



# Meeting Minutes COVID-19 Mitigation and Mangement Task Force

|                                                |                 |                                    |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Attendance</b>                              | <b>DATE</b>     | September 3, 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                                 |                 | X                                  |
| 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                              |                 | 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. Matt Johnson, bar owner in Reno, spoke to the newly formed Coalition of more than 30 bars owners in Washoe County who have agreed to the state’s standards for COVID-19 mitigation efforts. The Coalition is committed to enforcing accountability and operating safely. Mr. Johnson noted without the ability to open and operate bars, bars and taverns will be unable to operate and will be forced to close. The Coalition is invested in the safety and health of the community and bars and taverns deserve a chance to conduct business safely. Mr. Johnson noted the Governor and Task Force can no longer pretend that bars and taverns cannot operate as successfully as restaurants. Mr. Johnson requested the ability of bars and taverns to open. Let bars and taverns open and show the Governor and Task Force how bars and taverns are a united industry and can do the right thing. Stop punishing an entire industry without giving us a chance. John A Perazzo, Senior Citizen Advisory Board, spoke to a referral request.

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Will Truce spoke to the hardships from the closure of bars and taprooms in Washoe County. Mr. Truce is serving as the President of the Brewery Coalition. Due to the pandemic, several bars have had to close due not serving food. There is a financial struggle and fear that bars and taverns will not be able to survive the closures. Mr. Truce spoke to the added pressure of owning a winery and having a baby on the way during this pandemic. Mr. Truce is confident that bars and taverns will open safely if given the chance. COVID-19 does not care whether you are eating, learning, or playing blackjack. Please give our industry an opportunity to follow these protocols. Commissioner Leo Blundo of Nye County spoke to testimony from bar owners from the Tuesday Commission meeting. Commissioner Blundo listened to testimony from many bar owners and bar tenders explaining how many individuals are struggling and how deeply the bar and tavern closures have affected their livelihoods. Commissioner Blundo expressed hope that the Task Force would consider allowing Nye County to reopen bars. Jeff Carter, bar owner in midtown Reno, spoke to bars being closed for 20 of last the 25 weeks. Last year the bar grossed \$120,000, from March 16, 2020 to August 31, 2020 it grossed \$60,000. Mr. Carter noted he bleeds out about \$10,000 a month and will go bankrupt in January. Mr. Carter has received all the Federal assistance that he was eligible for. If the state wants to close bars, they need to pay bars to be closed. Mr. Carter advised that 50-75% of all bars in Washoe County and in the entire state will go bankrupt. There will be 75% less small businesses in the sector by the first quarter in 2021. The turning point was months ago and hopes the Task Force will make the right decision today. Commissioner John Koenig from Nye County also spoke to testimony provided at the Nye County Commission meeting. Mr. Koenig noted bars in Pahrump have been closed for more than enough time. Mr. Koenig noted there is no correlation between bars and COVID-19. Per the contact tracing in the county, the cases are linked to family gatherings and the correction facility. Due to this, it is not fair for the bars in the county to remain closed. Mr. Koenig advised the county would appreciate any help the Task Force can provide in the reopening of bars.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Cage called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes from the August 13, 2020 and the August 27, 2020 meeting. Chris Lake, Nevada Hospital Association, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and a second was provided by Terry Reynolds, Department of Business and Industry. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Appointed Department Updates**

**a. Department of Business and Industry (B&I) – Enforcement – Director, Terry Reynolds**

Terry Reynolds spoke to work being done by B&I and the Division of Occupational Safety and Training Consultation (SCATS) regarding compliance visits. Terry Reynolds spoke to the cities of Reno and Sparks stepping up on enforcement alongside Washoe County. The rate of compliance has been increasing in this jurisdiction. So far, the hotline has received over 3,000 complaints and OSHA is currently investigating these complaints. Second, Terry Reynolds noted OSHA is working with the counties to take over enforcement from the local perspective and have OSHA assist and step in when necessary. OSHA is encouraging cooperation and teamwork across the board for this process to be successful.

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

Brett Compston provided an overview of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) status per the Disease Outbreak Management Plan. Coveralls have been received and the goal is currently met for the allocation, gowns should be received by the end of the month, and PAPRS will not be purchased as those will be provided by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**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**

No current update to provide

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

Jaime Black provided an update on our enforcement efforts from GCB. The updates were as follows: in terms of trends, violations and noncompliance are decreasing with a higher rate of compliance being witnessed, gaming licensees are more compliant now than they were last month due to enforcement actions and a better understand of the GCB requirements, GCB numbers through August 28, 2020 show the GCB opened 189 regulatory cases, since June 4, 2020, GCB has conducted just short of 12,000 inspections and compliance checks, of that 12,000 a total of 8,404 occurred at restricted locations and 3,396 occurred at nonrestricted locations. Ms. Black spoke to how Chairwoman Sandra Morgan, Nevada Gaming Control Board, highlighted the launch of the Trace App during the Commission’s public meeting last week and the Trace app will also be highlighted in an upcoming press release to have licensees encourage guest/patron download and usage.

