



Meeting Minutes COVID-19 Mitigation and Mangement Task Force

Attendance	DATE	October 29, 2020
	TIME	1:00 P.M.
	METHOD	Video-Teleconference
	RECORDER	Tanya Benitez/Meagan Werth Ranson
Task Force Voting Member Attendance		
Member Name		Present
Caleb Cage		X
Richard Whitley		X
Terry Reynolds		X
Jaime Black		X
Felicia Gonzales		X
David Fogerson		X
Brett Compston		ABS
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		X
Melissa Peek-Bullock		ABS
Malinda Southard		X
Lesley Mohlenkamp		ABS

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. Rachel Abab provided the following comment. “I would like to make a public comment regarding my concerns over the school structure and sports structure with the continued restrictions for middle school and high school students and my grave concerns at the longstanding impacts that this is causing. With increased cases, I am even more concerned that you are going to be looking at further restrictions being put in place, which is going in the opposite direction of where we need to go for these kids. The downstream impact has not been fully evaluated from a mental health standpoint, and what is happening to these kids because of these restrictions. Their education is continuing to suffer. We have failure rates at triple what is typically seen for kids in this age group and further closures and continued closures is not what needs to happen. While I understand that even one death is too many, at the current death rate for this age range at .121 percent, it does not justify the severe measures that are being taken place right now. As I said, those long-term effects are still unknown, but as parents we are witnessing what is happening to our children and would like for those to be taken into serious consideration. Thank you.”

Roger Maxwell, a business owner in Carson City, provided the following comment. “I have been watching the virus grow. We have a new product called It’s Nanoed that disinfects everything for 30 days on a solid surface and eight hours on your hands, which is very reasonable to use. You only have to put it on once every 30 days. My CEO of the company is also listening in and he will be making comments here shortly. I would like to be able to get in touch with you and show you how this works.” Rob Exton, CEO of “It’s Nanoed”, We have other schools that are using this product. They have had active COVID cases that have come into their school in both the elementary, middle school and high school. They have had independent ones come in and because of this product that lasts 30 days and kills COVID mechanically not chemically and it lasts for 30-day period. They have not had a single case that has spread in the school. They were able to isolate and they had zero spread utilizing our whole program for schools. I think it’s a really big differentiator in the marketplace and it has really helped those schools stay open in those other demographics. We have a full system laid out for our educational programs to keep them open and to prevent the spread of the COVID throughout the schools. It also reduces the amount of colds and flus and other items that pass through the schools as well. We are able to do that for long periods of time and yet we have 60% savings for our current schools when it comes to a sanitization process for them. So it is a money saver as well as it prevents all of the spread of these different diseases inside of these school systems and it’s not just schools, it’s businesses as well.”

Nancy Jones provided the following comment. “Thank you so much for allowing me to have the opportunity to give comment. I appreciate that this task force is taking this matter seriously and understands that the actions that you take affect all Nevadan’s lives and will have long term, likely very devastating unintended consequences. With all due respect, nobody in Nevada has elected any one of you to represent us or to make or enforce laws. So your job is really simple, you can provide good transparent, honest and clear information and allow Nevadan’s to make their own risk assessments. We are not incapable of doing some research ourselves and we can tell from the data that the CDC is putting out as well as the information that you put out weekly, that we are not in an emergency anymore. This virus has a recovery rate of over 99%, so it is not acceptable to have our bodies taken over by the State of Nevada, have our businesses and lives governed by these unconstitutional mandates. I also find it alarming and a little funny that you are recommending that everybody get your flu shot, while simultaneously mandating mask wearing in public. So, which one is it? Do masks prevent the spread of viruses or don’t they? And if they do, then that should be sufficient for preventing this supposed upsurge in flu because nobody will be able to spread viruses right. Or is it that all the data actually shows that masks are incapable of preventing virus transmission and you can admit that, and we can all move on with our lives. The people of Nevada are not your property and you should not have control over our bodies. Thank you so much for listening and please take it into consideration that you don’t actually have the power to compel people or enforce compliance. Thank you.” No additional public comment was provided.

3. Appointed Department Updates

Chair Cage spoke to the fact that this meeting will be challenging as Nevada is seeing a fall surge. The Task Force is responsible for the very serious deliberations around people’s lives and livelihoods. There are no easy answers for what will be discussed today. Over the weekend, it was determined with the case rates being seen in particular parts of the state but also throughout the state, that the Task Force needed to have a continued conversation and could not afford to wait the extra week. That required a lot of work from our county partners and health district partners. It is requiring an extra amount of time from Task Force members who certainly are already spread thin. Chair Cage thanked the following individuals: Randy Miller from State Department of EITS who works the technology side, RanDee Brems from the Governor’s Office who works the live streaming and Zoom meeting, Meagan Werth Ranson whom is a member of the Task Force ,who also works extremely hard to make sure all the documents, coordination, and logistics are taken care of, and Kim Burgess whose diligent work keeps information flowing from our office to our partners as well. Chair Cage also advised the Division of Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety has a new chief. Chair Cage welcomed Dave Fogerson as

the new Chief and newly appointed member of the Task Force. Mr. Fogerson was appointed on October 28, 2020.

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

Terry Reynolds spoke to work being done by B&I and the Division of Industrial Relations, which oversees the State's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regarding compliance visits. Since October 1st, DIR has done 1,000 in person visits to businesses. DIR has looked at several hundred calls regarding complaints and referrals. Unfortunately, DIR is seeing a slippage in compliance rates of between 8% – 10%. Compliance rates were in the high 90 percentile range and now the rates are in the high 80 percentile. Issues are being seen in the following business sectors: Financial institutions (payday lenders), convenience stores, restaurants, bars, real estate offices, realtors. One of the things DIR is really concerned with is there are a lot of issues between employees (employee to employee) not wearing masks when they are together and not social distancing. Need a general reinforcement of that. In addition to talking to DIR, OSHA and SCATS, B&I will be asking SCATS to get re-involved with going back out with OSHA. DIR has been working with the Cities and will be going out this weekend with the City of Reno to do inspections. There is a need to get back out and reinforce the message to everyone. Who is going out and making sure the protocols and guidelines are enforced on their campuses? We need to have someone out inspecting to make sure all are compliant. When enforcement is slacking in certain areas and enforcement is not there, it gets to be loose. When enforcement goes back in and makes sure to cover those bases, there is better compliance. That is the key, individuals need to be vigilant and make sure enforcement is out there making sure people are following the rules and are complying, e social distancing, wearing their mask, and reporting health concerns.

b. Division of Emergency Management (DEM) – PPE Status – Chief, Dave Fogerson

Dave Fogerson, DEM, provided an overview of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) status per the Disease Outbreak Management Plan. DEM still has the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) open with various state agencies. Big partnership with the Health District and Emergency Management trying to collect the needs of the state and all of the local jurisdictions. The National Guard and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are working with DEM to assist in that process. The big part that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is working on right now is the PPE. DEM has three stockpiles of PPE. The first is a FEMA surplus. FEMA notified DEM they have some extra equipment. DEM asked local jurisdictions what they wanted out of the equipment. DEM was able to receive all the supplies the local jurisdictions asked for. Now DEM is working on, as it arrives, getting it out of the warehouse and into the local jurisdictions. The second stock is some of the older PPE that DEM has that was bought with Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Cares) funds and some public assistance grant funding that is available for local jurisdictions to get upon request. The third and biggest stockpile DEM has is the surge stockpile. DEM is holding on to that surge stockpile. It is for a 120-day status that DEM is hoping to have on hand. The first goal is to meet a 60-day status of surge and DEM has met that goal. Now DEM is working on the 120-day status. Everything has been ordered. DEM is currently short on gowns and gloves because of the allotments. However, from our vendors, it sounds like DEM will meet that 120-day supply for all equipment by the end of November. Chief Fogerson noted when this pandemic first started, DEM was having jurisdictional calls with the local jurisdictions and state agencies every day, then it moved to weekdays, then to three days a week, then once a week, and now to every other week. Jurisdictional call discussions will expand from a main focus on COVID to an all hazard approach. This is due to the upcoming flu season and other disasters that may come up.

