

## **NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)**

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 25, 2022, 9:30am

CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – Pueblo Room

500 S. Grand Central Pkwy.

Las Vegas, NV 89155

### **ADOPTED MINUTES**

**Attendance:** President Lucey, President Elect Higbee, Vice President Giomi, Past President Kirkpatrick, Clark County Commissioner Gibson, Elko County Commissioner Steninger, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Eureka County Commissioner Goicoechea, Lincoln County Commissioner Lister, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Mineral County Commissioner Hall, Nye County Commissioner Strickland, Pershing County Commissioner Shank, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Hartung, White Pine County Commissioner Carson, NACO Fiscal Officer Kalt and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Taylor Allison and Amanda Evans)

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** None was given.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by President Elect Higbee with second by Past President Kirkpatrick.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Lucey informed the Board that he and President Elect Higbee participated in a forum on Rural infrastructure needs and how those needs affect children and mental health. The forum was conducted by the Nevada Ethics Commission and included educators from across the state as well as staff from the Washington Delegation. President Lucey congratulated President Elect Higbee on his presentation outlining the challenges faced by families in remote areas that don't have access to broadband and how that affected remote learning during the pandemic lock downs. He concluded his remarks by acknowledging Past President Kirkpatrick's recent birthday and thanking Clark County for hosting the meeting.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson welcomed and introduced Taylor Allison to the Board, reminding them that she was brought on staff as the Public Health Coordinator through the subgrant accepted by the Board from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services. Taylor thanked the Board for the opportunity and stated that she is looking forward to the project and meeting the Board in person. Vinson concluded his remarks by following up on a question from Commissioner Lister at the February meeting regarding the financial statements. Fiscal Officer Kalt explained that the discrepancy was due to a required journal entry to ensure that funds received from the Small Business Grant Program facilitated by NACO in 2020 were allocated within the proper year.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the February 25, 2022, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved on a motion by Vice President Giomi with second by Commissioner Lister.

6. **Presentation and Discussion regarding Local Needs Assessments for Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Dollars Received Under the One Nevada Agreement, Including Possible State Coordination and the Fund for Resilient Nevada, Created by Senate Bill (SB) 390, Mark Krueger, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Nevada Attorney General's Office, Dr. Stephanie Woodard, Senior Advisor on Behavioral Health, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, and Dawn Yohey, Clinical Program Planner, Fund for Resilient Nevada, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services.** Vinson gave the Board an overview of the item, reminding them of the discussion held in February. Mr. Krueger thanked the Board and counties for their work on developing the agreement and providing the information necessary to determine the funding allocation formula. He directed the Board's attention to the allocation document included in the agenda materials and gave an overview of the status of litigation, the awards that have been approved and the costs that will be coming off the top of the awards when funding is received. Mr. Krueger noted the lessons learned from the tobacco settlement were important in the drafting of the agreement and ensured that the intent is to address immediate issues associated with the crisis at a programmatic level. He then discussed the states with legislation in place to address the requirements of the settlements and the use of the principals within a Johns Hopkins study when developing necessary criteria and concluded his remarks by giving a more thorough overview of the distribution formula. Dr. Woodard informed the Board that the language within SB390 was very intentional, allowing for cooperation between the State and counties to work on prevention measures, addressing impacts and allowing for more funding and flexibility for communities with identified disproportionate impacts. She then gave an overview of the fund use at the State level and the requirements for requesting funds from the State, outside of those funds directly allocated to the counties. Dr. Woodard informed the Board that the required needs assessment would be completed by the end of April and then the State's plan would be developed. She reiterated that local needs assessments would be required for counties to apply for State funds and that SB390 requires the State to support the development of those assessments and associated plans. Dr. Woodard gave the Board an overview of how the State will provide the required support, including data sharing. When discussing county responsibilities Dr. Woodard encouraged utilizing a regional approach where appropriate and the efficiency of a single point of contact for each county. The presentation was concluded with a discussion on reporting requirements and the desire and need to avoid duplicative efforts to best utilize the funds available. Past President Kirkpatrick inquired as to how the State would be supporting 'boots on the ground' efforts and it was clarified that the needs assessments are only required to apply for additional State dollars. Commissioner Gibson inquired as to if the State would be coordinating with the counties for non-profit grants to prevent duplication in the awarding of funds and efforts. The State assured the Board that they will be coordinating with the counties on that issue. Past President Kirkpatrick inquired as to Medicaid agreements and associated housing requirements, noting that obtaining housing is the longest process. She was assured that the Bill includes housing components. Commissioner Lister inquired as to the benefit of applying for State funds if they must be repaid out of the county allotments. It was noted that not knowing the timeline of fund receipt allows for the standing up of projects prior to the counties receiving their allotments and Mr. Krueger noted that the combining of funds will leverage project effectiveness. Vinson reminded the Board that there is county representation on some working groups and task forces and the needs assessments must be updated every three years. Past President Kirkpatrick and President Lucey noted prior issues with State partnerships and timelines and Past President Kirkpatrick inquired if the dollars in question were subject to the IFC and work programs. It was clarified that dollars set aside to develop the needs assessments are not subject to the IFC and the NOFO is indented to be released in July. Past President