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

Dagny Stapleton provided an update for the Nevada Association of Counties. NACO continues to support counties with elevated disease transmission rates. NACO is also working on highlighting the importance of downloading the COVID Trace app. Ms. Stapleton noted there would be a letter forthcoming from NACO regarding concerns with lab turnaround times and would like to see the Task Force focuses more on this issue.

**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):

- 862,254 Molecular tests
- 69,872 Confirmed cases
- 1336 Total deaths
- 11.6 Tests per 1,000 per week
- 10.0% Daily positivity rate
- 10.5% Cumulative positivity rate
- 539 Confirmed hospitalizations
- 136 Suspected hospitalizations
- 199 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 cases since July 13, 2020 but death numbers are still coming in high. Nevada experienced the highest number of daily deaths on August 5, 2020 with 26 deaths in one day. As far as testing turnaround times, there is not a significant change from last

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week. The average time between collection is down to two days. Quest remains to have the longest turnaround time but has cut the time down in half from the previous eight days to three days. Hospitalization data has been decreasing significantly for the last 22 days. Test positivity rates have been decreasing since the end of July. Ms. Morgan spoke to results for county tracker criteria for the previous week comparatively to the current slide as of August 31, 2020. One big change is Churchill County is being flagged for the third week due to a high case rate and high-test positivity rate. Lyon County is flagged for the second time, for a low case rate but insufficient testing numbers and slightly elevated positivity rate. Looking at counties with larger populations, Clark and Washoe, showing significant improvements even though they are above the threshold. The state is seeing improvement across all counties.

Julia Peek, DHHS, provided an update concerning the status of COVID-19 in Nevada. The goals remain the same, every Nevadan who tests positive for COVID-19 will be contacted within 24 hours. The COVID Trace app is fully launched with over 20,000 successful downloads and DHHS would like to acknowledge all the partners who are supporting the app. There is an additional partnership with Apple and Google for EN Express as an additional app that allows states who did not get an app to have tracers. EN works across different States. One of the greatest risk factors of COVID spread are social gatherings and familial/household exposure. Ms. Peek provided an overview regarding public health duties and responsibilities in the State of Nevada. Nevada is considered a hybrid state health department. This means that local health units are led by local governments instead of state employees. Washoe County Health District and Clark County Health District function independently from the State. Regarding the post-COVID response, every county manager was provided a copy of the Memorandum letter from Dr. Azzam, Chief Medical Officer. This allows for greater control of county governments. The challenges include training, identifying hot spots, data tools, and training and education of policy and procedural changes. There is a challenge in delayed reporting. Most public health data sets are years behind to allow for quality control and completeness, for example cancer and HIV, DHHS waits a year to publish that data. COVID data is analyzed in near-real-time, there is a responsibility to ensure the data is being investigated further prior to it being release. DHHS would like to see standardization in reporting, give locals time to review the data, and every county transitioning to the Salesforce tool for contact tracing and case investigation. The Salesforce tool will provide much more granular data to compare across all counties. Ms. Peek will provide an example of what DHHS would like to see in the future and hopes to get clear analysis of cases, including possible exposure location activity and disparities. Ms. Peek also noted DHHS would like to see specific mitigation efforts moving forward. Dagny Stapleton noted she appreciates this presentation as it is important for people to understand County and State roles, especially with the contact tracing. There is work that needs to be done going forward. Chair Cage, it is important to understand the structure of the system, nuances, and intricacies of the local response.

**1. Lander County Self-Assessment and Action Plan**

Chair Cage provided an overview of the plan submitted from Lander County. There is no significant change to the plan from last week. Lander County is holding a Community Based Testing (CBT) event this week and the county will provide an update in future reports. No changes to make on already approved plan. No additions.

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

Jim Barbee, Churchill County, provided an overview of the Churchill County Self-Assessment and Action Plan as submitted. Churchill County is requesting the same status that was requested last week and to continue to work with the state to align the data on positive cases reported. Mr. Barbee noted Churchill County will be in the red again next week. Mr. Barbee noted one good thing that is being seen in the county is that the unduplicated numbers were reduced from 36 cases to 28 cases. Churchill County will continue to implement the non-re-test policy and is looking at internal policies regarding testing folks out of the county, along with any other policies that may negatively impact the county. Churchill County is not seeing any change in community spread. Mr.