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

No current update to provide.

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

Felicia Gonzales provided an update on the Department of Education and the Statewide School Reopening's. Some Charter Schools that were previously doing distance learning are moving to in-person and hybrid learning models. Elko County is going to continue with their re-opening plan. Elko County is working to open up some schools and additional programs beginning on November 9th and looking to going to more in-person learning at beginning of January.

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

Jaime Black provided an update on the GCB enforcement efforts. The GCB reported no new regulatory violations since the last report. In total, since June 15,2020, there have been 340 inspections conducted to date. Ms. Black also noted since October to today, there have been a total of 1,539 compliance visits. Ms. Black noted that enforcement is conducted primarily by the enforcement division. The enforcement division is made up of 80 full time employees.

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.

h. Nevada Hospital Association– Executive Director, Community Resilience, Christopher Lake

Dr. Lake reported there are 492 confirmed COVID patients in the hospital statewide, at this time. An additional 102 suspected for a total of 594. That represents about 12% of those patients that are hospitalized currently have COVID. COVID is currently very manageable from the hospital and healthcare infrastructure standpoint. COVID patients are not taking up a lot of room in the hospitals, at this point. It is important to note that hospitalizations are beginning to trend upward. Nevada is entering flu season where COVID patients could be competing with flu patients for hospital beds. The hospital PPE supplies are currently in good condition, which is very different from earlier surges or resurges that we saw back in late July. the NHA is going to begin tracking flu season begins and will be able to provide some comparisons on flu vs. COVID data. Chair Cage inquired if at next week's meeting, the Task Force can get the current amounts of PPE on hand versus burn rates

4. 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):

- Cases
 - 571 14-day rolling average cases daily
 - 511 cases per 100,000 over the last 30 days
 - 97,479 cumulative cases
 - 3,006 cumulative cases per 100,000
- Deaths
 - 4 14-day rolling average deaths daily
 - 5 deaths per 100,000 over the last 30 days

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- 1,766 cumulative deaths
- 56 cumulative deaths per 100,000
- Testing
 - 255 tests/day per 100,000 over the last 14 days
 - 10.1% test positivity rate over the last 14 days
 - 1,227,689 cumulative tests

Ms. Morgan provided the group with an update regarding the slides provided in the handouts showing the trends of COVID-19 in Nevada. Nevada continues to see a significant increasing trend in new cases. This increase has been taking place since mid-September. Hospitalizations have been stable since mid-September. There is a very slow increase with traction in the wrong direction. Statewide positivity rates have been increasing since mid-September, at 10.1% for the current evaluation period. Not at the rate of July and August. Regarding testing turnaround, for specimen collected since September 1, 2020, it has taken approximately two days after specimen collection for results to be reported. There is some fluctuation in the data, some turnaround times are up to six or seven days. Ms. Morgan spoke to results from the county criteria tracker for the previous week comparatively to the current slide as of October 26, 2020. Last week, week of Oct. 19, 2020, Clark, Elko, Lincoln, Lyon and Washoe were all flagged for the same criteria of cases per 100,000 along with test positivity rates. For the week of Oct. 26, Carson City, Clark, Elko, Humboldt, Lincoln, Lyon, Nye and Washoe were all flagged. All counties with the exception of Nye county were flagged for the same two criteria of high case rates per 100,000 and high test positivity. Nye was flagged for not meeting the criteria for average number of tests per day and test positivity over the last 14 days. Chair Cage asked Ms. Morgan to characterize what she is seeing in these numbers as far as the growth is concerned over time, specifically in the six or eight counties that are showing increase. Ms. Morgan stated DHHS is seeing increased transmission and when talking about the increase in test positivity rates, one way to put it is that if a test positivity right now is at 10% in the State, we know that 10% of Nevada's population, in fact, has not been diagnosed as a confirmed case of COVID. There is an implication that potentially the state is not testing enough and therefore the samples that are testing, have a bit of a sampling bias. You would want your test positivity rate to be somewhat comparable to the rate of burden of disease in your community because it's not right now in Nevada, there's an implication that we have a lot of folks potentially in the community they're not receiving testing that they should be receiving. That could be a combination of people that are asymptomatic that are not getting tested, but for whatever reason they are not getting tested. That could transpire into additional spread because we're not able to do contact tracing. We're not able to do the follow-up or the measures that we can do to try to contain that and so a lot of times when we see an increased test positivity rate there's cases in your community that continue to spread transmission unbeknownst to you and therefore it's very hard to control that. Chair Cage stated he appreciates the input provided and believes that computes into what we are hearing from the health districts as well. The good news is right now Nevada is not seeing the hospitalization surge that was seen before, although it is early in this wave that being experienced right now. It is important to protect those resources within the community as much as we can now so we don't wind up where we were back in July. Ms. Morgan stated another thing that is important to differentiate between this upward trend and the upward trend that we were seeing at the end of June prior to really high case rates that were seen in July and August.. Nevada is not seeing hospitalizations meet that same level of severity. Nevada is also not seeing the growth rate climb as fast, so when looking at just the number of cases coming in every day, sometimes we are having comparable days to the end of June, but the reason that that's a little different that when we saw those spikes in June we were coming up from a very low incidence rate so we were having 100, 200 new cases a day grow very quickly to 800 new cases a day. We have had some days in the last couple weeks where we had 800 cases diagnosed, but we never reached that 100 to 200 baseline, so the actual growth rate although the numbers are coming back up, they're not growing at the rate that they had previously. That is one reason to support the mask mandate. It speaks to mitigation measures because if we were seeing cases climb at the rate that they climbed in June, we would be in a pretty scary situation. Even though we are seeing increases, just the slope of that line is considerably less than what it had been.

Julia Peek, DHHS, provided an update concerning the status of COVID-19 in Nevada. DHHS remains at a rate of 25% of our cases being identified through contact tracing. This has been steady for several months, so it is not predicted to change much in the future. Traditional contact tracing relies on the case knowing and having contact information for all of their contacts. So, this data often does reflect family, friends, and colleagues of those cases versus detailing community spread and exposure locations beyond those activities such as work, family and friends gathering. We have seen clusters in correctional settings, and among congregation of family, friends or co-workers, specifically indoor settings (many counties who have been flagged reported cases and clusters in schools, churches). The 75% of cases that are not identified through contact tracing are not known to us prior to their lab testing. The best tool to better identify exposures among individuals who are not known by each other remains our COVID Trace app is now at almost 60,000 downloads to date.

