



**MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN NYE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**101 Radar Road, Tonopah, NV 89049**

**February 15, 2018**

**6:00 p.m.**

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Chairman Eason opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Ken Eason  
Vice-Chairman Cathie Clifford  
Secretary/Treasurer Justin Zimmerman  
Trustee Karmin Greber  
Trustee Roni Link  
County Comptroller Savannah Rucker

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge was recited.

**2. Approval of the Agenda for February 15, 2018 (Non-action Item)**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said item 5 could be removed from the agenda.

**3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Three-minute time limit per person.) Action will not be taken on the matters considered during this period until specifically included on an agenda as an action item (first).**

There was none.

**4. Announcements (first)**

There were none.

**5. For Possible Action – Emergency Items**

This item was removed from the agenda.

**6. Trustees'/Liaison Comments (This item limited topics/issues proposed for future workshops/ agendas)**

Chairman Eason said the meeting with the Department of Taxation occurred about ten days ago and he thought it went pretty well. They seemed to be happy with the progress made and the audit.

Trustee Greber said she heard again last week the rumor that the hospital taxing district had been under fiscal watch and she wanted to state on the record that the district had never been under fiscal watch.

Trustee Link let everyone know that on February 28, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. the Tonopah Town Board would award the Tonopah volunteer ambulance service and fire service the Outstanding Citizens Award and she encouraged everyone to attend.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7. No Action – Presentation by Nye County Health Officer Maureen Budahl regarding review of potential health programs and services for the Northern Nye County Hospital District by the State Dental Health Officer with the Southern Nevada Health District.**

Maureen Budahl explained the mobile dental van pilot project was a program to hopefully bring dental services and minimal medical services to rural areas. She gave a presentation prepared by Antonina Capurro, the State Dental Health Officer, who was very vested and interested in dental health in rural Nevada.

Ms. Budahl reviewed the oral health status in Nye, Lincoln, Esmeralda and White Pine Counties, the four counties involved in the grant, compared to Clark and Washoe Counties. Almost 40% of adults across Nevada did not visit a dentist in 2016 (the most current available statistics) and 36% of older adults in assisted living facilities had untreated decay so dental health was a big issue. Ms. Budahl explained the four counties were chosen because 11% to 17% of each County's population lived in poverty, 11% to 17% were without health insurance, and 30% to 65% of the student population in each County qualified for free or reduced lunch.

Ms. Budahl then discussed the statistics regarding the average number of dentists per 100,000 of population in the country as well as the state. The four counties involved in the grant were substantially below those statistics and were in a dental shortage area. Also, while there were a number of community dental health clinics in Nevada, there was only one in the four rural counties.

Ms. Budahl explained a mobile dental health van was being pursued because there was evidence that suggested it improved individual health outcomes, reduced emergency department visits, and they were associated with a reduction in hospitalization costs through shorter stays. Poor dental health was an indication of poor overall health and the mobile dental vans had been found to mediate barriers to oral health services. They were also very successful in reaching vulnerable

**7. No Action – Presentation by Nye County Health Officer Maureen Budahl regarding review of potential health programs and services for the Northern Nye County Hospital District by the State Dental Health Officer with the Southern Nevada Health District- Cont'd.**

populations and served all ages. Ms. Budahl said this project was not just for kids because they recognized that 43% of adults in Nevada received no preventative dental health services in 2016.

Ms. Budahl said the proposed trips were Las Vegas to Pahrump to Goldfield to Tonopah and Las Vegas to Pioche to Ely to Las Vegas. Third and fourth trips were still being designed as round trips. The grant obtained through the State of Nevada paid for the trips. Services to be provided included screening, preventative dental services, education, and case management. There would be a dental hygienist on the van along with a medical provider who would do well check screenings for everyone and vaccinations for insured people.

Ms. Budahl said the goals of the program were to increase access to care in rural communities; gather information on the unique health challenges in rural Nevada; perform oral health needs assessments of the patients; and build a sustainable clinic model. They were looking for this project to be ongoing, not just a pilot project. Funding was an issue, but she said they had some ideas about that and would use the gathered data to apply for other grants and creative funding sources as that would be the major way to keep the project going.

As far as what was needed from the Board, Ms. Budahl said she was here mostly to engage them so they knew what was happening and understood there were many people that were aware of what was happening in Tonopah in particular and in rural Nevada as a whole. This Board could offer their support to the program, encourage them, and provide feedback when they heard from people in the community.

Trustee Link noted they had the ability to bill many insurances, meaning this would not be limited to certain economic groups.

Ms. Budahl said absolutely not, especially in terms of the vaccinations. As far as the dental care, there were no restrictions put on it.

Trustee Link said anyone on Medicare did not have dental or vision insurance and asked what could be done for those patients.

Ms. Budahl said they could avail themselves of the services of the van. Medicare paid for some vaccinations, but as far as the dental services it was her understanding that if someone had a dental need they just had to show up at the dental van and the issue would be addressed. She said this was not restorative care at this point, just preventative services and oral health assessments. People who needed care would have to be referred because initially there would not be a dentist on the van.