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Barbee spoke to the letter also provided in the packets. The Health Board asked that the county develop a letter to note the concern in turnaround time from the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory (NSPHL). The county is seeing turnaround times from four to eight days. In terms of the long turnaround time, folks may only be quarantined for two to three days in the ten-day requirement, so that is where it becomes a concern. Chair Cage noted there was an opportunity to discuss lab turnaround time further on today, this is a priority of getting to the bottom of the delay and challenges. Chair Cage noted the state is seeing good news lately with turnaround time in Elko County and is working to make turnaround time consistent across the state. Chair Cage thanked the county team for reaching out to the State for the completion of the plan and will continue to focus on clarifying the data discrepancy. Chair Cage made a motion to approve the plan as submitted and work on data clarifying and date. Brett Compston with a second. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Jeff Page, Lyon County, spoke to the plan submitted by Lyon County. Lyon County is working with Carson Health and Human Services regarding cases. Mr. Page spoke to how Lyon County is seeing improvements in regard to numbers. Last week Lyon County was at 7.4% and this week the county dropped to 7.1% in terms of test positivity rates. The county needs people to understand social distancing, the mask requirement, and the importance of no large gatherings. Mr. Page noted businesses in the county are following the mask rule with a good compliance rate. The variable is the visitors from outside of the county and household outbreaks. The challenge is that most of the county population commutes out of the county for work. There is a lack in the ability to control what occurs outside of the county. The South end of county is dealing with agricultural issues as well. The county will continue to educate and work on messaging. The county will also continue to work on testing. Chair Cage noted Lyon County, much like Churchill county, is experiencing challenges with data reporting due to most of the population commuting. The state is having internal conversations with DHHS regarding how that data is gathered and reported. As part of this plan, the state will continue to work with Lyon County to clarify data discrepancies. Chair Cage commended the county for the numbers and being close to the threshold. The numbers are continuing to travel downward. In hopes that continues, this will be a short interaction between Lyon County, DHHS, and the state. Lyon County will provide this update at the weekly meeting in the future. Kyra Morgan is looking at the concern of testing outside of resident county and is looking at the resident zip code field. Ms. Kyra looked at data by county to see the completeness of resident zip codes on the forms. Lyon county, specifically, found 6% did not have a resident zip code. Statewide number is missing 18% of the resident zip. This number fluctuates widely across counties. Ms. Morgan will provide a follow up report for all counties. Jeff Page noted there is concern in west central Lyon county tests being calculated into Carson's numbers and not in Lyon County's numbers. Kyra Morgan noted Carson cases have less than 1% that do not have a patient zip code, compared to Clark County that has 20% of cases with no patient zip codes. Ms. Morgan is working on this moving forward. Terry Reynolds made a motion to approve the plan as submitted and Chris Lake provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Scott Lewis, Nye County, provided an overview of the Nye County plan that was submitted for review. The plan contains a formal request to reopen bars within Pahrump. Nye county is showing a declining trend in COVID-19 cases. Mr. Lewis stated that overall, there were eight new cases last week and three of which were in the detention center. COVID tracing shows there were no immediate cases related to bars and taverns in Nye County. Liquor establishments were allowed to open in most rural areas of Nye County and there have been no cases related to those establishments since the reopening. OSHA compliance rates were at 100%, if bars reopen there will be strict guidance, stricter than what is required from the state. This demonstrates a community wide willingness to comply with state directives. There will be modifications of COVID tracing need such as increased compliance and audit for bars. Hospital capacity is currently at 65% to 70% capacity, no one is on ventilators, and all are released to their homes. As far as testing capacity, the county only does deep nasal-

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pharyngeal testing, and continues making great strides. The county continues to work closely with the state on every case along with the Nye County Sheriff's Office, Nye County District Attorney's Office, and OSHA. Nye County feels that the time is right to reopen bars and taverns. Chair Cage acknowledged this plan is a tremendous step forward and shows creativity from the county. There is some work to do with the test positivity rate at 11.4%, however, last week it was at 14%. If this becomes a trend it will be a great trend to have. Nye County is pushing to open the economy in the safest possible way. Terry Reynolds would like to take into consideration that there be two separate motions, one for the plan and the other for the specific industry reopening requests. Chair Cage advised there is room to grow on the mitigation as well as enforcement.