Kirkpatrick concluded the item by requesting that there be regular meetings with the State and the counties that include agendas to ensure proper communications.

7. **Discussion and Possible Approval of “Navigating a Path Forward: A Roadmap for NACO’s Public Health Coordinator.”** Vinson gave the Board an overview of the grant requirements, including specific topics to be included in the work that Taylor is to complete, as well as her role in supporting the counties with identifying their public health needs. He referred the Board’s attention to the document included in the agenda packet and noted it is a tool for guiding future discussions.. Commissioner Lister inquired as to whom within the counties would be the point of contact, specifically noting Lincoln County’s lack of communication with their Public Health Nurse. Vinson noted that it is part of her role to have those conversations with the counties and facilitate additional communication when necessary. President Lucey asked if Taylor would be scheduling time with each county. Vinson referred to the laws governing health districts and informed the Board that those conversations are why the Roadmap was developed, to allow for the real work to begin. Taylor informed the Board that with the approval of the document, next steps would be interviews with each county to drive the necessary conversations for her to develop recommendations. The document was approved on a motion by Vice President Giomi with second by President Elect Higbee.
8. **Announcement and Rollout of Employee and Community Based Childcare Services in Nevada, Including Licensure Standards, and Increased Provider Programs.** Past President Kirkpatrick informed the Board that the item had been prompted by a conversation with Commissioner Hall about providing incentives to employees and support for those experiencing childcare issues. She then informed the Board that the State had received \$221 million a year ago and that she has been working with the State and school districts on how best to use those funds. Past President Kirkpatrick noted that many families that qualify for assistance don’t know that it is available. She then discussed capacity issues including workforce and location challenges, and announced that friends, family, and neighbors will be able to apply for licensure to allow them to be funded as well. It was announced that the Children’s Cabinet is a partner in the project and that dollars specific to supporting nutritional needs would roll out the following week. Past President Kirkpatrick concluded the item by informing the Board that an information flyer would be available as soon as it is approved by the state, encouraging conversation with local Boy’s and Girl’s clubs regarding facilities, reminding that ARPA dollars can be used for facilities and encouraging Zoom calls with local partners and those seeking assistance.
9. **Update on Planning Activities for NACO’s 2022 Annual Conference, hosted by Storey County.** Vinson reminded the Board of the dates and location of the Conference and Amanda informed them that room blocks were secured and gave a general overview of the planning efforts. She concluded the item by noting that sponsor registration is expected to be released in April and Early Bird attendee registration should open by the end of May or early June.
10. **Discussion, Update and Possible Approval of NACO Board Strategic Planning Session, Including Possible Dates and Format.** Vinson reminded the Board that the item had previously been discussed in January of 2020, but planning had been derailed by the pandemic. He also discussed the idea of inviting Associate Members noting that the time is right for revisiting the item with the upcoming Legislative Session. Vinson then reminded the Board that they had discussed hiring a facilitator and that by inviting an Associate Member to sponsor the Session that those costs could be neutral for the Association. He

informed the Board that he was looking for formal permission to begin the planning process. President Lucey stated that timing is important and with a new Executive Director, new staff, and new programs coming online that the timing is excellent. Staff was given permission to begin the planning process as discussed on a motion by Past President Kirkpatrick with second by Commissioner Lister.

