

CARSON CITY BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes of the August18, 2022 Meeting
Page 1

DRAFT

A meeting of the Carson City Board of Health was held during the regularly scheduled Carson City Board of Supervisors meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2022, in the Community Center Robert “Bob” Crowell Boardroom, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

PRESENT:

Chairperson Dr. Colleen Lyons
Vice Chair Stacey Giomi
Member Lori Bagwell
Member Ken Furlong
Member Stan Jones
Member Lisa Schuette
Member Maurice White

STAFF:

Nancy Paulson, City Manager
Stephanie Hicks, Deputy City Manager
Dan Yu, Assistant 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.

19. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL - BOARD OF HEALTH

(10:34:30) – Chairperson Lyons called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

20. PUBLIC COMMENT

(2:34:51) – Chairperson Lyons entertained public comments. Member Bagwell announce the first “Move with the Mayor” activity on September 12, 2022 at the Western Nevada College’s flagpole for the “Wildcat Walk” (in honor of the college’s mascot.

(2:36:18) – Karen Stephens introduced herself and expressed disappointment that during the Board of Supervisors meeting earlier the public’s voice was not heard. She believed they were “abused and not listened to” and believed that “you people do not care what the people want.”

21. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MARCH 3, 2022

(2:37:20) – Chairperson Lyons introduced the item and entertained comments, corrections, or a motion.

(2:37:25) – Vice Chair Giomi moved to approve the March 3, 2022 Board of Health minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Jones and carried 7-0-0.

CARSON CITY BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes of the August18, 2022 Meeting
Page 2

DRAFT

22. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

22.A FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF A REPORT OF THE CARSON CITY HEALTH OFFICER.

(2:37:40) – Chairperson Lyons introduced the item and presented her report which is incorporated into the record. She encouraged receiving the second COVID-19 booster, especially for high-risk individuals or those who live with high-risk individuals. Chairperson Lyons also encouraged receiving a flu vaccination as flu had been more severe as observed in Australia. She also responded to clarifying questions and entertained public comments.

(2:49:07) – Marinka Willig inquired whether Monkeypox was only present in the gay community. Chairperson Lyons clarified that it was not unique to that community and gave the example of the AIDS virus, noting that she hoped that “if we jump on this strong and fast, we can limit it or shut it down.”

(2:50:00) – Joy Trushenski inquired why the Health Department was “pushing the jab instead of therapeutics.” She provided personal information on how she had fought COVID with therapeutics. Dr. Lyons cited the example of how Polio had been eradicated because of the vaccine.

(2:51:25) – Ms. Stephens objected to “pushing an experimental inoculation on people.” Health and Human Services Director Nicki Aaker provided an update on the COVID-19 vaccines noting that all three manufacturers: Johnson and Johnson, Moderna, and Pfizer had all been approved for adults. Chairperson Lyons added that with millions of participants in the vaccine program, it had been proven safe. She also entertained a motion.

(2:56:07) – Member Bagwell moved to accept the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Giomi.

RESULT:	APPROVED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Member Bagwell
SECONDER:	Vice Chair Giomi
AYES:	Members Bagwell, Furlong, Jones, Schuette, white, Giomi, and Chair Lyons
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	None

22.B FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FIRST BIENNIAL 2022 REPORT FROM VITALITY UNLIMITED AS REQUIRED BY CONTRACT #1718-118 BETWEEN CARSON CITY AND VITALITY UNLIMITED.

CARSON CITY BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes of the August 18, 2022 Meeting
Page 3

DRAFT

(2:56:20) – Chairperson Lyons introduced the item. Judith Richards of Vitality Unlimited introduced herself and presented her report which was provided as late material. She explained that the lower numbers were due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Vice Chair Giomi inquired about the lack of civil protective custody (CPC) admissions and Ms. Richards noted that they could dedicate a storage room without widows for that use. Vice Chair Giomi wished to see that happen and requested an update during the next Board of Health meeting. Member Furlong received confirmation that individuals that test positive for narcotics would be admitted; however, alcohol and drug detox might require hospitalization. There were no public comments.

