

**CARSON CITY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Minutes of the October 15, 2020 Meeting**  
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**DRAFT**

A meeting of the Carson City Board of Health was held during the regularly scheduled Carson City Board of Supervisors meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2020, in the Community Center Bob Boldrick Theater, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:**

Chairperson Susan Pintar  
Vice Chairperson Stacey Giomi  
Member Lori Bagwell  
Member John Barrette  
Member Brad Bonkowski  
Member Ken Furlong

**STAFF:**

Nancy Paulson, City Manager  
Stephanie Hicks, Deputy City Manager  
Dan Yu, Chief Deputy District Attorney  
Tamar Warren, Senior Public Meetings Clerk

**NOTE:** A recording of these proceedings, the board's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the Clerk during the meeting are part of the public record. These materials are on file in the Clerk's Office, and available for review during regular business hours.

**15. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL - BOARD OF HEALTH**

(10:00:32) – The meeting was called to order and roll was called. All Board of Health members were present.

**16. PUBLIC COMMENT**

(10:01:14) – Chairperson Pintar entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

**17. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JULY 16, 2020**

(10:01:38) – Chairperson Pintar introduced the item and entertained comments, corrections, or a motion.

(10:01:48) – Member Bonkowski moved to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2020 Board of Health meeting as corrected. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Giomi and carried 6-0-0.

**18. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**18.A FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF THE REPORT OF THE CARSON**

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**CITY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CCHHS) DIRECTOR, NICKI AAKER.**

(10:02:42) – Chairperson Pintar introduced the item. Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS) Director Nicki Aaker presented updates on the following topics: Adolescent Sexual Health program; Title X program; CCHHS re-accreditation efforts; receipt of two public health awards (Epidemiology Program of the Year and Public Health Hero Award to Ms. Aaker); quality improvement projects in progress (such as rent and grocery assistance); COVID-19 cases and activities; and the upcoming public health events calendar (encouraging Board member to attend virtually) which is incorporated into the record. She, along with Public Health Educator Sarah Johnson, also responded to clarifying questions.

(10:18:10) – Ms. Aaker clarified for Member Bagwell that face shields are not recommended by the Centers for Disease Control [and Prevention] (CDC). She also provided the following update on the Carson City COVID-19 activities from September 27, 2020 until October 10, 2020:

*57 new confirmed cases (a 33 percent increase from the previous two-week period) with an average age of 40 years-old; 26 females; 31 males; 58 percent of the cases reported being Hispanic/Latino; 40 percent non-Hispanic; two hospitalizations; 47 percent had contact with a known COVID-19 case; 27 percent visited a grocery or retail store; 20 percent attended school; 19 percent ate at a bar or a restaurant; and 60 percent had gone to work while symptomatic.*

(10:24:28) – She also explained that individuals with COVID-19 symptoms will not receive flu vaccines. Chairperson Pintar encouraged the public to take advantage of the vaccination events as most of the traditional methods such as school vaccinations were not taking place this year. Member Bagwell was informed that rapid tests were not available at this time and that COVID-19 test results would still be available within a week. Chairperson Pintar entertained additional comments and when none were forthcoming, a motion.

**(10:37:31) – Member Bonkowski moved to accept the Director’s report. Member Bagwell seconded the motion.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Member Bonkowski
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Member Bagwell
<b>AYES:</b>	Members Bonkowski, Bagwell, Barrette, Furlong, Vice Chair Giomi, and Chairperson Pintar
<b>NAYS:</b>	None
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	None

**18.B FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE BIENNIAL 2020 REPORT FROM VITALITY UNLIMITED AS**

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**REQUIRED BY CONTRACT #1718-118 BETWEEN CARSON CITY AND VITALITY UNLIMITED.**

(10:37:57) – Chairperson Pintar introduced the item. Carson City Vitality Programs Manager Judith Ricketts-Stookey introduced herself, presented the Vitality Unlimited biannual report to the Board (November 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020) and responded to clarifying questions. Municipal Court Judge Thomas Armstrong clarified that because of bed availability and recovery issues, some individuals may be placed in a treatment program in Elko, and called the program a beneficial tool. Municipal Court Judge Kristin Luis also spoke in favor of the residential treatment program, and believed that treatment was more beneficial than incarceration. Judge Armstrong explained that the program serves “high risk individuals with the probability of reduced relapse.” Discussion ensued regarding the availability of resources and transitional housing in general. Judge Armstrong called the need “huge” and gave the example of working with Partnership Carson City, adding that if not placed in the right environment, relapse would be an issue. Chairperson Pintar entertained a motion.