a. **Washoe County School District**

Dr. Kristen McNeill, Superintendent Washoe County School District, provided a presentation on the efforts of the school district in terms of COVID response Dr. McNeill noted “as we have opened up schools, we stand by our guiding principles as far as do no harm and that goes to our 62,000 students and our 8,000 employees, ensure student, family, and staff basic needs are being met, ensure equitable access for all students, maintain high academic expectations for all students and follow as practical, all federal, state, and local health guidelines. We continue to meet twice a week in our internal COVID task force, to go over certain procedures and policies within our school district. When we do find evidence of a non-compliance effort, it is our responsibility along with our partners to make sure that we are getting that corrected as soon possible. We also have a reopening task force comprised of community partners, including the Chamber and the Health District that meets frequently to go over particular concerns. We also have a teaching and learning committee comprised of our principals and teachers that talk about the different models within our school district. We have three separate distinct learning models. An in-person model within the elementary schools, a distance learning model between the elementary, middle, and high school, and the hybrid model, which is a model where students go every other day within the middle and high school. We have a very aggressive exclusion policy in place based on the Washoe County Health District and their exclusion policies. We have a robust testing program thanks to our partners with Renown as well as the Washoe County Health District. We have a significant contact tracing program. Would most assuredly support the hiring of more contact tracers. We have also done an aggressive social media campaign to get the word out around health and safety and that there are different ways to celebrate the holiday. We have on our website a COVID data dashboard relating to the reporting of COVID cases and that website is updated three days a week. It is now time stamped. We thought it was important to make sure we had a timestamp data. We have approximately 981 students on the exclusion list for our schools, three active schools, six new student cases, and eight new staff cases.” Chair Cage thanked Dr. McNeill. I know that you and your leaders within your organization are working extremely hard to take care of students, faculty, staff and their families that they all go home to. Making sure we are watching out for the behavioral health issues as well. Very proud of the work you are doing. Chair Cage opened for discussion. Terry Reynolds noted he presentation and the transparency on school districts website in terms of cases and being able to get that information out is tremendous. That is also probably and under looked at tool that is very helpful. I know that we manage a large department, and we have a lot of boards and commissions that work within the department. Being able to communicate what the issues are within each individual agency. Important to have transparency and I really credit the school district for that. It makes a huge difference in being able to monitor the cases and being able to act quickly and make sure you get the proper protocols in place and can put them in place with that atmosphere. Deputy Superintendent Gonzales, commended Washoe County School District for their opening of schools and for continuing to look at all the processes and protocols that they have in place. They are very transparent. And how they are going about this work, which is important to the community, to the parents, to the employees, so that everyone understands that they have safety in mind in everything that they do. They are always willing to improve and they communicate very well with not only the department of education but of course with their local health authority and as you can see by their data, while we have so small an amount

which is still too many, but as you can see by the numbers they have shown that the procedures they have in place are successful and are working. Chief Fogerson noted he really liked the lessons learned and looking at what still puzzles us. I was looking at those and I think they are very transferable to other organizations as well. While this document is from Washoe County School District, these last pages about lessons learned and really the lessons observed, until we can apply them to make them lessons learned. In what still puzzles us, I circled a half dozen. Very nice to see the great quality of work on that after review and looking towards the future to funding PPE, human resources. Dr. McNeill noted for everyone to please take whatever documents that you need. The more we are able to share resources and research, the better off we will be. Ms. Peek, as a parent with young kids in the Washoe County School, I do see teachers everyday at the gates with their masks on, all the kids going in with social distancing. Speaking with my children of what the school day looks like, I think you are doing the very best you can in the situation that's given. I think that as a community in Washoe County, we need to look at how we reduce community spread because you could be doing everything humanly possible in a school setting, or business or any setting to reduce spread, but when the community infection is so high it just makes that burden so much harder for all of us. Another feedback that I have heard is that the school campus itself is doing everything possible, but then when students leave, the masks come off and it's a different world for them and that compliance is not there. Again, just understanding that we need to enforce for our children and then for those of us in the community, those mitigation efforts because I think the school's doing the best they can in the circumstances given. Chair Cage advised as we go forward, please don't hesitate to reach out for anything the state can continue to assist with. Thank you, we value your time and appreciate your contribution.

b. University of Nevada Reno (UNR) – Cheryl Hug-English, M.D.

Dr. Cheryl Hug-English, Director, Student Health Center, UNR provided a presentation on the efforts of UNR in terms of COVID response Dr. Hug-English noted "in March, we started with a strategy with a development of issues management team specific for COVID-19. This was a collection of key leaders and administrators at our university. We also asked for student input. In addition, we developed a recovery working group which was a broader group of faculty and staff members that could give input and feedback on policies and procedures to the issues management team. Detailed plan components included mandatory online COVID-19 training modules for students, faculty and staff that must be completed before returning to campus, mandatory facial coverings, social distancing, emphasis on good hand hygiene. In addition, a self-assessment screening that all individuals do on a daily basis. We decreased the density of campus. Following state and county guidelines with no groups over 25; classrooms with six foot social distancing; 75% of classes done by remote learning; 4% are in person classes; 21% Hyflex Model; none of the in person classes have more than 17; no outside events scheduled for campus. Our academic instruction modalities have changed. Faculty are prepared to teach both in person and remotely. If the state were to say we would need to teach remotely, we would be able to do so without an issue. Training for faculty on teaching remotely and Hyflex. Increased time between classes. Strategies for entering and exiting buildings to decrease density. Added internet capabilities for other parts of campus. Tutoring resources are offered remotely and in person. Facilities has been a key part of our mitigation measures and the cleaning and disinfecting of our buildings and classrooms has been really important. Facilities have hand sanitizers for each classroom. We have added increased air filtration to buildings; signage about mandatory facial coverings and social distancing circles. Throughout all of this it has been really critical that we have a positive way of delivering messaging. This is a challenging time particularly for students, it is not a normal semester or campus experience, so really the messaging has been very important in how it's delivered. Residence halls have been very active in decreasing their density. There are no more than 50 residents per floor. Move in and move out protocols have been altered so that move-in for this semester took place over five days and the were only allowed one additional person to assist. Group study rooms are closed and there is vigorous cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Each floor in each residence hall has identified sick rooms for students who may be ill, who may be awaiting test results. There is an identified residence hall for isolation and quarantine for those that have been diagnosed with COVID-19. For those diagnosed or who have been in close contact and

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are in quarantine, we have food delivery and daily check-in. We have peer educator checking on them. Dining facilities are all grab and go options. Marketing and communication have been a critical piece of the mitigation efforts and our communication. I think that is one of the key parts to being successful is the communication. A Corona website was established. It has information about the coronavirus itself, but also about the efforts and the policies and procedures for our specific campus Athletics has very comprehensive protocols for their athletes, with strict training and practice policies, frequent testing, and quarantine and isolations plans. Off campus, this was mentioned as a challenge. We've reached out and communicated with partners at neighboring apartment complexes, increased surveillance with campus police and Reno police. We have reached out and communicated to our sororities and fraternities. We do have an anonymous reporting form for non-compliance with our protocols and policies and that goes through our student conduct process. At student health center, we do daily PCR testing for students, faculty and staff by appointment. They complete an online screening questionnaire ahead of time. We use the Nevada State Public Health Lab (NSPHL) and the results are reported back from them. On the day we receive results, we reach out to every positive case and initiate contact tracing and then work very closely with the Washoe County Health District to complete the contact tracing. We have developed a protect the pack data dashboard with respect to COVID-19, trying to be as transparent as we can be with our data. During this challenging time, it is critical that we provide resources and support for the students. The students have been incredibly resilient during this time, but this is challenging both for their physical and emotional well-being. We are working on ways to stay connected as a campus in a socially distanced way with more virtual events and well-being resources, peer education programs, isolation care bags, and established a live well website with resources and tips for well-being. As we began to see the numbers increase, we took additional mitigation strategies. We closed the gym and made the decision to have the campus go fully remote learning after Thanksgiving. The semester does not end at Thanksgiving, but the remaining part of the semester will be done remotely. The spring semester will start a week late and there will be no spring break."