(3:04:16) – Vice Chair Giomi moved to accept the report as presented and requested that Staff return with an update at the next Board of Health meeting on re-allowing CPC patients. The motion was seconded by Member Schuette.

RESULT:	APPROVED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Vice Chair Giomi
SECONDER:	Member Schuette
AYES:	Members Bagwell, Furlong, Giomi, Jones, Schuette, white, and Chair Lyons
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	None

22.C FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF THE REPORT OF THE CARSON CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (“CCHHS”) DIRECTOR, NICKI AAKER.

(3:05:16) – Chairperson Lyons introduced the item. Ms. Aaker announced the appointment of former Public Health Preparedness Manager Jeanne Freeman as Deputy Director of Carson City Health and Human Services as of September 9, 2022. She also presented the Director’s Report, incorporated into the record, and responded to clarifying questions. Discussion ensued regarding Monkeypox, and Chairperson Lyons encouraged everyone with a fever and a rash to seek medical help immediately. Supervisor White was informed that the vaccine was not recommended for people with active Monkeypox. Discussion also ensued regarding the 988 hotline and Chairperson Lyons noted a statewide increase in the number of calls. Member Furlong encouraged anyone in crisis to call the hotline to speak with a crisis manager or a crisis-trained officer. Chairperson Lyons entertained public comments.

(3:35:16) – Mr. French inquired about the Health and Human Services calendar of events and Ms. Aaker provided several ways Mr. French would be able to access it from the City’s website.

(3:36:15) – Vice Chair Giomi moved to accept the report as presented with the feedback provided on the record. The motion was seconded by Member White.

CARSON CITY BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes of the August 18, 2022 Meeting
Page 4

DRAFT

RESULT:	APPROVED (7-0-0)
MOVER:	Vice Chair Giomi
SECONDER:	Member White
AYES:	Members Bagwell, Furlong, Giomi, Jones, Schuette, white, and Chair Lyons
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	None

22.D FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO RECOGNIZE THAT BOTH UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS AND EMERGENCY HOUSING ARE CRITICAL ISSUES IN CARSON CITY AND THAT THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (“ARPA”) FUNDING BE AWARDED FOR PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT UNSHELTERED INDIVIDUALS AND EMERGENCY HOUSING, AS WELL AS THE CARSON CITY HOUSING PLAN (“HOUSING PLAN”).

(3:36:26) – Chairperson Lyons introduced the item. Mary Jane Ostrander, Human Services Division Manager, presented the Staff Report with the accompanying Carson City Housing Plan and responded to clarifying questions. Vice Chair Giomi stressed the importance of helping homeless persons recover their identification documents to begin receiving services. Member Bagwell clarified that modular pods would not preclude multiple-unit housing. She also believed that many members of the community would be willing to “step up” and offer housing assistance. Member Jones commended Ms. Ostrander and her team for an excellent report and believed that the objections she would encounter would be those who do not wish to see homeless housing in their neighborhoods. Member Bagwell explained that based on her observations, the rules are being followed by the current residents who have been provided housing.

(4:14:22) – Member Giomi recommended receiving assistance from adjoining counties whose populations have been served by Carson City. Ms. Ostrander clarified that when an adjoining county resident receives services, that county is billed for the expense. Chairperson Lyons cited several reasons why congregate care fails sometimes and noted that the plan in Carson City is to have supervised and wrap-around care and prohibit criminal activity. Member Bagwell clarified that American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding is not only for those who have lost their job due to COVID and assured the community that “this Board is complying with the rules of the ARPA funding.” Member Bagwell cited the successful example of Richards Crossing which provided housing for veterans. She also thanked Staff and the “developers who are online and listening.”

(4:33:29) – Chairperson Lyons recessed the meeting.

(4:41:33) – Chairperson Lyons reconvened the meeting and entertained public comments.