Community Health Nurse Beth Ennis said at the recent stakeholders meeting on Tuesday Karyn Smith, the current Manager/Director for Nye County Health and Human Services, advised they

**7. No Action – Presentation by Nye County Health Officer Maureen Budahl regarding review of potential health programs and services for the Northern Nye County Hospital District by the State Dental Health Officer with the Southern Nevada Health District- Cont'd.**

used to have dental money people could apply for. Ms. Smith said that was not in the budget right now, but she was going to look at it for this year so if people came, had a need and met the criteria they could get some help from the County.

Trustee Greber asked if this was a working model. She saw generality, proposed trips and things like that, but wondered if they had equipment.

Ms. Budahl said yes. The Southern Nevada Health District owned and stocked the van and the State paid for the materials, gas and staff.

Trustee Greber asked about marketing.

Ms. Budahl advised the Nye Communities Coalition offered their marketing and media person. They met for the first time on Tuesday and would meet again in early March to see where everyone was at. That meeting would be video-conferenced from Pahrump.

**8. No Action – Update on the progress made by Renown Health & Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017.**

Kim Pearson, the Rural Area Practice Manager from Renown, advised the Board that on February 15, 2018, they went live with their occ-health and workers' comp services so they were providing drug screens and breath alcohol testing to those enrolled in the occ-health program. They would start seeing urgent care patients and go to five days a week starting March 5, 2018.

Trustee Greber asked about additional staffing.

Ms. Pearson advised they did put job recs out. They only had one position, but they were putting out two, one for a medical assistant and one for a nurse, to see what was out there and which would work best. She said they were hoping to post next week and then it would depend on responses. People could apply online at [renown.org](http://renown.org). Ms. Pearson said she did not have a listing of the other posting sites, but she knew there were several that would be utilized.

Regarding the marketing plan Trustee Greber asked how it was being developed as far as opportunities like this; how was it being presented to the local community, including Round Mountain; and what had been done to re-engage the Senior Dimensions people who were inadvertently dissuaded from coming to the Tonopah clinic. She pointed out that there was only one grocery store and since half of rural Nevada went to that store she would love to see Renown marketing there.

**8. No Action – Update on the progress made by Renown Health & Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017-Cont'd.**

Ms. Pearson said she had no updates on that, but she would take all of that back and get back to Trustee Greber.

Trustee Greber discussed her first telemedicine visit, which was very positive and comfortable. However, she got a referral to a specialist and could not get in until November 30, 2018. She hoped the advertised specialists would be a little more available rather than nine or ten months from now and thought the telemedicine schedule needed to be expanded.

Jessica Thompson from the Renown Clinic said that depended on the specialty. Some they could get the patient in the next week and some were months out. She also hoped that would improve with time. She added that a person did not have to be established with Renown to be referred to specialists.

Vice-Chair Clifford asked if a person could go to the clinic for x-rays or if the patient had to be established with Renown.

Mrs. Thompson said they were currently accepting outside orders for x-rays, but they were still in the process of getting the workflow down on how to handle outside orders for lab.

Chairman Eason asked if CT scans could be done at this time.

Mrs. Thompson said not at this time, but it was being discussed.

Trustee Link asked if the HVAC subcontractor got in the hospital to resolve the heat issue in the lab.

Mrs. Thompson advised she was told someone did a walk through, but she was not notified of what was found.

Louis Mendiola, representing REMSA and Care Flight, gave the following update:

- January 19, 2018 – they hosted a breakfast for the community leaders, which was very successful. One of the feedbacks received touched on the need for continued outreach and marketing
- January 24, 2018 – Renown Health hosted a joint workshop with 22 experts ranging from emergency room physicians, hospital physicians, primary care and urgent care physicians, as well as their administrative counterparts from both Renown Health and REMSA Care Flight. There was an overview and general discussion, and then everyone broke up into sub-committees and discussed the specifics. Mr. Mendiola said he had been involved in the remote telehealth subcommittee as well as the marketing subcommittee.

**8. No Action – Update on the progress made by Renown Health & Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017-Cont'd.**

- January 31, 2018 – offers were extended to three full-time and two part-time community paramedics.
- February 5, 2018 – the community paramedics hired as well as a number of community paramedics that would primarily work in the Washoe County area began training.
- February 7, 2018 – the Renown and REMSA teams met to demo the remote telemedicine equipment.

Mr. Mendiola then spoke on the marketing plan. Work continued on that as they wanted to have a phased roll out of not only the services but also the marketing. He said they did not want to inundate everyone with good news early and then not communicate.

Regarding the nurse health line, Mr. Mendiola was excited to announce that there was a local number (775-482-3377) that linked directly to the REMSA nurse health line which went live two days ago. He said they planned to issue a local press release about that in the next seven days and in the two weeks following that a mailer would be sent to all residents in the zip codes in the hospital district. After that he said they would start the meetings with the senior centers and dropping off flyers in different locations.