Chair Cage spoke to concerns of the status of the state. The state finds itself with two problems, one is the challenge with the conditions within the state and the process adopted by Directive 030. Throughout the pandemic, over the last six months, we have heard concerns from local government groups about wanting a seat at the table, about wanting to have a less statewide approach and wanting it to be more regionally based, making sure the state is moving forward in a collaborative process, and working with our tribal nations. This is exactly why we moved toward this Task Force model, so we could get together in a weekly format, in a public meeting with local partners to present their findings, to make recommendations moving forward, working together with the counties individually between the meeting, and to make sure we are all on the same page. This effort is showing progress, but Chair Caged noted he does not believe we are on the same page on expectations of the Task Force and reporting going forward. Right now, we are in week three of these Task Force meetings and these four counties, according to our plan, should be moving to a higher mitigation level very soon. The plan is written to say if you are on there for two weeks a discussion needs to happen with the Task Force, if longer then there needs to be increased mitigation levels. The Task Force does not want to force mitigation levels on counties, working together will local governments is critical for us to get on the same page. Instead of seeing increased mitigation levels, what the Task Force is seeing are requests for loosening of restrictions. Need to take this into consideration, this is the plan proposed by the Governor, this is the plan that was enacted by Directive 030, and the Task Force has a responsibility to achieve our collective goal in reopening the economy, but doing it in accordance with the plan in the most responsible way possible.

Chair Cage pointed out some other factors to provide some national context:

- NV is one of few states that has an open and collaborative process with local governments. These are the things we are doing here in Nevada that make sense to our economy. Nevada is not alone in heeding this advice from the CDC and Federal government, and Nevada has accordingly taken strict measures for our high-risk areas including bars.
- 46 of 50 states have closed or have restrictions on bars. Our surrounding states all have bar closures statewide or by county or have restrictions on bars.
- Bars in Arizona are closed for indoor service until their testing positivity rate is below 3% at the county level, ours is 7%. Even when getting below 3%, they can only reopen fully as a bar at 50% capacity. Clark is currently at 12.6%. Nevada is above 10% statewide.
- 46 states have specific restrictions on bars. Those states are watching the outbreak in Nevada to see how they will be impacted and whether or not they are going to allow visitors to come to the state. We have an economy based on visitors and we will not see visitors if we are considered a hot spot.

White House Report shows:

- Nevada is above 10% positivity, 4th highest rate in the country. We are one of 11 states that has higher than 10% right now.
- Nevada had 109 new cases per 100,000 population in the last week, compared to a national average of 88 per 100,000.
- According to WH report, last week our state positivity was 10.9% -- our FEMA region was 5.9% and the U.S. has an average of 5.4%

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- Clark County & Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise have been in the red zone every week for the last 8 weeks. Red zone is defined as having high levels of community transmission.
- Elko County / City of Elko have been in the red zone the last 7 weeks
- Washoe County / City of Reno have been in and out of the red zone; appearing in the red zone 3 weeks, yellow zone 5 weeks
- The policy recommendation for PUBLIC OFFICIALS each week for counties in the red zone include:
  - Limit social gatherings to 10 or less
  - Close bars and gyms and create outdoor dining opportunities
  - From 8/16-8/23 the White House reports said “bars must be closed”
- From the most recent (8/30) report, “encouraging signs of case declines from implementation of mask requirements, bar closures, and indoor dining restrictions on a national basis. Keep requirements in place until safely in the green zone.”

Hospitalizations:

Just a month ago, in the beginning of August, when hospitalizations of COVID patients peaked at over 1,100, the Nevada Hospital Association reported the following:

*“Clark County, NV. continues to experience near intensive care saturation levels with 624 ICU beds occupied and nearly 40% of these with COVID-19 (confirmed and suspected) patients.” (8/3/20)*

*“In southern Nevada, some individual facilities are reaching capacity within the intensive care units and with all-cause hospital availability.” (8/4/20)*

- **JUNE 12:** Bill Welch, CEO of NHA, tells Megan Messerly of *The Nevada Independent* that when the total (confirmed and suspected) hospitalized COVID-19 patients climbed past 400, then the hospitals would need to “regroup and reevaluate.” June 12 confirmed and suspected equaled 351 cases in the state (146 suspected and 205 confirmed).
- **JUNE 23:** confirmed and suspected equaled 423 (174 suspected and 249 confirmed), cresting 400 for the first time.
- **JUNE 24:** Governor Sisolak issued a statewide mask order, effective June 26.
- **JULY 9:** FEMA Region 9 Administrator Robert Fenton and DHHS Region 9 Administrator Mark Young traveled to Nevada to provide Nevada with regional analysis and concerns regarding COVID-19 hospitalizations in Nevada. FEMA and DHHS provided models that show southern Nevada hospitalizations for critical care related to COVID-19 exceeding capacity around July 20, and that COVID-19 hospitalizations could exceed statewide capacity around August 2, and recommended a number of mitigation measures seen as effective in other states in similar situations, including closing bars, limiting gatherings, and other measures. Total hospitalizations are at 924 at the time of this meeting.
- **JULY 10:** Governor Sisolak issues Directive 027, which closed bars, distilleries, taverns, and wineries in counties with elevated risk levels.
- **JULY 13:** 1000+ cases -- Nevada has more than 1,000 hospitalized COVID-19 cases as of July 13 and sustained that number until August 4, 2020.