Chair Cage thanked Dr. Hug-English for taking the time to present on this. Thank you for the measures put in place. I believe you said 4% of the instruction is exclusively in person. How were the 4% of classes, teachers, students selected? Dr. Hug-English responded, there was a lot of conversations to determine what classes were important to have in an in-person format. Many of those classes are laboratory-based classes that are more challenging to complete in a remote manner and some of the smaller lecture classes. Chair Cage opened the floor for discussion. Ms. Peek notes she appreciates the efforts being done throughout, but specifically recently just hearing the concerns of the health district and making some changes specifically related to your gym, fitness center and other things. One of the challenges with COVID is, we will not see how that affected the data for a few weeks. So even though the change was made recently, we could still see cases looking higher for Washoe County and only in a few weeks to a month we see the decline related to the efforts. We may not see anything initially but appreciate the effort we know that was a source of spread as reported by the health district. Terry Reynolds noted that it appears there was a substantial progress made from September through into October. What do you think really contributed to that? Was there one or two things or do you think it is all the measures you put in place? What do you think was the most effective measure to get to that point, because it does look like there has been substantial progress? Dr. Hug-English responded that there's probably not one simple answer. My feeling is we had students who were coming back, many who had not seen their friends or colleagues since March. There was probably a lot of gathering in those first few weeks. We had Labor Day; we have people connecting back to school. We had first-time freshmen, first time away from home. All of those factors combined made it difficult to take hold of the message of social distancing. I have to emphasize the fact that the compliance on our campus has been really remarkable. Students take this seriously when they are on campus. I think the challenge is when they're off campus and I think initially in that first month, we saw more of that. I would like to believe that we are seeing a little less of that now. Chair Cage thanked Mr. Reynolds for the question. He agreed that was his thought when he saw the beginning of October numbers on the daily cases, that is a profound drop. Hopefully those low numbers continue especially with the additional mitigation measures you put in place.

*** Task Force took a break at 2:20 p.m. and returned at 2:30 p.m.***

c. Washoe County Self-Assessment and Action Plan

Health Officer Kevin Dick, Washoe County, provided an overview of the plan submitted by Washoe County. We do have widespread community transmission occurring. We saw beginning in September and through the month a significant increase in cases occurring in 20 to 29 year old's. I think what we are experiencing here in Washoe County is not uncommon to what has occurred in a number of regions in the country where there was a surge that was fueled by an initial surge in cases in the 20 to 29 year old's that then because that population doesn't live in a bubble, it has resulted in a larger spread to other age groups in the community. Over the past two to three weeks we are seeing a significant increase in cases occurring in 30 to 59 year old's. As a result, of course, we are flagged for elevated disease transmission with the county tracker based on our positivity rate and our number of new cases. Looking at the seven-day rolling average as of October 27th, there were 157 new cases per day, which is a 24% increase in new cases from the previous week. Over the past three weeks we have been rolling at about an additional 25% increase per week. As of October 28th, the seven-day rolling average was at 183. As Dr. Lake noted, we have adequate hospital capacity. The COVID-19 patients represent as of October 26th, 7% of our hospitalized licensed bed counts. In the ICU COVID-19 is 12% ICU bed burden. We're at 66% of licensed bed capacity and 46% ICU capacity. Health Officer Dick thanked Dr. Lake and the Nevada Hospital Association for adding the staffed hospital beds statistics as of the 26th, we were at 79% of staffed hospital bed capacity. The PPE status remains good. Testing has increased in Washoe County. Almost 12,000 tests reported out for Washoe County for the week ending on October 27th. Average 358 tests per day per 100,000. The test results reporting, we are impacted with a backlog that's occurring at the NSPHL because of the number of counties in the state that are providing tests to that lab as well as correctional facilities and skilled nursing facilities. We continue to work with the Charles River Lab to take our post tests for analysis a couple of days a week to get the turnaround times that they can provide us and alleviate some of that throughput at the state lab. We are also working with Renown to take advantage of some of the testing and the 24-hor turnaround time that they have. However, they don't have the capacity to take a full day of testing from our post. Both Renown and the State Public Health lab are impacted by a shortage of test kits available that are being rationed for the high throughput equipment that they have. That is a result of a national supply problem, to be able to really maximize the high throughput testing equipment available at those two labs. We continue to work on adding additional staff for contact tracing. Notifying initial positive cases within 24-hours. Then we are experiencing delays with the disease investigation that follows that because of the high number of cases that are occurring. So the number of cases investigated over the past week is at 24% and that is down from 34% the previous week. We have moved to report what we find from disease investigations over the previous two-week period because the information over the past week is incomplete based on the number of those disease investigations that are conducted. We have a strike force of a number of members of each of our EPI teams that have been set up to focus specifically on pediatric cases, so that as those come in we are able to immediate start the disease investigations, so we can take appropriate action in conjunction and coordination with the school district to be able to exclude positive cases as well as close contact cases. Some of the school disease investigations become quite resource intensive for use because in middle and high school, we have students that are transitioning through a number of classes during the day and that disease investigation does require the interviews with each of those teachers to identify what students they may have been in close contact with. Looking at where people had been prior to contracting the disease over the period of the 14th to the 20th, it is reflective of that community wide transmission, where people had been at their workplaces, they had visited grocery stores, they had attended social gatherings, dined at restaurants, attended school, visited gas stations, attended church, the gym, casinos, bars or had been engaged in air travel. We have the spread that is happening based on people being out and about and interacting with a number of other individuals. We see private gatherings as an area where we continue to see spread and have concerns about because people both have COVID fatigue, but they also feel comfortable and at low risk of people that they know well that

they're associating with and they may be reducing their precautions in those gatherings. We are also seeing the spread in households where one member becomes infected and then others living in the household get it. During this past week, from the disease investigations that have occurred to date, the organizations that had more than four positive COVID-19 cases were the Washoe County School District with 54 students, 15 staff, 17 UNR students and five Renown health staff. Since prioritizing the pediatric cases and then moving to the UNR cases, with the large size of those institutions, that is why you see those get identified immediately for the reporting of the week ending on October 27th. The week of October 14-20, we now have more complete information on, we have the K-12 students at 61 and that was the number that was reflect in the report last week. 13 Washoe County School District staff members. We had the outbreak that occurred at the salvation army adult rehab program congregate setting where there were 35 people; UNR at 34; Renown 20 FedEx freight facility that has a number of cases. We have Director Reynolds work with us on this facility. Tesla with 7, the Peppermill with 6; and Panasonic with 6. This is indicative of the widespread community spread we have where places that have more people that are visiting them are going to have more cases that we identify. Since the detention facility is not completely separate from our community, we have had some additional cases that have occurred there based on the level of transmission that we have occurring within the county. Since last week we have a report of 27 additional inmates and seven staff members that have tested positive. The Sheriff has launched an aggressive testing initiative. Over 600 tests performed in the last week. They have gone to lockdown and taken a number of additional precautions at the detention facility.

