which is the physical health risk associated with the virus. While taking care of the first problem, a secondary disease has occurred/increased with the shutdown of businesses, and that is mental health issues. The longer businesses are shut down and people are out of work, the greater chance of long-term mental health issues will arise. Characteristics of job loss-related complicated grief (CG) symptoms include preoccupying thoughts about the lost job, disbelief or inability to accept the loss, bitterness, and a sense that life is meaningless without the former occupation. CG symptoms following job loss can co-occur with symptoms of depression and/or anxiety. Even though there is an overlap in symptoms between CG, depression, and anxiety, factor-analytic studies have shown that these symptoms form distinguishable concepts. Further impacts may include prolonged grief, including feelings of despair, anger and hostility, social isolation, loss of control, depersonalization, and death anxiety (Dealing with Depression After Job Loss Due to Coronavirus, Gen psych – Mental Health of the Future, June 12, 2020).

More than one in three adults in the U.S. have reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder during the pandemic (weekly average for May: 34.5%; weekly average for June: 36.5%; weekly average for July: 40.1%) (Figure 1). In comparison, from January to June 2019, more than one in ten (11%) adults reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder (the 2 implications of COVID-19 for Mental Health and Substance Use, Panchal, Nirmita et al, August 21, 2020). Members of Southern Nevada had the unique opportunity to meet with the United States Surgeon General, Doctor Jerome Adams, on Sunday, September 13. The Surgeon General made a statement that stuck out, and this will be paraphrased "Nevada is in the yellow and continues to trend down. This is when businesses should start re-opening." Attached is the "Clark County Regional Protocols for bars, pubs, taverns, distilleries, breweries, and wineries". These protocols go over policies, safety guidelines, cleaning and disinfecting procedures and concludes with a signed acknowledgement from the employee and manager which states they will comply with the protocols. Clark County also created a webinar presentation (<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/3304d670-7972-4dd3-a96e-0fd425dd641f>) for the owners of these establishments to view, which must be reviewed prior to reopening. A signed acknowledgement form ([www.clarkcountynv.gov/businesslicense/regionalprotocolsform](http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/businesslicense/regionalprotocolsform)) must be kept on site for inspection. If it is not on site, the establishment will be subject to disciplinary action. Clark County is requesting that bars, pubs, taverns, distilleries, breweries, and wineries be allowed to go back to Directive 21. Clark County is also asking for churches and conventions (Appendix D) be allowed to operate at reduced capacity, both at 50% occupancy rates, adhering to state guidelines for social distancing and wearing of masks. Clark County is requesting these approvals go into effect 11:59 pm on Sunday, September 20, 2020. Clark County would like to reference the Southern Nevada Regional Plan dated 9/2/2020 with possible action to get our youth sports and recreational facilities back to normal operations.

Marilyn Kirkpatrick, County Commissioner, spoke to Southern Nevada being unique compared to the other counties in the state. The regional committee was established early on. Ms. Kirkpatrick pointed out great things have occurred since the beginning of COVID-19 through collaborations and partnerships. In March, partners along the strip stepped up to assist with PPE needs. One hotel alone donated over 550,000 sets of gloves. These gloves were utilized for truckers to bring product in and first responders. Overtime, Southern Nevada has been working collaboratively, to ensure public health was the priority, employees could return safely to work, and to allow the economy to prosper. Southern Nevada relies heavily on tourism, but the health of the community is the main priority. When hotels were opened, Southern Nevada called numerous other states to ensure protocols were in place. Many of the hotels already go above and beyond by supplying thermal cameras, epidemiologists, medical doctors, and testing opportunities. Southern Nevada, within the last week, has tested

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18,000 individuals and in the prior month, well over 100,000 individuals were tested. Ms. Kirkpatrick also noted at the jails nearly 11,000 inmates have been tested. Along with the testing, Ms. Kirkpatrick spoke to the community's support in reopening by discussing the different types of letters that were included in the meeting materials. Surgeon General Jerome Adams recently visited Southern Nevada. This visit was well received, and it was noted that southern Nevada was making excellent progress. Ms. Kirkpatrick noted it is the belief that Southern Nevada was ready to reopen if the county remained vigilant and continued to do the right thing. Chair Cage noted on the record the immense amount of work that has been done by Clark County in the ability to reduce the overall numbers. Looking at test positivity, a month and a half ago, Clark County was at 16%. Today Clark County is at 8.6%. The trend speaks for itself. The surge in testing is a good sign. Chair Cage noted his appreciation for the letters included in the meeting materials. The letters from the jurisdictions signing off on enforcement and wishing to return to Directive 021 are good signs. Terry Reynolds advised there are four separate asks included in the Clark County plan and asked for each item to be considered on their own and not collaboratively. Chair Cage noted he agreed, however, in terms of gatherings and capacity limits, those are determined under the statewide standards. Any changes would have to be made from an emergency directive. The Task Force does not have the authority to do this. The Task Force can review and make recommendations. Chair Cage advised the Governor made a statement yesterday that these directives are being re-examined. Mr. Reynolds also noted the Local Empowerment and Advisory Panel (LEAP) has also done considerable work in terms of reviewing and updating guidance for youth sports. Julia Peek reiterated Ms. Kirkpatrick's point, when looking at testing and sustained testing, the gaming industry stepped up to test employees and have assisted DHHS with having results reported from the out of state labs. This is a sustainable model. Thanks to private sector partnerships and the gaming resorts. Chair Cage inquired as to what OSHA is seeing in terms of compliance. Terry Reynolds noted Clark County has a robust inspection program and are doing three to four more times the inspections that OSHA is doing in that county. Clark County has robust program and complimentary to OSHA. Mr. Reynolds thanked Ms. Kirkpatrick for all the work she is doing.