CURRENT Situation (as of September 2, 2020)

- STATEWIDE: hospitalizations statewide are at 675 (confirmed and suspected)
- CLARK COUNTY: The number of confirmed and suspected hospitalized cases is 602
- Relative demand of COVID-19 on the Clark County healthcare infrastructure continues to decline. Confirmed and suspected hospitalized cases was 796 on 18 August by comparison and 544 on July 1, 2020.

Chair Cage pointed out again, the need for executing Directive 030 and the need to make sure the state does not start setting ourselves back to lose progress the state has made overall. There has been tremendous work

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with these numbers, but we can quickly start to climb again. The outcome is the state is in a place to make additional mitigation efforts. Three of the four plans today with bar closures are requesting less restrictions and I haven't seen the level of sophistication or planning on mitigation and enforcement and the three criteria that would allow us to be comfortable in the reversal of the bar closures. Terry Reynolds advised the Task Force should be looking at these plans and should be looking to deal with restrictions or opening of things separately. If the counties want to open restrictions in separate areas, it is encouraged to add this to a separate agenda. Approve parts of the plan with separate motions. Chris Lake would like to point out the good progress that has been made. The state is showing good compliance when OSHA goes out and does those inspections, this is positive. PPE is good and stockpile progress is moving along. Hospital status right now is good. There were numerous public comments supporting opening of bars, heard from Nye and restaurants not contributing to cases, and do see this in other plans. Clark had issues about opening parks and brought up children's mental health. That is a separate complex issue from bars. Mr. Lake supports breaking out plans by county instead of rolling them together. Dagny Stapleton, I agree with comments. I think we can look at it broken out way by county. One great thing about this group and through the plan, is that we can target mitigation based on parts of communities and industry. We need to not forget those are the options we have. Nye County for example, numbers are coming down, they have provided proposed increased mitigation, trying to find Nexis between what is going to reduce the spread, where it is, what we can do to reduce it, and where we can do that. Ms. Stapleton inquired if the Task Force needs to talk about increasing mitigation where spread is happening and decreasing it where there is no spread, county by county and industry by industry. Chair Cage agreed with breaking out the plans and not looking at them collectively.

In a look of the Nye County plan, page three, the county is proposing that the enforcement plan mitigates risk, by getting public support, these are all positive things. Where I said there is room to grow, this is a huge step forward from an already approved plan, do not see a detailed analysis of contact tracing that goes through and says this is what we are seeing. This is important to see that. The other thing is they remain on the list, asking for reduction of restrictions. Nye County is closer than where they were before. Chair Cage would like to see more of an enforcement plan. Looking for what is their reporting structure, outcomes of first and second visits, what is their structure for shutting things down. Mitigation measures on page three are great steps in that direction. There is not a set of guidelines that spell out the enforcement piece. Terry Reynolds, agreed, the county is heading in right direction but need to get more detailed in the activity they are going to take in terms of the one, two, three method to get own compliance and have teeth in it to take action if not seeing compliance. Chris Lake noted Nye County is unique compared to other counties, the Task Force allowed the county to open bars in rural areas, Nye County has experience in opening the bars and not seeing an increase in cases because of the reopening. Dagny Stapleton, in a way it is a test case since the county has opened bars in some areas previously. Ms. Stapleton noted on page three of the Nye compliance plan, it shows the increased measures, it is their increased mitigation plan. Terry Reynolds advised it is reporting and an action plan but what steps is the county going to take if a business is not complying. Ms. Stapleton inquired if a bar is out of compliance, then what is the next step. Counties to report on community spread, where cases are and how the targeting going forward. Chair Cage noted there is work that needs to be conducted between the county and the state. There is some room to look for a group, similar to the one in Washoe County where the goal would be to say we have a mitigation plan in place and it is robust enough with a supplicated level to ensure or have confidence to reduce spread and hospital capacity. Mr. Lewis noted there is community partnership with bar owners, they will be the internal group for self-policing and noted Nye County does not have the same resources available as Washoe County. Mr. Lewis has done all the contact tracing with no compliance issues and no cases from bars. The cases come from family gatherings. Chair Cage spoke to this being a great step. Chair Cage highlighted the other piece is the family gathering and what any mitigation efforts there are in place for that. Brett Compston noted on page three regarding mitigation measures, upon determination that a liquor establishment was the actual point of exposure for a positive, the County will require that establishment to close. That is a very extreme requirement of themselves, that shows a lot of confidence on their behalf to mitigate exposure. Richard Whitley, DHHS, noted there was room for a more flushed out plan. Focus on bars,



bars exist in the community and the positivity rate occurs in the community, and they exceed threshold for positivity. Do not think waving methodology to achieve a goal to open bars is the best interest of the public's health. Chair Cage made a motion to approve the mitigation measures and recommendations that are a part of the plan, postpone decision on opening bars in Pahrump for a two-week period, build out mitigation, enforcement and contact tracing, to present for consideration in two weeks. Terry Reynolds made a second. Chris Lake nay on the motion. Motion passes.