Manager Brown noted that joining them on the call is Chairman Lucey from the Board of County Commissioners, Mayor Schieve of Reno and Mayor Larson of Sparks. In the action plan you will notice that we have expanded further on our efforts to do community outreach with our mask on move on campaign that got underway about a week ago. In view of all of the campaign media that is running in our market right now, both the cost and availability of traditional broadcast media isn't good and so the plan has been to focus on social media and Spanish language media to start. As the election subsides, we will go more to traditional media. Health Officer Dick spoke previously about the widespread community spread of the infections. I think we are all in agreement here that that requires a community call to action to do the right thing modify our behavior in terms of wearing masks, social distancing, staying away from large groups and that's what this campaign is designed to do. We also know from our research, it's very clear that our community is tired or weary of being told what to do, particularly by their elected officials. So, this campaign is particularly focused on using other methods of communicating and implied endorsements from other community leaders throughout the community as opposed to just using our elected officials in that regard, although it doesn't preclude them from doing so. Earlier today, on a call we had some discussion about enforcement. We have been working with our partners in Reno and Sparks to really step up the level of enforcement in our businesses.

Chairman Lucey, Board of County Commissioners. The current situation in Washoe County is not where we would like it to be, especially given this time of year. However, the surge was always anticipated. We have been preparing for this to the best of our ability in the months leading up to today. Happy to reiterate what Health District Officer Dick pointed out earlier that we do have robust testing here at the Washoe County Health District post. There are 21 locations located throughout the Truckee Meadows area for individuals to get tested. The challenges that we do see is that with the test lab results at the Nevada Public Safety Health Lab, we are seeing a backlog, a lot of that due to Washoe County does play a major role for a good portion of the State here in the North in its ability to help but also along with that we are seeing an influx to the state lab from the state correctional facilities testing and their ability to return test results in a timely manner. Which then challenges our ability to do contact tracing. With that said, we want to talk about enforcement. One of the questions and discussions that I've had with the Governor and the staff at the state level is what are we doing to be more robust with our testing? As of October 29th, since October 1st we have conducted 554 inspections. We have seen 48 violations and we have only issued one citation. One of the discussions is that each municipality is responsible for their own enforcement of their business and inspections. There are currently 2,600 businesses licensed within the unincorporated area of Washoe County. There are 22,000 businesses located in the City of Reno and

I am without the specific number from the City of Sparks. Washoe County along with 16 of the other counties within the state outside of Clark County. We were given our Cares dollars directly through the state. We have utilized those Care dollars for testing, contact tracing and enforcement. What we would try to do is be more robust with our enforcement. We have been informed that Clark County is doing up to about 5,000 enforcement checks a week. We are nowhere near that and feel that we need to be more robust. We are not necessarily seeing the influx of cases in our business community. The plan is to continue to be more robust with our enforcement and I am making an ask not only to the state but also to the other municipalities to be more robust in their enforcement and spend their Cares dollars toward surge enforcement ensuring that all businesses throughout the county are in compliance. Very optimistic about the plan that Manager Brown has put together with his team. The other challenge that we see is that some of our businesses are seeing expanded cases that reside in neighboring counties, as we have been presented by the Task Force and through the State, a number of the quad counties next to us are seeing transmission rate of 8.1, 9.2, and 8.2 percent. We do have a few residents that work in between here and the quad counties. My suggestion and call to action not only from the State but also from my colleagues in other counties is that we continue to need to work together for outreach and continued tracing and expedited testing measures, so that we can try to get a handle on this quicker. I believe that would be the best course of action about addressing this growing surge; however, we have seen the surge before. I believe the shutdown allowed us to prepare for this situation. We are ready to handle this situation. We just need community cooperation to address this continued positivity rate so that we can manage the hospitalization and mitigate any future death.

Mayor Schieve of Reno. We have been working with the County and City of Sparks currently to come up with a cohesive communication plan. Right now, we think it can be extremely effective. I think it is important that all three jurisdictions here in the North are working together. I certainly have growing concerns seeing these numbers rise. One of the things that we have created and a lot of cities across the country has done this in partnership with Harvard Bloomberg Initiative is a COVID risk meter. We have just rolled it out. It is very comprehensive data and the reason we like it is that it shows how we are measuring in the community, with those cases with other matrix, and really it works like the burn code or the pollen count. So, everyone understands how we are doing with cases throughout the community and it also puts the empowerment back into the community's hands of knowing when those risks are high and when they are low. Just like when you use the pollen count, many people have allergies, and they don't like to go ride their bike. So, it really is a fantastic tool that we have been looking at that we just rolled out. It has been in pilot progress, but now it is ready, and it's proven to be promising. It is a great way to message so that the community does know how we're doing and the outcomes that they can have by modifying their behavior. It is one tool that we can use that can be highly effective. Will hand the floor to the Reno City Manager Doug Thornley.

Reno City Manager Doug Thornley noted that he represents the perspective of one city and the Mayor's comments on the risk meter I believe are worth highlighting. Mr. Thornley provided the following presentation: What we need is a sustainable and scalable mitigation strategy that strikes a balance between:

- The needs of our businesses community and employers to stay open
- The needs of our education system to keep our students learning
- The needs of our medical community to provide critical care
- And the need to keep our residents safe from COVID-19

As a City, we have been exploring ways we can go above and beyond the commitments we made with our regional partners and I would like to share some of those today.

Let's Improve the Data

- Through contact tracing and other data provided by the State, we know that most of the transmission in Washoe County is linked to home and private gatherings.

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- We have seen no concrete data to show that the spread is occurring through specific business segments. As such, we don't believe the solution is to begin rolling back the openings and guidance we have fought so hard to achieve.
- A sustainable solution includes more disease inspection and better data regarding transmission. Our City is working with the private sector to enhance the rapid testing capabilities of the region. With this, positives are flagged earlier, tracing starts earlier, and hopefully leads to better data.

Let's Be Firm, but reasonable

- As part of the regional plan to allow for the reopening of local bars, the City committed to conducting a certain amount of inspections. We are already at double that commitment and will continue to increase where possible.
- Through our enforcement efforts we are seeing that businesses and customers are following safe practices. Evaluating our ability to reduce time between identification of violation and reinspection and whether existing processes are sufficient to drive behavioral change.
- If businesses were to close, we fear residents would spend more time at private gatherings where they are apt to not follow safe practices among their family and friends.
- The City commits to continued enforcement and partnering with the business community to help stop the spread in our region.

Let's Get the Public on Our Side

- In addition to the communications efforts undertaken at the Joint Information Center, the City of Reno has launched a broader communications plan to ensure public buy-in.
- We have built partnerships with the UNR Journalism School and leaders in our Hispanic community to foster the behavior changes we so desperately need to reduce the spread and save lives.
- We will continue to work on partnerships throughout our community to target demographics that are adversely impacted by the disease or resistant to following safe social distancing practices.
- Let's Know What We're Dealing With by using the COVID Risk meter. Recently Mayor Schieve convened a working group of medical and data experts from around the community - and elected representatives from Washoe and Sparks. She and Councilmember Duerr led the efforts of the group in developing the Truckee Meadows Risk Meter.
- The Risk Meter distills data from multiple sources to provide a simple measure for residents regarding the risks related to COVID-19 in our community at this time.
- With widespread acceptance, this tool would provide residents and business owners the critical information they need to keep themselves, their loved ones, and our community safe.
- The City of Reno is proud to announce we have partnered with TMRPA, who has been doing this work on a voluntary basis, to expand this product and make it more usable and accessible for all.