Mr. Mendiola advised they were still looking at implementing the community paramedics locally in the second quarter. They had the vehicle and had started purchasing equipment. He was working with the County regarding communications and was scheduling meetings with the County to discuss some of the protocol, policy, response, medical direction, and different things like that.

Trustee Link asked if the ongoing paramedic training would include suturing.

Mr. Mendiola advised there was advanced wound care and suturing in the curriculum, but they were still developing the actual protocols for that.

Trustee Link suggested Mr. Mendiola talk with the Sheriff about the Spillman program upgrades. She explained the system was supposed to be statewide and interactive with EMS as it gave specific GPS addresses of patients and real time dispatch comments.

Trustee Greber asked what the focal point of their marketing approach was for the community.

Mr. Mendiola said he was a firm believer that there was a demographic in any community that responded very well to social media, so they were looking at expanding what they did with social media. There was another segment of the community that responded very well to the newspaper and they may not be the same people on social media. In a small town Mr. Mendiola thought the

**8. No Action – Update on the progress made by Renown Health & Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority regarding the implementation of services pursuant to the professional services agreements entered into on December 20th, 2017-Cont’d.**

best way to get the word out was through mavens, people who talked to people. He said they would use all of those things and would be open to other methods.

Chairman Eason asked how the paramedics would get to their locations.

Mr. Mendiola explained Tonopah would be the work site for their employees and although most of them would come out of the Reno area, their primary service area would be Tonopah so they would be responsible for getting themselves there. He said they were providing a very small stipend for vehicle maintenance due to the increased miles they would be putting on their vehicle.

Chairman Eason asked about their emergency unit.

Mr. Mendiola explained they would have their own community paramedicine vehicle which would be outfitted and remain in the community. There would also be branding on the vehicle and they had decided that anything they sent out would have “A Service Provided by the Northern Nye County Hospital District” on it.

**9. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to solicit proposals for a consultant to perform a mock survey of requirements for certification of the Nye Regional Medical Center hospital campus.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman explained this was just the next step in the redevelopment process Lorina Dellinger and he had been working on. It was really a fact finding mission as he did not know the cost and he would like to get some information.

Vice-Chairman Clifford asked if this was for recertification of the hospital.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said yes. They just wanted to find out what it would cost to commit to come up here and do the work. He said he would like Board approval to proceed since he was soliciting proposals.

Vice-Chairman Clifford asked if he had contacted anyone in the State about recertification.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said he talked to Richard Whitley and Paul Shubert who both provided a lot of information.

Vice-Chairman Clifford wondered if Medicare would be involved with that also.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman stated his understanding that Medicare would come into play if an in-patient facility was being considered, but he was told that was probably not the route this was going to go since Nye Regional was being de-certified before it closed.

**9. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to solicit proposals for a consultant to perform a mock survey of requirements for certification of the Nye Regional Medical Center hospital campus-Cont'd.**

Vice-Chairman Clifford asked if this would be recertification for an urgent care or emergency room.

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman said he would like to think about an emergency room.

Vice-Chairman Clifford made a motion to have Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman and Lorina Dellinger pursue information on recertification or having someone do it for the Board and put it on the agenda for next month to hear what came up; seconded by Trustee Link; 5 yeas.

**10. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation of the minutes from the December 20, 2017 regular meeting and the January 18, 2018 regular meeting.**

Vice-Chairman Clifford made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 20, 2017, regular meeting and the January 18, 2018, regular meeting; seconded by Trustee Link; 5 yeas.

**11. For Possible Action – Approval of invoices for payment.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman advised there was just one invoice for legal fees for December.

Trustee Greber made a motion to accept the voucher and make payment; seconded by Vice-Chairman Clifford; 5 yeas.

**12. No Action – Update on the current status of the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman explained this was the same spreadsheet just updated to show payment of the invoice just approved.

**13. No Action – Open Meeting Law review.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman advised the Open Meeting Law Training was mandatory for all Board members this year and only he and Vice-Chairman Clifford had made it. He said as of right now the County did not have any more training scheduled, but everyone could come in and watch it after contacting the County.

**14. For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to set the next meeting location, time and date.**

Secretary/Treasurer Zimmerman made a motion to set the next meeting for March 15, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in chambers; seconded by Trustee Link; 5 yeas.

**15. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (second)**

Horace Carlyle suggested the Board look at the language on the cover page for the meeting addressing public comment. He thought there may be a technical violation because the Chairman was calling for a vote before asking for any type of public comment. Mr. Carlyle then expressed his concern with emergency services and the long transport of patients. He did not think there were enough facilities or staff to continue it or even do it on a reliable basis. He suggested looking at air transport, but he wondered how the patient would get from the clinic to the airport because there was no reliable EMS service.

**16. ANNOUNCEMENTS (second)**

There were none.

**17. ADJOURN**

Chairman Eason adjourned the meeting.

Approved this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018.

  
Chair