**(11:10:25) – Vice Chair Giomi moved to accept the report as presented. Member Barrette seconded the motion.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Vice Chair Giomi
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Member Barrette
<b>AYES:</b>	Vice Chair Giomi, Members, Barrette, Bagwell, Bonkowski, Furlong, and Chairperson Pintar
<b>NAYS:</b>	None
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	None

**18.C FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CONTRACT #1718-118, VITALITY SERVICES CONTRACT, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 21, 2017 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND THE CORRESPONDING LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CARSON CITY AND VITALITY UNLIMITED.**

(11:10:54) – Chairperson Pintar introduced the item. Ms. Aaker presented the Staff Report, incorporated into the record, and highlighted the scope of work (Exhibit A). Discussion ensued regarding the availability of licensed personnel during the night and Ms. Stookey clarified that those individuals were behavioral health technicians, trained but not licensed. She also walked the Board through several “what if” scenarios during emergencies and other situations. Ms. Aaker highlighted several items in the contract (1.9-1.11) noting that the information received from the Specialty Case Manager stated inconsistent communication about receipt of applications, confirmation of bed dates, failure to report, and other inconsistencies which she had escalated to Ms. Stookey, who explained that she had informed the supervisors at the Elko facility where the issues had originated. Judge Lewis clarified that they communicate and follow up to obtain

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information from both the Elko and Carson City facilities. Ms. Aaker informed Vice Chair Giomi that she was responsible for the contract and wished to see better reporting, should the contract get extended.

(11:29:55) – Member Barrette stressed the importance of communication. Member Bagwell was not in favor of losing residential beds and offered to help work on a process and on “a few cleanups to an amended contract.” Member Bonkowski noted his agreement with Member Bagwell’s comments and stated that “Vitality could have been a little more proactive in making sure that they are delivering the items required under the contract, and at the same time I believe that the City should have been more responsible for holding them accountable in reporting back to the Board.” Ms. Aaker also reviewed the direct costs associated with the contract, including the utility expenses which were paid by Vitality. Judge Lewis cited the example of an individual treated by another provider and noted the cost savings to the courts by utilizing the services of Vitality, in comparison to other treatment plans. Judge Armstrong explained to Member Bagwell that the original terms of the contract had been negotiated with the Court Administrator, adding “we’d like to have a seat at the table” as the Vitality services supported the Court programs, during future negotiations. Ms. Aaker welcomed that participation.

(11:43:25) – Member Bonkowski compared the additional beds that had been provided to the City at no charge to Vitality’s presence at the Long Street location, noting that “it could be a wash” because [Vitality] paying rent at another location would increase the cost to the City. In this case, he believed he could support the extension of the contract, adding “it’s not about the services provided, I think we’ve heard from the courts and everybody else that the service is working, especially if we can tweak the accountability portion and the reporting part of it.” Chairperson Pintar clarified that CCHHS could not use the current space occupied by Vitality; therefore, they would incur the expense of renting another facility.

(11:49:20) – Sarah Adler introduced herself as a consultant to Vitality Unlimited and explained that she had discussed the availability of “therapeutic space” in Carson City with a realtor and had heard there was none. She also believed that “the City is undervaluing its dollar per square foot to get that kind of therapeutic space.” She believed “if this lease cannot be renewed it would be extremely challenging to recreate this space in Carson City.” Discussion ensued regarding the move of patients to Reno and Member Furlong believed that may cause hardship for his office. Chairperson Pintar clarified that the current contract did not have an automatic renewal component. Member Bagwell and Vice Chair Giomi were in favor of a new contract versus a renewal. Member Bonkowski recommended a one-year contract with a renewal option because “it will take a little more time to sort through this and to come to the right decision” and wished to direct Staff to return with a modified lease agreement, for a year. He also cited several available spaces in Carson City. Member Bagwell recommended taking time “to get a good re-write.” Member Barrette did not wish to derail the program; however, he was in favor of informing the community “with what’s going on.” Ms. Aaker informed the Board that she had received adequate direction. Judge Armstrong stated that “the deliverables on the contract, regarding the Court’s concerns have been met through the entire time, and may even have even exceeded in a lot of