Changing Behaviors Will Take Time

- The behaviors we are seeing in our community are driven by months of COVID fatigue, widespread misinformation and the election.
- Our ask of the task force is this: give us a little more time to develop a sustainable plan that will accomplish two key things:
 - ONE - Develop key trigger points with built in mitigation measures that balance ALL the needs of our community
And
 - TWO - Focus on influencing behaviors at all levels so we can create a sustainable and safe lifestyle change for the duration of the pandemic

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Mayor Ed Lawson, City of Sparks, noted the following: “In anticipation of this meeting I performed my own little survey. I went out on Tuesday with Assistant City Manager John Martini and Councilman Abbott from Ward one. We called on ten different businesses that had a violation or a warning of a violation. It was pleasantly surprising to see that every business was wearing a mask and they were enforcing it with their customers, aggressively enforcing it in some cases. Four of the ten business you could not get into unless you had a mask on because they had the door locked and wouldn’t let you in until you had a mask on. We did a cross section of basically every type of business from restaurants, bars, health clubs and then a couple of other specialty type businesses. Everyone complied and had their sign up. They all expressed that they are tired. COVID fatigue is out there. Many of them, their revenues are off by 50-70% from last year. If there is a shutdown for bars or restaurants, we will not see those companies come back. We do not see any relief coming from the federal government soon. I think the thing we must do, and I am just anecdotally saying this because I did go and visit these companies, is I don’t think the companies are where the spread is occurring. I agree with City Manager Thornley that we must be outside of that because the compliance was outstanding. Granted that is ten businesses out of 12,000 in Sparks, but it was a good cross-section and a good cross-section of socioeconomics. The COVID meter is a good idea as far as keeping people informed. We also need to redouble the efforts in getting people to comply, especially at the smaller gatherings and people are having in their homes. In my opinion, that is probably where this is occurring. I will turn the floor over to City Manager Krutz.”

Neil Krutz, Sparks City Manager spoke to some data to provide context around the Mayor’s comments. “In the month of October through the 23rd Sparks has conducted 202 inspections. 200 were random, we only received two complaints. Issued four violation notices as a result of that. We are seeing broad compliance in the inspection program that we are running. We are running at our practical maximum with the staff that we have so, we are doing everything that we can. Two complaints in three weeks are showing us a drastic difference than what we saw in mid to late August and into September where we were seeing 70 to 80 complaints a week and conducting inspections on those. We are finding the business community inside of Sparks is largely compliant. We are also excited to continue to partner with the City of Reno and Washoe County on our joint inspection program making sure that we are using the same protocols, the same paperwork. We look forward to extending that relationship to include Business and Industry.”

Chair Cage thanked all for their updates and spoke to issues based on the different presentations and the plans that have been submitted. The first three are State level:

- Test turnaround time. Difficulty of follow up on contact tracing efforts.
- Contact tracing. Prioritizing student cases but also having university cases and dealing with contact tracing across the board.
- Cares Act monies distributed to jurisdictions throughout the State, from the Federal Government through the State. Maximizing the use of that for COVID response.

Local issues:

- In August and September there was a lot of conversations in regard to reopening and the things that needed to be done around convention space, bars, taverns and wineries and about youth sports and those sorts of things. Through various mechanisms we have been able to deliver on those from the state and Task Force’s perspective. Challenge today is that the plan received yesterday evening, does not appear to be different than the plan we received at that time.
- There’s a focus on communication and that’s a great approach. That should be considered a baseline standard. Education is not intervention. Education is a good thing to do in addition to other measures.

Chairman Lucey, you addressed this in some detail. Looking at the numbers here we have 1,234 enforcement cases going back to the beginning. I will point out that though we would all like to see more of that and Mayor Lawson to your point that those enforcement measures that you spoke about. I think they speak to the value of enforcement. Over half of those came in October. So, if we are seeing a trajectory or a trend it is definitely on the upswing and of course the contact tracing piece that we discussed earlier. Beyond those items, I do not see

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any additional measures in place beyond what was approved at the Task Force meeting where we reopened bars, wineries, taverns etc. I do not want to do any closures. The data doesn't show closures would reduce that, but I don't see anything in here beyond where we started a few months ago. Health Office Dick put in a 30-day moratorium or 30-day hold on expanding to 250 people. I did not see it if it was addressed. I did not see if there was a recommendation for addressing that or extending that beyond the 30-day hold which we supported at our last Task Force meeting last week. The enforcement numbers are low. Glad to hear everyone talking about the need for increasing that and I think some target numbers for enforcement and measuring ourselves per those target numbers would be a helpful addition to this. I appreciate very much Reno's planning around the meter and using the COVID meter to trigger certain response mechanisms. There are some interventions tied to the meter that they have in mind. It is still a plan to be implemented. What we know about this virus is that we must intervene quickly on the front end of the virus. What can we do beyond the plan that was approved in September that can help us get a handle on this? While we have good hospital capacity right now, we do know that this will continue to spread for the foreseeable future until we can put appropriate intervention in place. What can we add to this to update the plan to address the current situation that we are experiencing in Washoe? Chair Cage opened the floor for discussion with Task Force members.

Director Terry Reynolds saluted Manager Brown and Chairman Lucey for the work they have done, and we've been working with them on enforcement and sharing information now for some time. Sparks and Reno have joined in with that effort. We are having a joint task force going out and looking at businesses this weekend with the City of Reno and we make that offer to go out with both Sparks and we have worked with Washoe County. We have done that in Clark County. We have produced PSA's in English and Spanish. We produce signs that can be used. We are willing to assist the local communities in working not only from an enforcement standpoint, but also with education. Director Reynolds requested a meeting within the next week to with the manager to go through what we can do. When we first started this effort construction, mining and manufacturing were open. We met with them, set up safety protocols, worked with our safety training and consultation group that went out to educate what were the best methods. This effort needs to keep up because we are seeing people slack off and everyone is tired of having to go through this. We are willing to meet and discuss how we can best approach this. Would love to sit down with local governments to be able to do that and have more frequent dialogue as to what is the best method to be effective and get the message across. What is the best way to contact the public and get the message out so they understand it from an educational standpoint and they feel comfortable doing what they're doing and it's not being forced upon them, but is something you can keep yourself safe and keep your family safe. Willing to get involved on a personal level and help when we can. Dr. Mark Pandori, NSPHL, spoke to turnaround times. Turnaround times have increased at the NSPHL and in other lab sites. Would like to offer some explanations for that and talk about solutions that we're working to create in a very short time frame to try and decrease turnaround times for tests that is to increase the bandwidth of the testing. Reminder testing is in extremely high demand. The public health lab does not charge for testing and this differentiates us from certain other private testing options or some of the local options. It does create an extremely large demand for testing. The second issue is that we have two testing technologies. It is about a 20/80 percent split which ones we use. On the 20% side, it is a technology which is very fast and high throughput but we are severely limited by the manufacturer of the many chemicals and plastic parts that go in the machine. Because they have stopped supplying many of those parts, we have had to scramble to find parts from third parties and try to validate them on the equipment. So, we have shifted to our 80% test in a very heavy way. A third point is that there is a very high demand for testing from the correction department. That does make up about 50% of the testing that is pending. First responders get priority for testing. The demand for first responders testing is skyrocketing as the spike continues to climb. The lab is doing everything we can to try to change this situation and improve the bandwidth of testing. Fortunately, the Cares Act dollars have finally come around to where we can spend them. We have hired six additional staff members, four of which trained last weekend and have come on board and resulted in 30% daily increase in the amount of testing we have been able to perform. A vendor for equipment has been secured that will allow a shift to

entirely the 80% test which is called PCR. That equipment is slated to arrive in 12 to 14 days which will allow the testing bandwidth to increase by approximately 40-50%.