Chair Cage inquired for the record, with the recent events and large gatherings, if a considerable increase in cases occurs, what measures does the county have in mind to mitigate the community spread. John Steinbeck, Clark County Fire, noted it is anticipated numbers will slightly increase due to Labor Day and other events. Clark County is working closely with health district and business licensing. When a location is identified as having an increase in cases, Clark County can deal with that on an individual basis and not industry wide. Clark County has the tools in place to utilize resources to create changes, as necessary. Mr. Steinbeck advised locations can be inspected preemptively and reactively to minimize outbreaks. This could be addressed in future reports from Clark County. Ms. Kirkpatrick noted reminders are sent out daily, weekly, bi-weekly, and on a 30-day basis promoting testing. Ms. Kirkpatrick also noted updates could be provided from the health district meetings that occur weekly. Mr. Samuels advised Clark County relies heavily on the partnership with the health district and contact tracing. Kyra Morgan noted she ran the numbers for Clark County. Even just over 3-day period since the county criteria report was pulled, the case rate went down from 390 to 367 per 100,000 and the positivity rate is now down to 7.8% today from 8.6%. Looking at data over a window of time, have not seen an uptick. Julia Peek spoke to the work Southern Nevada Health District has done. The backlog has been cleared, meaning cases are contacted usually within 24-hours. Clark County is well suited and in a good place in terms of the health district. Chair Cage noted there is a request to return to Directive 021 standards, that removes the closure of bars, wineries. Terry Reynolds made a motion to approve the Clark County plan to return to Directive 021 regarding the reopening of bars, pubs, breweries, distilleries, wineries, and taverns as of 11:59 p.m. on September 20, 2020 and a second was provided by Dagny Stapleton. Chair Cage noted the other items in the plan are not included in the motion, in terms of youth sports, churches, and convention centers. Chair Cage noted as of next week, if Clark County could provide an overview of proactive and other interventions that may be used if there is a considerable increase in numbers. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Elko County Self-Assessment and Action Plan**

Amanda Osborne, Elko County, provided an update on the plan submitted by Elko County. Elko County has separated out specific locations within the county that the Task Force may act on if not Elko County has a whole. Elko county is requesting the reopening of bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries, and wineries back to Directive 021. Elko County would also like to request the Task Force to consider allowing countertops to be reopened under that same directive. Looking at the criteria in which DHHS is using to determine elevated disease transmission and looking at last week's data, testing capacity has increased 30%, case rate has decreased by 37%, and the positivity rate has decreased by more than 50%. A significant number of cases have come from the outbreak in the nursing home which accounts for 14% of cases in the last 30 days and Tribal outbreaks. Elko does not have jurisdictions over the Tribe. Current active cases are at 52 with Tribal cases making up 20% of cases. Testing continues to be a challenge for Elko County. Elko County has partnered with a local provider to test asymptomatic individuals by using CARES Act funding. Elko County is also working with a local partner to conduct drive through testing. Elko County has requested assistance from the Nevada National Guard for this effort. Elko County also noted work that is being done in collaboration with the school district. This is to increase testing but also examining risks and potential mitigation efforts. In addition, Elko County would like to ask for the states support in increasing testing for the vulnerable population the state is responsible for. In terms of mitigation, there have been a lot of conversations about working with local businesses and groups. This is something that has been established in the community prior to the pandemic. A recovery team has previously been in place, to ensure organizations understood the expectations in terms of reopening. There have been no businesses in Elko County where an outbreak has been linked back to. When a complaint is received, the police department is engaging with that organization and when warranted, issuing a notice of violation. As of today, there has been one new notice of violation issued from last week. Elko County is making strides in the right direction. Ms. Osborne noted Elko County is also starting to experience issues with mental health within the community and believes this to be in correlation with COVID-19 and standards currently in place.