#### **5. Washoe County Self-Assessment and Action Plan**

Kevin Dick, Washoe County, provided an update on the plan submitted by Washoe County. Washoe County is moving in the right direction with number of new cases day over day, with a decline of about 40% from a month ago. Washoe County is seeing an impact of the Governor's mandate for facial coverings and enforcement efforts. Washoe County is still seeing widespread transmission in the community. Hospitals were never impacted like in Clark County. Hospitalizations are very low at 3.8%. ICU is about 4%. PPE remains good and Washoe County is working on a local stockpile. In Last few days, regions in Washoe County provided PPE to faith-based organization, and disadvantaged areas of the community. POST is operating daily on weekdays for drive thru testing. POST was not operated on Tuesday due to technical issues. Washoe County has more capacity than what is currently needed. Overall, the county is seeing a decline in number of tests per day in Washoe County. The county is seeing good lab test turnaround times. To improve test turnaround times, Washoe County is still using Charles River. Charles River Lab is now running three days per week starting this week with a 48-72-hour turnaround time. Also, since yesterday, an assisted living facility that has had serious infractions is being shut down by the State. Washoe County will assist with testing to move patients elsewhere. Regarding contact tracing/disease investigation, Washoe County continues to add additional staff such as four more disease investigators. Washoe County is improving on disease investigation time, all positive cases are notified within 24 hours, and the number of cases without contact have decreased significantly. Washoe County is responding to school reopening by assigning staff members that will conduct the contact tracing and disease investigation on pediatric cases. These cases are expedited to identify contacts and inform the schools. Washoe County is working closely with the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) student health services with the college being open now as well. Family gatherings are still a source the county is seeing as far as outbreaks and household sharing. As far as other settings, cases identification is not consistent across a specific industry. Eric Brown noted the City of Reno continues to use "party cars" to target problematic gatherings. Washoe County is not asking for a change this week and is continuing to work on mitigation efforts. Terry Reynolds noted this plan is a mix of health mitigation strategies as well as enforcement strategies. Washoe County is working with OSHA and is working on getting buy-in from the cities within the community. This is the example of what is wanted within a plan. Dagny Stapleton agreed and noted on the record what a good job Washoe county is doing. Brett Compston noted, Washoe spoke to mitigation efforts in terms of schools and thanked the district for taking aggressive action. Chair Cage asked for more data regarding the party cars. Mr. Brown advised there has been success but does not have exact numbers. The downside to the "party car" is that the party has already started, hoping to shut them down so they do not grow and become bigger events than what they start out as. No request for reopening of bars. Chair Cage made a motion to approve the plan as submitted and to continue to work with Washoe county leadership over the next two weeks to discuss any additional openings. Chris Lake provided a second. Motion passed unanimously.

\*\*\*Break at 12:05 p.m. and resumed meeting at 12:15 p.m.\*\*\*

#### **6. Clark County Self- Assessment and Action Plan**

Billy Samuels, Clark County, provided an overview of the plan submitted by Clark County. Mr. Samuels noted the numbers for Clark County are declining. Clark County's PPE availability is in a good status. Mr. Samuels provided a brief overview of the mitigation enforcement actions for first offense and second offenses. Marilyn