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areas.” He called the program “important” and wished to avoid seeing “this resource leaving Carson City.” He also offered the Court’s assistance.

**18.D FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION REGARDING THE COLUMBIA SUICIDE SEVERITY RATING SCALE, A STANDARDIZED SUICIDE SCREENING TOOL.**

(12:08:43) – Chairperson Pintar introduced the item. Carson City Human Services Division Manager Mary Jane Ostrander introduced Jessica Flood, North Region Behavioral Health Coordinator, who reviewed (via WebEx) a PowerPoint presentation, incorporated into the record, titled *the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale*. Ms. Flood, along with Mobile Outreach Safety Team member Bekah Bock, responded to clarifying questions. Member Bagwell was informed that community service providers such as Friends in Service Helping (FISH) and the Ron Wood Family Resource Center, certain City departments, and private service providers would be able to use this screening tool, adding that Carson Tahoe Health has already adopted these standardized criteria. Chairperson Pintar inquired whether the Carson City Senior Center would have access to the information and was informed the Case Managers would be using the tool. Ms. Bock believed that primary care physicians could also benefit from the training. Ms. Ostrander outlined a train-the-trainer rollout as a next step and offered to return with results and data. Member Bonkowski recommended addressing the issue of trainer and trainee attrition and Ms. Flood agreed. Member Bagwell wished to see the Carson City statistics for budgeting purposes and recommended providing the training to the entire community, including local church leadership. Chairperson Pintar suggested a follow-up presentation in three-to-six months. This item was not agendaized for action.

**18.E FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED APPROVAL OF THE CARSON CITY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT’S (CCHHS) REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN.**

(12:42:09) – Chairperson Pintar introduced the item. Member Bonkowski explained that this item had been heard by the Board twice previously; therefore, he recommended entertaining questions from Board members. Chairperson Pintar provided background on the previous iterations and summarized the three priorities of the plan as follows:

1. *Access to healthcare*
2. *Communicable disease outbreak preparedness and response*
3. *Public health funding*

(12:44:30) – Member Bonkowski pointed out the “amazing progress” that had been made since the first iteration of the CCHHS Revised Strategic Plan. Member Bagwell recommended clarifying Priority II, Objective 2E to include: *developing a plan for communication, including an up-to-date contact list*. Member Bonkowski recommended addressing the maintenance of that contact list.

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(12:50:32) – Discussion ensued regarding evaluating the effectiveness of grants and their added value to the community. Member Bonkowski noted that Priority III, Objective 2B, should ensure that grants fit the City’s needs and to pursue the “correct grant.” Ms. Aaker called the document fluid and noted it would be “tweaked annually.” Chairperson Pintar entertained a motion.

**(12:56:14) – Vice Chair Giomi moved to approve the Strategic Plan with minor grammatical changes read into the record on 2E. Member Barrette seconded the motion.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (6-0-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Vice Chair Giomi
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Member Barrette
<b>AYES:</b>	Vice Chair Giomi, Members, Barrette, Bagwell, Bonkowski, Furlong, and Chairperson Pintar
<b>NAYS:</b>	None
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	None

**19. PUBLIC COMMENT**

(12:57:01) – There were no public comments.

**20. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJOURN AS THE BOARD OF HEALTH**

(12:57:23) – Chairperson Pintar adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

The Minutes of the October 15, 2020 Carson City Board of Health meeting are so approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUSAN PINTAR, M.D., Chair

ATTEST:

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AUBREY ROWLATT, Clerk – Recorder