(4:42:05) – Sam Burchill introduced himself as a Carson City resident since 1995 and a law enforcement officer for 31 years. Mr. Burchill believed that 90 percent of the homeless population were drug and/or

CARSON CITY BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes of the August 18, 2022 Meeting
Page 5

DRAFT

alcohol abusers. He anticipated 10 people out of 70 in Carson City to benefit from the programs, calling it a waste of money and time. He believed that providing the pods would not help but it would attract many more people to “get freebies.”

(4:43:48) – Jenny Scanland introduced herself as a deacon in the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City and a board member of Night off the Streets (NOTS) and spoke in support of the plan presented by Ms. Ostrander. She believed that their church provided the survival aspect (keeping the homeless out of the cold) and believed that the Human Services plan would provide the other services.

(4:46:25) – Betsy Strasbourg noted that no feedback opportunity was provided for this plan. She inquired whether the \$1.1 million funding was solely from ARPA or whether Indigent Accident Fund would be used. Ms. Strasbourg also inquired about the length of short-term housing and the funding sources of the program once ARPA funding is gone. She also wished to have seen the other county representatives at this meeting.

(4:49:36) – Rich Boyle introduced himself as a resident of Carson City. Mr. Boyle agreed that “we have to do something, but the devil is in the details.” He also wanted to find out the locations of the modular units.

(4:51:10) – Richard Nagel introduced himself as a “refugee from California” and stated that 90 percent of the homeless individuals “are not nice people,” citing his experiences in San Francisco. He recommended “a good, tough love attitude” in the community and preferred help through the private sector which would do a better job than the government.

(4:54:12) – Heather Coe explained that three years ago her friend had lost her brother to a homeless person and believed that the taxpayers would foot the bills to support the homeless who would continue to come to Carson City. She believed that drugs were an issue and stated that non-profits like FISH.

(4:57:22) – Spirit of Hope Founder and Executive Director Ellen Jackson introduced herself and gave background on the organization which currently houses around 50 individuals. Ms. Jackson highlighted the organizations that she works with to provide services to her clients who range between 18 and 96 years of age. She encouraged the Board to support the homeless in Carson City.

(5:00:28) – Ms. Trushenski questioned why cities such as San Francisco have a homeless problem and attributed the problem to free needles, money, and handouts. She recommended not making shelters available to those with drug addictions and recommended having nonprofits that specialize in addictions and other social issues. She believed hard work, education, and spirituality are key to combat addiction.

(5:04:06) – Marinka Willig introduced herself as a former resident of the Santa Cruz mountains and had witnessed the growth of the homeless population because of the availability of free services. She noted that many have chosen to take advantage of what they are given for free. She recommended using existing vacant buildings to house the homeless and have them help build their living space. Ms. Willig recommended using the funds for COVID issues and was concerned that the money would run out.

CARSON CITY BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes of the August 18, 2022 Meeting
Page 6

DRAFT

(5:07:21) – Harry Koch introduced himself as a Carson City resident for 47 years prior to which he had lived on the Las Vegas Strip. Mr. Koch, the owner of Bonanza Plumbing, noted that he had contributed to the community and believed that the homelessness problem would not go away. He believed that some of the homeless have chosen not to follow their families’ rules and “live the way they want to.” Mr. Koch offered to donate his time and funds to turn the Children’s Home into a living space for the homeless, should the State donate it. He also was against providing pods for housing.

(5:11:01) – Robyn Jones introduced herself as a Cal Ranch employee and agreed with many of the issues presented to the Board regarding the homeless population. She believed that some of the discussions to help the homeless would instead enable them.

(5:11:50) – Ms. Stephens believed that there were more than 69 homeless persons in Carson City. She stated that she had been the federal grant coordinator for homeless children for 12 years in the State’s Department of Education. Ms. Stephens explained that the numbers tend to increase year-over-year and encouraged the Board and Staff to think about how many homeless can Carson City care for.