Julia Peek, spoke to case investigation and contact tracing not being a silver bullet. It has been noted there is a need for better transmission data specifically from the health district because that is who's collecting it. Do not want to set unreasonable expectations of what case investigation and contact tracing can provide. As noted earlier, case investigation occurs in the discussion with the case and so they would not necessarily know a customer and the amount of time or the interaction between customers at a single business. By default, the data that we have related to clusters is when the individual know that people surrounded them, again a family member, friend, co-worker. Then clusters can be clearly identified because during the case investigation those individuals were noted as close contact specifically by the case. It is such a compliment to have the regulatory or enforcement data to help identify some of the transmission risks. We know generically some of the transmission risks how COVID spreads. Some businesses who can monitor interactions with employees via video and when they have a case, they go back and watch the video. The COVID Trace app is a tool that can do something similar but would have to have mass utilization to be helpful. Dagny Stapleton, Nevada Association of Counties, Executive Director, followed up on enforcement piece. Ms. Stapleton has worked very closely with all the counties on how they are using their Cares dollars. An allowable use for those dollars would be for enforcement as an impact from COVID. Wondering if there's an opportunity there. For Sparks and understand being at the limits of what you're able to do in terms of staffing. Wondering if maybe that is an opportunity that you have thought about to relieve the limitation from now through December 30th. City Manager Krutz responded their Cares Act dollars is 19.2 million dollars that we have received. Roughly 40% in direct community support and 60% in covering city expenses. Have considered the possibility of using Cares Act dollars to try and increase enforcement. Given the downward trend that they have seen in their data in Sparks, it didn't suggest that that was going to be a fruitful exercise. So it was something we set off to the side. Willing to reconsider that idea as we go forward. Perhaps that's something that we talk about when we meet with Director Reynolds. The data in Sparks is not pointing to more inspections providing a different outcome. Chair Cage asked which data Manager Krutz is referring to as going down in Sparks. Are you speaking of the enforcement data or the case date going down that may not justify that for my clarity? Manager Krutz responded the results of their inspection data and complaint data coming into the city.

Doug Thornley stated they are using the CRF program to support additional enforcement in both code enforcement and business license. So, for both of those functions. Would echo what Mr. Krutz had to say that we are simply not seeing a trend in any particularized segment of the business community. We are using our party car to track where private gatherings are going on and we are going to redouble our commitment to enforcement and assure that the processes we have in place are sufficient to drive the changing behaviors that we are looking for. Chair Cage requested clarification from Sparks regarding the 40% direct community support and 60% was. Follow up question what is direct community support look like and what are the two categories break down to a little further? City Manager Krutz provided clarification the 40% community support is rental assistance program, business assistance, renter mediation, money that is put into various food or feeding programs around the community. The 60 that is staying internal is going into allowable expenses that we have experienced as the city since the pandemic began. It comes in forms of equipment to help with working from a distance, additional patrol activity that we have had to do particularly while the businesses were shuttered for several weeks. Ms. Stapleton asked about the enforcement trends if the trend is that the numbers look good but there could be more enforcement. Have we done enough inspections to show that the trend is good? It sounds like there is a need for additional contact tracers and case investigation in Washoe County, so wondering if there is a better way to understand the trends a little bit if there are more dollars? Wondering if that would be helpful at all or if that's an opportunity that Reno and Sparks have thought about.

Health Officer Dick responded they have added several additional staff for the disease investigation to work and we are continuing to do that in conjunction with the Nevada Public Health Training Center. There is a lot of

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work involved with this, not just with the personnel. We have also built out over 50 additional workstations and gotten the equipment that goes with that. Then there is a period of training that's involved to bring them up to speed which also takes resources away from disease investigation. When you bring new people on board and it takes several weeks before they can have independent disease investigation activities. We have problems with new disease investigators in some instances washing out and not being able to perform. Our workforce is also impacted just as others do with cases that are positive or that have to be quarantined because of close contact which also impacts the disease investigations. We have been hampered in some regard as well because of our lack of a good electronic platform that we operate under. We were not a health district that was a size of Southern Nevada that benefits from big cities dollars investments in health departments. So we have relied as the State has on the MBS system, which has been adequate to now because we've never had to deal with something of this magnitude as far as the number of cases being reported, but that creates a manual process on our end. We had been working with the state and Deloitte invested many hours in sales force platform that was supposed to help expedite our disease investigation and contact tracing efforts, but it was unsuccessful for Deloitte to be able to develop that. We are now working with the State on an EPI tracks platform that will provide more automation and a better electronic platform for us and other agencies in the State to operate. We are also looking at our efficiency of our process. We are adding more clerical administrative support to our epidemiology to try to expedite and increase the number of cases that they can take on, but it's a work in progress with a number of moving pieces involved. We are utilizing the Deloitte contact tracing staff to follow up and identify the contacts once we identify those from the disease investigation. With the schools being open and working closely with them to expedite the exclusion of students to keep them operational. Everyone has identified that as a priority. We are using our staff to do the contact tracing with the school district students and staff to ensure the process is expedited. Ms. Stapleton followed up. It sounds like just adding more case investigators or contact tracers is not the answer; however, it does sound like within the information relayed there are still a lot of needs and that some of those needs could be met with additional funds. I think that is what I was getting at, just knowing that those funds are out there in local jurisdictions across the state in case there's opportunities. Health Officer Dick responded that all of the theoretical guidance around what we needed to reopen and how testing and contact tracing was going to work to help us do that was based on achieving a very low level of cases and being able to contain any outbreaks that occurred. With the level of disease transmission that is being seen in Washoe County and we are seeing it across the state. There are real severe limitations of what we can achieve for suppression with the patient disease investigation and the contact tracing and that's why the efforts to educate and align the actions of all of our citizens are so important for our success moving forward.

Chairman Lucey commented after we have heard several different discussions and to address your concern with the plan that was submitted. First, enforcement, the rules that we've created through the directives and how we go about making sure businesses are compliant. Those rules are only effective if the enforcement is present and based upon my numbers and the roughly 35,000 businesses within the Truckee Meadows and if we have only conducted anywhere since October 1, 554 inspections, that's under 2% of the businesses that have been inspected. If we are not getting out there and showing that there is enforcement going on, people are not going to follow the rules. They will not be compliant; they will not participate in the process and it leaves a lot of open availability for individuals to participate. Secondly, my suggestion would be with testing. As I pointed out earlier, we have four zip codes within the three jurisdictions that are higher risk communities. My recommendation through the three municipalities is that we spend Cares dollars to stand up potential local testing posts within those jurisdictions to make it easier access for those individuals to get testing because I believe once they get testing and we're able to get a quicker turnaround over test results. The test results themselves of them being positive and a show of enforcement through the community, those two things combined will help us hopefully mitigate a number of these growing positivity rates. Contact tracing is very valuable and has a lot of benefit to it, but at this point based upon the time return on that, it isn't proving to be fruitful, but what I would ask of the State is that if through yourself and the Health District Officer, if there are any additional resources available to help with the backlog and the uncompleted contact traces due to the

increase in positivity. That would be beneficial. From my standpoint the goal would be do increase enforcement by all three municipalities in the Truckee Meadows to show a show of force along with the public service message that all three entities are getting behind and also increase testing, spot testing in those high-risk communities to address potential needs for those individuals that may not have access to vehicles or public transit, so that it makes it quick and easy for those individuals to get tested and get the quick turnaround test time. Chair Cage noted that all as a part of this meeting know that in order to have support our school children that they need to have contact with schools on a regular basis. We have seen the data that show that is very important from a behavioral health and education standpoint. Parents need their children in school so they can go back to work and participate in the economy. We know that businesses need to be open so they can generate revenue. We need all of that to work so we can continue to fund programs like public and behavioral health, education and other programs at the state level. All these things are interconnected. Shutting down in general will make all of this more challenging. We are trying to get to the mitigation measures and what those are. Chair Cage mentioned the few Chairman Lucey had spoken of earlier. Enforcement, testing within the municipal jurisdictions, as well as spot testing for high incidence zip codes, which Clark County has had incredible success in doing some interventions. As well as the communication efforts. All of that are really important steps. Addressing the turnaround times, contact tracing constraints, all these things are critical. Having the health meter at the forefront of that communication to say this is where we are, this is where we are going, these are the types of interventions we are going to have to have in place. That is a really important step as well. Chair Cages asked Health Officer Dick what the measures are you believe would be helpful that are beyond what is in the plan

