



Steve Sisolak  
Governor

John Packham, PhD  
Chairman

Sara Chalhagian  
Executive Director

## Patient Protection Commission

Office of the Governor, State of Nevada

555 E. Washington Ave., Suite 5600

Las Vegas, NV 89103

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### SUMMARY MINUTES

June 9, 2020

Pursuant to Governor Steve Sisolak's Emergency Directive 006 as amended and extended by Emergency Directive 021, there will be no physical location for this meeting. The meeting can be listened to or viewed live over the internet. The agenda, minutes, meeting materials, and audio or video recording of the meeting are available on the Commission's meeting page or by request.

#### **Agenda Item I - Call to Order**

Chairman Packham called the regular meeting to order at 10:00AM. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

#### **Commission Members Present:**

Dr. John Packham, Chair  
Dr. Howard Baron  
Theresa Bohannon  
Bobbette Bond  
Jessica Flood  
Flo Kahn  
Dr. Ikram Khan  
Yarleny Roa Dugan  
Shaun Schoener  
W. Mason Van Houweling

#### **Nonvoting Commission Members Present:**

Insurance Commissioner Barbara Richardson, Nevada Division of Insurance (Department of Business and Industry)  
Jamie Sawyer, Silver State Health Insurance Exchange  
Director Richard Whitley, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

#### **Commission Staff Present:**

Sara Chalhagian, Executive Director  
Gregory D. Ott, Chief Deputy Attorney General

#### **Absent:**

Voting Commission Member, Dr. Anthony Slonim (excused)

#### **Agenda Item II - Public Comment**

Vivian Leal wanted to let the Commission know that due to COVID-19, those that are immunocompromised will need some current concessions to continue as emergency measures expire. She does not want these citizens to lose benefits or be forgotten as the larger population is addressed.

Amy Shogren, Director of Communications Nevada Hospital Association stated Nevada hospitals responded to COVID-10 without hesitation. She is eager to hear updates and presentations of this Commission

Dr. Joel Bentz, Board Certified Pathologist, Laboratory Medicine Consultants requested Commission to include evaluation of insurance network adequacy. Emailed full statement for the record.



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Bill Welch, Nevada Hospital Association wanted to let the Commission know he is available to work with them to achieve the five items of focus the Governor's letter of May 19, 2020 outlines. Would like to make a presentation to Commission of hospital response systems to COVID-19.

### **Agenda Item III - Opening Remarks**

#### **Chair Packham**

Reminded the Commissioners of the new focus and redirection of the PPC per the Governor's May 19, 2020 letter.

### **Agenda Item IV - Approval of the March 2, 2020 minutes**

Chairman Packham presented the Commission with a draft of the summary minutes of the March 2, 2020 meeting.

**MOTION** was made to approve minutes of the March 2, 2020, meeting as presented by Commissioner Khan. Commissioner Baron Seconded. Carried without dissent.

### **Agenda Item V - Update Concerning the Status of COVID-19 in Nevada**

Caleb Cage, COVID-19 Response Director, State of Nevada stated he was eager to work with the Commission on the 5 points of focus in the Governor's May 19, 2020 letter and on upcoming legislation.

Kyra Morgan, Chief Biostatistician, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) gave a slide presentation which included updated statistics on current status of COVID-19 in Nevada, the National COVID-19 Tracker gave Nevada an A+, increased testing is ongoing in state run prison system as well as nursing facilities and comparing Nevada to similar states, we are doing well with our response. Mentioned they're working on the effects of COVID-19 on Mental Health issues to be included in data. Data she provided does not include antibody testing as we do not currently have the resources yet. Dr. Ihsan Azzam, Nevada Chief Medical Officer, Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health added that the CDC has not authorized a test specifically for antibody testing. No evidence exists if a person has antibodies that it equals immunity. Antibody testing only proves a person had the infection. Still under research and academic domain.

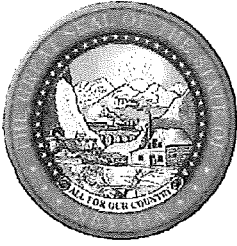
Lisa Sherych, Administrator, DPBH, DHHS, present for questions only. No questions asked.

Julia Peek, M.H.A., C.P.M., Deputy Administrator, DPBH, DHHS discussed work being done with contact tracing of Nevada residents and mentioned COVID-19 has shown us the cracks in the Public Health System. She told Commission there are processes in place for people coming into Nevada from other states. Nevada is also accessing citizen-based apps that collect info on where people were and can help identify contacts.

Suzanne Bierman, J.D., M.P.H., Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) DHHS, present for questions only. No questions asked.

### **Agenda Item VI - Update on Collaboration and Coordination between the Commission and Other State Entities**

Director Chalhagian gave a quick update on this standing agenda item and indicated she has opened the lines of communication and is collaborating with state entities to reset priorities and avoid duplication of efforts. Some include but are not limited to; COVID-19 Response and Relief Task Force, Legislative Committee on Health Care, Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning the Cost of Prescription Drugs, Commission on Behavioral Health and Director Whitley's experts at DHHS. Goals are to establish priorities of the Governor's letter. Reminding



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all, our goals are the same which is to enhance the quality of health care for every Nevadan.

### **Agenda Item VII - Discussion of Commission Priorities and Development of a Work Plan**

Chair Packham opened the discussion and indicated that access and affordability remain at the top of priorities, former priorities won't go away. BDR deadlines are in less than 90 days. It is the Chair's preference to work as a full commission and to put the pause button on sub-committees. Would like everyone to commit to meeting every other Monday beginning on June 22, 2020 through the summer. Focus should be on the 5 priorities in the Governor's letter. Commissioner comments included but were not limited to network adequacy, mental health and behavioral health services, opportunities and challenges of improving and sustaining testing, tracing, and treatment capacity. Also, the Commission suggested a couple of standing agenda items for the next few meetings including a discussion of a formal work plan and a list of recommendations for potential bill draft requests. No action taken.

### **Agenda Item VIII - Discussion of Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates**

Work on BDR's must begin now and standing agenda items should begin with the 5 points of focus in Governor's letter. Other comments included but were not limited to tech resources in rural areas, telehealth access and network adequacy, reminder anything we do should be patient centered, most at risk populations (Hispanic, African American) are also the most exposed to COVID-19 due to occupational threats (culinary, casino employees) and cannot afford to stay home from work, health and safety of reopening schools were some topics that were mentioned.

**MOTION** was made to put the six meeting dates on the calendar of June 22, July 6, July 20, August 3, August 17 and August 31 by Commissioner Khan and was seconded by Commissioner Baron. Vote was unanimous, in favor.

### **Agenda Item IX - Public Comment**

Vivian Leal indicated telehealth services have helped keep people on track with medications and visits. Need to retain this benefit even after pandemic for long term cost reductions and health of state.

### **Agenda Item X - Adjournment**

Adjournment at 12:29pm

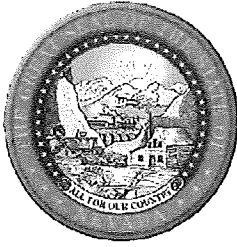
Respectfully submitted,

  
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Leslie Mayville  
Office of the Patient Protection Commission

APPROVED BY:

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Dr. John Packham, Chair

Date: 6/29/20



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### Meeting Materials

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER	DESCRIPTION
II.	Dr. Joel Bentz, Board Certified Pathologist, Laboratory Medicine Consultants.	Public Comment. Written Testimony.
V.	Kyra Morgan, Chief Biostatistician, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)	Update Concerning the Status of COVID-19 in Nevada