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Kirkpatrick, Chairwoman of the Clark County Commission, expressed her desire for the conversations of the Task Force to focus on Directives 21 through Directive 26, specifically regarding counter tops. This Task Force needs to discuss what that means. If a sushi bar cannot open its countertop, I want to know what the science behind that is. If there is an establishment with Plexiglas, why is that any different than sitting across from anyone at lunch. Ms. Kirkpatrick would like to see updated guidance for Directive 027 for self-service, parks, and youth sports. Ms. Kirkpatrick would like to know how to push this issue up the chain to see forward movement. By saying no often, Clark County is seeing a lot of creative venues that are well within those guidelines. Look at youth sports, in Southern Nevada, 95% of our kids are playing outside of the state. Clark County has shown four weeks of moving downward, keep meeting the states criteria's as far as the mitigation component, but I do not understand how we are not meeting the rest of the criteria. Ms. Morgan pointed out with a high number and it takes a long time to get below the 200, target specific areas, looking for direction on how to move forward. Ms. Kirkpatrick noted that if Nevada is being compared to other states, it needs to be compared 100% across the board. Nevada is very different. Bars and taverns have overwhelmed the conversation Chair Cage spoke to the plan submitted here today says Clark County would like to open back up to directive 021, which is removal of bar restrictions and back to baseline status at the state. There are some increased requests regarding public recreation space, and we are hearing Chair Kirkpatrick talk about bars vs. tabletops, self-service, sports, and youth sports as well. Clark County and Nye County seeing an increased focus on enforcement. So, we get back to the numbers. Chair Cage noted looking back at the three criteria again, for Clark County, there is no doubt there is a decrease in the test positivity rate since July 2020, this is excellent progress, testing surge will increase the number of tests the community is providing, however, that was provided by federal government due to the need to get arms around the community spread throughout the large city. We do still have a high-test positivity; we do not have authority in our Directive 030 to address other items. As far as the mitigation plan it does not have specific recommendations on mitigation plan.

Kyra Morgan noted the data is showing that the mitigation efforts in place are working. Clark County is seeing drastic improvement. Chair Cage noted it is incredible progress. Dagny Stapleton spoke to expectations like those asked of Nye County. Clark County checks the boxes, enforcing, better collaboration, numbers are available on the enforcement plan for businesses out of compliance. This is aggressive in terms of removing licenses. Chair Cage advised Clark County is checking the boxes as far as deficiencies in other plans. Contact tracing is strong. In using a test case, allowed Nye county to open bars in the rural areas. Clark county has the structure and systems in place of enforce and ensure safety in bars. Look at counter tops as a first step and as a test case. If not, I do not want to create a double standard. Terry Reynolds agreed but noted he is still asking for separate agenda items on next week's meeting for the bigger picture on criteria for those sectors. Mr. Reynolds acknowledged the Clark County plan as being excellent and having a structure in place to close businesses not complying. Clark County continues to work with SCATS. The Task Force needs to continue to discussion on countertops and moving forward. Richard Whitley noted the case rate for Clark County is nearly half of what is was previously reported at. Mr. Whitley spoke to the need to reopen recreational areas. This will cause a secondary epidemic of a mental health crisis as it is related to isolation for high-risk children. Chair Cage noted from his perspective, the Task Force is in a very tenuous spot with Clark County. If Clark County goes, then so does the rest of the state. We have had conversation with Clark County and the Southern Nevada Health District and the lack of information sharing. Chair Cage noted he was not comfortable that the enforcement mechanism is fed by contact tracing through the county. Mr. Cage would like to see a written action plan about how the information will be shared to drive the enforcement measures. The plan is excellent and is about timing. Right now, the Federal government sees Clark County in the red. Schools have not reopened either. From there, we will see the status of the trend in Clark County. Chair Cage is also concerned about losing ground we have won in the last six months.

Dagny Stapleton made a motion to approve the continuation of closure of bars except for counter tops outside of bar settings in Clark County. Terry Reynolds noted this motion is not for countertops in bars, it is the other countertops in restaurants. Mr. Reynolds' provided a second. Chair Cage advised to be clear the motion is for

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countertops not in bar settings. Ms. Stapleton advised that was correct. Kyra Morgan noted she received additional data that is important for context. Clark County had a high case rate on the report pushed out on August 6, 2020 with over 1,000 for every 100,00 cases, today it is 973 per every 100,000. The case rate back in June ,2020 was just over 200 per 100,000. This data shows progress, but it is not enough time to show the results. Richard Whitley spoke to the motion not being clear on what the countertops are that voting is occurring on. Dagny Stapleton noted the countertop in restaurants with bars where food is served. Marilyn Kirkpatrick noted this can be three different scenarios, at local pancake house, sushi bar, countertop cannot serve people in Directive 021 with Plexiglas in between, second bar tops with gaming where food is served. Not advocating for stand-alone bars, but for bar tops that have other things going. Ms. Kirkpatrick noted the request was not for things to be opened as of today, the county wants to do it right and open it next week by Tuesday or Wednesday. Ms. Kirkpatrick stated on the record she is not advocating for a two week wait time. Chair Cage requested adding in an effective date to the motion and updated LEAP guidance. Ms. Stapleton agreed to adding in an effective date to the motion but did not agree to have LEAP update the guidance as the Task Force does not have the authority to order that task to the LEAP. Dagny Stapleton made a motion to approve the continuation of closure of bars except for counter tops outside of bar settings to be implemented by September 9, 2020. Terry Reynolds provided a second. Kyra Morgan inquired if reopening would still fall under the social distancing guidelines. Chair Cage noted that was correct, the baseline mitigation efforts are still in effect. Meagan Werth-Ranson voted nay to the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chris Lake inquired if it would be appropriate to take a vote in support of parks and recreations reopening to show the Governor how the Task Force feels about this idea. Chair Cage noted this could be done by the Task Force, but it needs to be on agenda to be considered.