Health Officer Dick commented they have not discussed moving the limit of gatherings from 250 to 50 people or 50% of the occupancy and a case by case determination on outdoor venues with fixed seating. Believe the reduction in the gathering size is an important step. Support the enhanced ramping up the marketing campaign, making testing available and improving the turnaround times. With the level of disease transmission, I don't believe we will have adequate disease investigation staffing to keep up with that any time soon. I think we really need to work with the community for the actions everyone needs to take, so we can keep the economy open and we can get some turnaround in the direction that our numbers are currently going.

Chair Cage commented this is an important thing to call out. Would that in effect continue the 30-day hold you have on large events for the foreseeable future until you roll that back? Health Officer Dick confirmed. Chair Cage opened to other members. Director Reynolds spoke to several issues we need to get to. One is support what the health department is trying to do but need to work with the county and the two cities on enforcement. Need to have public education. In working with Clark County and targeting certain zip codes, they were able to reduce their caseloads by 40%. It is important to target the zip codes to be effective.

We need to :

- a. Work with cities and county on stepped up enforcement.
- b. Community education targeting the zip codes and testing within those areas; and
- c. Work with employers and employees so they understand what they do within their businesses and how they can be effective.

These are all important criteria and protocols that we need to follow through on and I think that's what we need to do, and we really need to target it on multiple fronts.

Ms. Morgan stated we need to consider what have we changed prior to seeing the increase in cases. There's a definitive list of things. Schools, universities, bars, and taverns have opened, gathering sizes were increased. We have the idea of seasonality and temperature and people moving indoors potentially and then we have behavior and people having this idea of COVID fatigue and possibly not taking it as seriously as they once were. How do we quantify where the issues are? Through contract tracing we're not seeing issues really being tied specifically to industries or bars and taverns. Is that because people maybe don't want to disclose that information because they're scared that we're going to reclose something. Same thought with large gatherings. There may be groups

that would not want to tie that back to the specific gathering for fear that wouldn't be allowed in the future, stigma or any number of reasons. It's important to really anchor back to when we talk about balancing the economy and the virus. What could we deploy mitigation strategies on that wouldn't hurt an industry and I think gatherings is the natural place to look for those types of answers? I think it is important for us to take into account when we talk about the data is if we have a gathering or an instance that causes an increase in cases, a lot of people want to tie a specific spike to that instance, when in fact that isn't a spike, it becomes a mountain as far as the curve of new cases because when we're reporting back on a growth rate and when we look at our growth rates they've been pretty consistent. They are growing slightly. I think we are at 0.8% growth in new cases the peak was 5% daily growth in new cases back in July and the low was 0.4%. We are doing fairly well in that, but that is a percentage based on the number of cases that are out there. So, the number of cases grows, even if we maintain the same growth rate as far as community transmission it compounds, and it has an exponential growth effect and so it's just important to recognize. Don't know if there were specific gatherings that took place in Washoe County that maybe we're thinking of as having a spike, but in fact that spike is just transpiring into community spread because again if you maintain a 0.8% growth rate and you're multiplying that by a number that's growing, then even though your growth rates is steady you're seeing you're going to see an influx and an increase to your curve in new cases. Think we have had some events that are having a pretty large trickle effect, especially knowing that contact tracing isn't helping us as much as we would like it and pointing out specific industries or places for mitigation.

Chair Cage asked for clarification for the distinct events. Ms. Morgan stated she is not aware of what events have taken place in Washoe County, but any instance where you could have a discrete event that caused increased transmission. That is actually going to cause a trickle effect that has a much bigger impact than just a spike and I think sometimes we think of an event and we look for a spike that's going to follow it and it doesn't necessarily have to be spike because then you have a new number of cases and your growth rate is now applied to that new number So, there's a trickle effect that makes it look a lot more the impact of that instance might look a lot more spread out over our data than this idea of a spike that people might be looking for. Chairman Lucey agreed with Ms. Morgan that it may not be one specific event. There is more of a global event going on that have maybe smaller collective impacts that will add to that mountain she referred to. We have had different things. We have the unsanctioned street vibrations that showed up in September. It wasn't a sanctioned event, but a number of outside individuals and bikers did descent on the Truckee Meadows and had an impact on the community. We've had a number of different things from college students being back in school. They're just a collective of events throughout the community that are having this global impact. I think the mitigation efforts that the Washoe County Health District, the Washoe County School District, University of Nevada Reno, the County, City of Reno and the City of Sparks are trying to collectively do will help mitigate the global impacts and global events. It is going to take a cohesive measure to do so and so I think these are those productive conversations that allow us to get to those mitigation efforts. Don't think there is one specific event that we can point to that are causing our current spike. It is a collective of several different issues globally that are making these changes.

Ms. Morgan spoke to the risk meter. Has worked with Jeremy Smith in building that and he's using the same measures that we present for the Task Force meetings. There is consistency. Thought this might be important to understand that the data that they are using to identify the risk in the risk meeting for Washoe County is in line with what we look at in the Task Force. Chair Cage asked Health Officer Dick if the Governor's Office of Finance has reached out to provide additional resources CRF to the Health District to meet some of your needs. Health office Dick responded we are currently working with the state for the CRF funding. Will be receiving over 5 million that will support our efforts from when we started in March through December 31st. That will help us to then be able to use the longer-term funding that we have with the ELC Grant that we can spend over a 30-month period. Based on what we have ramped up to now with our response, we project that we are going to spend through that money within the first six months of calendar year 2021. We appreciate the States support for our efforts with the CRF funding. The ELC grant will help us to continue past January 1st, but it is going to be very important that we see some success with the federal stimulus efforts and the additional funding from the federal government provided

for the testing and contact tracing efforts. Chair Cage made a motion to formally adopt the combined plan submitted by Washoe County with the following conditions

- Director Reynolds with B&I will meet with the three jurisdictions in the week ahead to define an action plan or changes to the action plan that can be made for enforcement with a specific focus on the targeted goal number of businesses inspected on a weekly basis.
- Chief Fogerson, DEM, reach out to health officer and emergency manager for Washoe County and work with local jurisdictions on spot testing for high incident zip codes and work on community-based testing.
- Director Whitley, DHHS, work on test turnaround time with the NSPHL and contact tracing turnaround time. Also come up with some solutions for a shared resource plan to ensure CARES dollars at the state level.
- A decision on implementation of the COVID meter and what implementation of that would look like for the various codes and possible interventions.

Terry Reynolds provided a second on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Update on Safe Gatherings from Local Health Authorities

Agenda item was moved to next week’s meeting.

6. Public Comment

Chair Cage opened the discussion for public comment in all venues. Roger Maxwell provided his phone number on the record and advise he would like to have a further conversation on the products he has to offer.

7. Adjourn

Chair Cage called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was presented by Chief Dave Fogerson and a second was provided by Richard Whitley, DHHS. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.