**11. Review and Approval of Updates to the NACO Board Meeting Schedule for 2022.**

Vinson informed the Board that an error had been made on the approved calendar, noting that the October meeting had been scheduled on the date reserved for the observation of Nevada Day and suggested moving the meeting to the 21<sup>st</sup> and holding the Strategic Planning Session instead of a Board meeting. He clarified that his suggestion was based on the Annual Conference having just been held and that the October meeting is traditionally light on business as a result, as well as that is the time that he is planning the budget and goal drafting for the following year. Vinson also noted that it would give staff ample time for the planning process. Past President Kirkpatrick expressed concern with the date's proximity to the General Election and suggest the possibility of having the Session in conjunction with the Annual Conference. Vice President Giomi suggested having the Session in August and Commissioner Gibson noted that the counties will have completed their budget submissions and that hosting the Session in August would facilitate necessary discussions regarding the Legislative Session. President Lucey and Commissioner Gibson both noted that a facilitator will need to have staff participation regarding the mission and goals of the Association. Commissioner Lister stressed the need for in person participation and suggested a dinner being hosted the evening before. Past President Kirkpatrick suggested the cancelation of the October Board meeting; citing the proximity to the election, the recent Annual Conference and the proposed Strategic Planning Session having just been held. Vinson concurred with the suggestion and stated that staff would work with President Lucey and Past President Kirkpatrick on a final date for the Strategic Planning Session. The cancellation of the October Board of Directors meeting and Strategic Planning Session date were approved on a motion by Commissioner Lister with second by President Elect Higbee.

**12. Approval of a NACO Resolution in Support of National County Government Month.** The resolution was read into the record by President Lucey and approved on a motion by Past President Kirkpatrick with second by President Elect Higbee.

**13. Update on the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Program, Including Director Recruitment Process, Sheila Bray, Community Partnership, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.** Ms. Bray gave the Board an overview of the process the University had conducted and informed them that Zoom interviews would be held the following week. She then informed the Board that in-person interviews would be scheduled, portions of which Board members may be able to attend. Vinson reminded the Board of his participation on the Search Committee and informed them that the initial group of applicants was high in quality. He then informed the Board that additional information would be provided once the final list of candidates was determined.

**14. Update and Possible Action. Regarding Public Lands and Natural Resources Issues Affecting Counties Including:**

**a. Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.**

Vinson informed the Board that the meeting had been productive and announced the hiring of the Association's Public Lands and Natural Resources Manager. He then gave an overview of Jacob Brinkerhoff's experience and qualifications, noting that he will start on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Vinson then informed the Board that the Subcommittee had discussed the Joint Military Affairs Advisory Committee, America the Beautiful, the

30 by 30 proposal and the proposed UNR Policy Center. President Elect Higbee informed the Board that the Sage Grouse situation is currently static and that communications regarding the proposed military and NASA withdrawals had stalled. Commissioner Lister discussed the Governor's recent signing of a shared stewardship agreement regarding recreation and expressed concern over the lack of county involvement, noting that tourism impacts fall directly on the rural counties, specifically discussing road maintenance and emergency services. Commissioner Carson informed the Board that the Legislature's Joint Public Lands Committee would be meeting in Ely on April 15<sup>th</sup> and there would be several county presentations and NACO would be in attendance. No actions were taken.

15. **NACO Legislative Committee Update.** Jennifer announced that the Committee had meet on the 18<sup>th</sup> and discussed ideas for BDR's, noting that the Committee's recommendations would be brought to the Board for discussion and approval in August since they must be submitted on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Vinson reminded the Board that proposals will be discussed at the Committee and encouraged members of the Board to reach out to staff with any ideas for proposed legislation.
16. **NACO Committee of the Emeritus Update.** Vinson gave the Board an overview of the upcoming workshop on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to be held April 8<sup>th</sup> and encouraged anyone who wished to register their attendance to contact Amanda. Commissioner Strickland inquired as to where the in-person attendance option was located, and it was clarified that would be at the NACO office in Carson City.
17. **Updates from Members on the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties.** Past President Kirkpatrick informed the Board that NACo is working with Treasury on the second pots of money approved through the various recovery Bills in Washington and that any takebacks would come from the counties last. She reminded the Board that the rural counties can attribute all their ARPA funds to lost revenues and that the second tranche of infrastructure dollars direct to counties would hopefully be released on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Additional updates for the NACo Board of Directors and WIR Board will be given following the meetings to be held at the WIR Annual Conference in May. Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.
18. **Public Comment.** None was given.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.