(5:13:56) – Jim Peckham, Executive Director of Friends In Services Helping (FISH) clarified that the new construction by FISH on North Carson Street was not a homeless shelter but student housing for those wishing to receive technical degrees at Western Nevada College to start a new life. Mr. Peckham also stated that almost all funding for FISH comes from non-government entities and highlighted the need to address mental illness issues and have facilities. He believed that “somehow across the country we’re making it very easy for people not to go to work.”

(5:17:09) – Carol Toohey introduced herself as a Carson Street business owner and had noticed people lingering on the streets prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. She believed that providing free services and housing would attract more of them and they would become a burden.

(5:19:08) – Dee Dee Foremaster, Executive Director of the Rural Center for Independent Living (RCIL) and Do Drop In, explained that they provide services for persons with disabilities, veterans, and “people on the street.” She cited the example of an employee who had been living in her car after the passing of her husband. She stated that many circumstances cause homelessness and stated that they need more services “to prop someone up until they can walk on their own.”

(5:22:31) – Mr. French thanked Chairperson Lyons and the Carson City Sheriff’s Office. He also offered to become “an outreach person” as he becomes acquainted with many people on his walks. Ms. Ostrander encouraged everyone to stay in touch with the providers who apply for funding, to incorporate some of their ideas. She stated that the “point in time count” is required for receiving Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding and it occurs in every community on the same day. She also believed that housing followed by sobriety was key because addiction could not be treated when living on the streets. She clarified that HUD grants come with restrictions, adding that they work with landlords to prevent evictions by using grant funds. Ms. Ostrander also noted that they are limited to paying fair market rents which are nonexistent at this time. Ms. Aaker clarified that they are working closely with other counties; however, they did not collaborate on the plan. She also confirmed for Chairperson Lyons that Carson City had experienced an increase in its homeless population after “Reno cleaned up the River and people did

CARSON CITY BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes of the August18, 2022 Meeting
Page 7

DRAFT

not wish to go to the shelters.” Member White noted that many Caldor Fire evacuees had also not returned and had remained in Carson City. Member Bagwell responded to the question of time limits in group homes and noted that each case was different and thanked the many benevolent landlords who had accepted the fair market rent vouchers. Vice Chair Giomi reiterated his request to “not let the adjoining counties off the hook” when it comes to their participation. Member White encouraged the public to take part in a “ride along” with the Sheriff’s Office and Alternative Sentencing to witness hope. He explained that he was “not willing to obligate north of a million dollars for something we can’t pin down with policies and a specific direction” and encouraged to have a more solid plan and not just an idea. He also opposed using the Indigent Accident Fund for this plan.

(5:45:08) – Member Jones did not believe that the Board had enough information to make a decision at this time and recommended to “do some more studying.” Member Bagwell explained that the objective was “to understand what the vendors, the non-profit [organizations], and the public can bring back together for an overall option to meet this plan with some ARPA dollars that are available...if we never start, we’re never going to move.” Vice Chair Giomi suggested recommending the concept to the Board of Supervisors.

(5:51:36) – Vice Chair Giomi moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to proceed with the project broadly based on this discussion. The motion was seconded by Member Schuette.

RESULT:	APPROVED (6-1-0)
MOVER:	Vice Chair Giomi
SECONDER:	Member Schuette
AYES:	Members Bagwell, Furlong, Giomi, Jones, Schuette, and Chair Lyons
NAYS:	White
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	None

23. PUBLIC COMMENT

(5:52:07) – Chairperson Lyons entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

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

(5:52:27) – Chairperson Lyons thanked Ms. Ostrander and adjourned the Board of Health meeting at 5:52 p.m.

CARSON CITY BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes of the August 18, 2022 Meeting
Page 8

DRAFT

The Minutes of the August 18, 2021 Carson City Board of Health meeting are so approved on this 15th day of December, 2022.

DR. COLLEEN LYONS, Chair

ATTEST:

AUBREY ROWLATT, Clerk – Recorder