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

Amanda Osborne provided an overview of the plan submitted by Elko County. Ms. Osborne spoke to the outbreak that occurred at the skilled nursing facility and thanked the state for the support with this issue. Elko County is working hard to protect the vulnerable population. Elko County has also been working to increase testing as it has been noted as a key aspect the Task Force is looking at. Ms. Osborne noted work is being done with local providers in Elko County to increase the testing capacity. As far as lab testing turnaround times, Elko County is now receiving results within four days. This is a huge improvement but this needs to remain consistent. Ms. Osborne noted PPE levels are currently in a good status. Elko County noted the importance for the state and the county to be on the same page. Elko County was unaware the Rapid tests were not being included in the testing numbers. The Rapid tests account for nearly 1,500 tests, 1,300 of which were negative. The Rapid tests serve as an integral role to the Elko County infrastructure. Matt Peterson, Elko County, stressed the importance of counting the Rapid testing in the counties results. Mr. Peterson noted if these numbers were included; Elko County would be sitting in a much better position. Delmo Andreozzi, Elko County, encouraged the ongoing communication between the Task Force and the county. Ms. Andreozzi noted the outbreak was observed in the skilled nursing facility. The challenge is it is easy to come up with a mitigation plan, but it is extremely difficult to incorporate these efforts into a plan where the county has no control. Mr. Andreozzi noted the state and the county also need to come together to clarify the county data. This is way more than closing bars, this is about our economy.

Dr. Pandori, NSPHL, spoke to lab testing turnaround times. Dr. Pandori noted looking back over the last 19 weeks, there were two weeks where turnaround time was greater than 4 days, the other 17 weeks the turnaround time was less than four days. A majority of turnaround time is less than 3. Turnaround time is not an excuse to test less. This sounds like a reporting issue, rather than a testing issue. Labs must be reported to state within 24 hours. Chair Cage noted there are issues with lab testing turnaround time and the state, DHHS, NSPHL need to examine the issue further. Great Basin College, who is assisting Elko County, notes the lab testing turnaround time is approximately three days. Julia Peek spoke to the issue regarding rapid test results. A Technical Bulletin went out today regarding this test. Ms. Peek noted testing type and results matter. Dagny

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Stapleton noted without the data, it is hard to know where the community spread is happening in the unincorporated county. Terry Reynolds spoke to the county enforcement piece needing to be outline more. Mr. Reynolds noted if contact tracing findings are that cases are occurring from workplace exposures and family gatherings where is the mitigation efforts related to that. Chair Cage noted the work being done by the county has been exceptional and looks forward to continuing the discussion with Elko County. Chair Cage made a motion to approve the mitigation plan with the continuation of bar closures, work with the county over the next two weeks, and try to continue to bring test positivity down. Terry Reynolds provided a second. Rob Stokes, noted Chair Cage mentioned Carlin, Wells, Jackpot, on the snapshot on page 2, it was noted there was almost no activity whatsoever, regarding COVID-19 cases, in all three rural communities. All three rural areas have shown very little positive activity. I do not know if we are going to use that as part of the reason's things should not happen in those communities. Chair Cage advised this point should be clearly stated and requested in the plan. It has not been included in any previous versions of the plans that have been submitted yet. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Update on the State's Laboratory Reporting System**

Chair Cage made the decision due to time restraints to skip this agenda item and add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

**7. Action Items for next Week**

Chair Cage noted that there was a list of follow up items produced from this meeting that would occur offline to include conversations with the local partners in each county along with a conversation between DEM, NVNG, and DHHS. Terry Reynolds advised if an agenda item could be added to distinguish the mitigation efforts in the plans and what that might look like moving forward.

**8. Public Comment**

Chair Cage opened the discussion for public comment. Dai Graydon asked for clarification on the countertop discussion that occurred during the meeting. Chair Cage noted the Task Force would be happy to have that discussion offline as it is not considered an agenda item. Cathy, last name not provided, also inquired as to what was included in the countertop discussion and asked for clarification between why bars are still closed but it is okay to stand in line and congregate at a grocery store. Victor Reza Valanejad inquired as to what the procedures are for operating a "take-out" window at a bar and how to go about initiating the authorization for having such a concept for his business. Chair Cage advise Victor to follow up with the Governor's Office.

**9. Adjourn**

Chair Cage called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was presented by Terry Reynolds, and a second was provided by Richard Whitely. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.