Delmo Andreozzi spoke to a few concerns from the Elko County perspective:

- The first issue is the negative results from the Rapid Test. The Rapid test has been a part of the infrastructure from the beginning. There was concern with this item not being on the current agenda. There are 1200 tests not being included in the test numbers for Elko County. Chair Cage noted this will be an agenda item moving forward. It was not anticipated to be on this meeting, but for the next week's meeting. Julia Peek spoke to the excel spreadsheet that went out with the technical bulletin last week. The counties can fill out the Excel spreadsheet and submit the remainder of the results to be included sooner. Dagny Stapleton inquired if Elko County submitted the negatives now will they be incorporated and address Mr. Andreozzi' s concerns. Ms. Peek, reporting positives from one site, once negative results are received, they will be including. Kyra Morgan noted that since the Office of Public Health Information and Epidemiology (OPHIE) worked to get the reporting mechanism in place for the Abbott ID now, DHHS has incorporated that into the process for pulling this data.
- There is concern with the average number of tests per day, greater than 150. This is difficult for Elko County to achieve. Elko County would have to test 8% of the population over a 30-day period or do 146 tests per day. That is a big hurdle. Looking at other counties, the numbers do not add up. The main point is the number seems to be arbitrary, it is a percentage of whatever you get. Elko County does not have the resources to conduct asymptomatic testing. Chair Cage noted having a criteria discussion could be added to the agenda for next week. Kyra Morgan spoke to the interpretation of average number of tests per day. That number is normalized to the population. These numbers are calculated using the number of tests divided by the county population and multiplied by 100,000. The numbers are adjusted per population size. This allows for the comparison between Elko County and Clark County. Mr.

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Andreozzi again spoke to this number being a hard hurdle. This is the biggest reason Elko County is in the penalty Box.

- Another point missing from the criteria is looking at the current active rate and comparing that to the positivity rate. The active number of cases should be considered the most. Mr. Andreozzi provided an update on the outbreak at the skilled nursing facility. A total of 25 residents and 16 staff members were positive for COVID-19. The good news 16 residents and 14 staff members have recovered. Unfortunately, there have been 5 deaths recorded with the possibility of more.
- Mr. Andreozzi requested the County tracker to become public.
- Mr. Andreozzi asked since the state is living under the control of laboratory test results, what quality of control program has the state implemented to ensure various laboratories are producing accurate, reliable, and repeatable results and is the date being analyzed. Lisa Sherych, DHHS, noted there was a presentation at last week's Task Force meeting to discuss the regulatory structure. Ms. Sherych noted there will be another update next week's meeting. DHHS has developed technical bulletins, looked at sending emails to labs that have not been compliant, and the examining the formal process that can be taken to address that issue. Three emails have been sent out to labs with concerns over report, two labs have been responsive to address the issues. DHHS has created a form to address the quality as well. Dr. Mark Pandori, State Nevada Public Health Lab, provided an overview of the quality control measures that labs are under. Dr. Pandori noted for every test batch that is run, certified labs must run controls. IF the controls fail, the batch must be rejected. The other thing, amongst the regulations, both the state and federal government require the labs to conduct proficiency tests. Labs receive specimens from a third part, the labs run the batch and results the specimen back to the third party. The labs must pass this test with a high grade to continue to run COVID-19 testing. The results are sent to the state and the federal government. If the results are not accurate the lab must cease and desist. The proficiency should remedy any concerns the labs not acting in good faith. All licensed labs are performing the quality control measures. Chair Cage note labs reporting in the state are heavily regulated.

Chair Cage noted the Task Force should have a discussion regarding the dashboard and potential changes soon. Chair Cage asked Justin Luna for an update on the request from Elko County for Nevada National Guard Support to increase testing capacity. Mr. Luna advised the request is being finalized and DEM will work with the county and the Nevada National Guard. Terry Reynolds noted Elko is a very large county. A large population works at the mine and there is concern with availability of testing for that certain population. There are a lot of factors to be considered for Elko County. Elko County is also developing a pretty good enforcement plan. Chair Cage noted geographical considerations were built into the plan. Mr. Luna also pointed out that Elko County is coordinating with the private industry to work on increasing testing capacity. Julia Peek noted State Purchasing also finalized a contract to assist with Community Based Testing when the Nevada National Guard is no longer able to assist. The vendors can be found on the NV EPro website. Dagny Stapleton noted Elko County has made a great deal of progress and the county numbers have come down significantly. It is noted in the plan, given any evidence of an outbreak, Elko County will absolutely enforce consequences. Elko County has also worked to address the testing issue. Elko County has done the things the Task Force has asked them to do. Elko County has also worked with local jurisdictions. Dagny Stapleton made a motion to approve Elko County's request to allow bars, pubs, taverns, breweries, distilleries, and wineries to open back up to Directive 021 standards as of 11:59 p.m. on September 20, 2020. A second was provided by Terry Reynolds. Chair Cage would like to see possible mitigation efforts that could be addressed if there was an outbreak or increase in cases. Kyra Morgan spoke to the data for Elko County. A lot of the movement is going in the right direction. When looking at data, it is very likely Elko falls off the list next week or there soon after. Case were prior to August 21, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Public Comment**

Chair Cage opened the discussion for public comment in all venues. Lee Hoffman, Elko County, appreciated Delmo Andreozzi asking his question in the public forum. Mr. Hoffman requested the information on the rate of false positives and false negatives for different testing protocols be discussed at future meetings. This data would be helpful. Amy Jefferies, Clark County, asked for clarification on what section of Directive 021 was being implemented. Ms. Jefferies inquired if this applied to bars solely or other sections of the directive as well.

**7. Adjourn**

Chair Cage called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was presented by Justin Luna and a second was provided by Richard Whitley. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.