



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council

Attendance	DATE	Friday, December 4, 2020
	TIME	2:00 p.m.
	METHOD	Teleconference Only
	RECORDER	Karen Hall
Voting Membership		
Name	Designated/Appointed Representative:	Attendance Status
Harriett Parker – Co-Chair	Las Vegas Paiute Tribe	X
Marla Stanton	Battle Mountain Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	Abs
Justin Bloom	Duck Valley Shoshone Paiute Tribe	X
Marian Perez	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	Abs
Alfreida Jake	Elko Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	X
Jill Ward	Ely Shoshone Tribe	X
Jackie Conway	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	X
Duane Masters Sr.	Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe	Abs
Don Pelt	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	X
David Hunkup	Reno Sparks Indian Colony	X
Tanya Reynolds	South Fork Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone	X
Sookaaki Charley	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	X
Tashina Jim	Walker River Paiute Tribe	X
Lisa Christensen	Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California	Abs
Non-Member Representatives/Support		
Name	Entity Represented:	Attendance Status
David Fogerson, Co-Chair	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security	X
Samantha Ladich	Nevada Office of the Attorney General	X
Karen Hall	Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security	X

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Co-Chair David Fogerson, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEM/HS), called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Karen Hall, DEM, and a quorum was established for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Co-Chair David Fogerson opened the period of public comment for discussion. There were none.

3. Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Fogerson called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the August 21, 2020 NTECC meeting.

Jill Ward, Ely Shoshone Tribe, requested her name of record be changed from Perez to Ward. Karen Hall made note of the change.

Harriett Parker, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, indicated that on page 1 of the minutes, her name is spelled incorrectly, and requested a change to the correct spelling.

Duane Masters Sr., Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, made a motion to accept the minutes as proposed. Dave Hunkup, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, and Jill Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Introduction of new Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security Administrator David Fogerson

Co-Chair Fogerson, Homeland Security Administrator for the Division of Emergency Management, introduced himself. He has worked in Nevada for 27 years and 31 years in the fire service before retiring out of Douglas County. His background is in fire, emergency management, and emergency medical services. His goal is stewardship, cooperation, and collaboration. He recognizes that emergency management needs to be delivered at a local level led by the state and supported by the federal government. He is looking forward to working with the committee. The members should feel free to call, email, or text Mr. Fogerson with any needs.

5. Update from Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN)

Deserea Quintana, ITCN and Clifford Banuelos, Tribal-State Environmental Liaison, ITCN, began the discussion. ITCN is currently being impacted by employees that have family members who have tested positive for COVID-19. Ms. Quintana has sent a memo to all staff and to the ITCN Executive Board to notify them they are implementing stricter guidelines for persons who will be allowed on any work sites, or their field offices in Las Vegas or Elko. They now require authorization for any essential personnel or those who have an immediate need to be on site, pushing for rapid testing of employees. Ms. Quintana hopes to hear a response shortly.

ITCN recently responded to the needs of those affected by the Walker Fire. They were able to coordinate an immediate fleet distribution with coordination with the Knights of Columbus and with the Red Cross, to people who were being housed at the Carson Valley Inn. They had two additional food distributions, one coordination to Big Pine, and another with the use of ITCN staff, the Walker River Paiute Tribal Chairperson, Amber Torres, that went directly to tribal members in Coleville. ITCN is open to assist for any short term or long term needs.

ITCN has continued their partnership with the Knights of Columbus, who have been dropping off food bags once or twice a week. These bags normally contain essential non-perishable items. ITCN has also been accepting other sample items like milk eggs, bread, and other pastry items. Most recent food drops included fruits, vegetables, cold salad, sandwiches, and

condiments.

ITCN recently coordinated a pickup with the Walker River Paiute Tribe, and they hope to work on a pickup calendar of ongoing distribution, and that it continued past December.

Ms. Quintana has made a request for additional PPE, including masks, gowns, shields, and cleaning supplies needed by tribal communities, who were more affected by the virus than previously. ITCN will be working with Crystal O'Ryan to work out a distribution plan.

Mr. Banuelos added that ITCN has a Centers of Disease Control (CDC) grant for around \$200,000 to support their COVID-19 work and wanted to ask NTECC to put it on their schedule for ICS 100, 200 training and Public Information Officer (PIO) training for staff. ITCN anticipates wildfires due to climate change and wishes the staff to understand the National Incident Management System (NIMS) process language and how everything functions. Through the CDC grant, they have a COVID coordinator who is handling logistical concerns.

Co-Chair Fogerson relayed information about his experience with the Walker fire. He drove past the fire with the OES Director for that county. The destruction, he said, was unfathomable, including that of the Tribal Health Center. This is something that could easily happen to the greater Nevada community. He said that Crystal Harjo, DEM, and ITCN really stepped up to help the community and wishes to thank them for it.

Co-Chair Fogerson called for any questions for ITCN. None were asked.

6. Update from Nevada Indian Council (NIC)

Stacey Montooth, Executive Director of the Nevada Indian Commission, provided the NTECC with an update on NIC activities to include support of the COVID-10 response and leadership of the COVID-19 Tribal Taskforce.

Ms. Montooth began by thanking the council and various organizations for their civic mindedness, empathy, and their critical roles in the response to the emergency.

For her report. Ms. Montooth emphasized that the NIC is the point agency for the Tribal Task force, which originally focused on food distribution. They have met the needs of the vast majority of the Tribal nations. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada had already established services in the majority of communities in Northern Nevada in addition to expanding the delivery and distribution to Tribal lands. That organization is now providing thousands of food boxes through the month of December on Fridays to Tribal nations who can pick those boxes up. This takes place at the Sparks warehouse near USA Parkway. Staff from the Nevada Indian Commission has had the opportunity to be on sites on more than one occasion and feel that it is working well. Ms. Montooth thanked Chris, their onsite contact. Ms. Montooth will keep the Council up to date on the extension of dates for their services.

Ms. Montooth mentioned the Tribal Nations Taskforce and wished to underscore that meetings are taking place every other Tuesday. The next meeting will be on the December 8th at 3:15 p.m. via conference call. They will discuss food and potential partners. Ms. Montooth encouraged the Council to join the call to discuss any special Tribal needs.

Ms. Montooth wanted to mention the Three Squares, who are working in Southern Nevada. They have partnerships with the Southern Paiute relatives as well as the Department of Agriculture (DOA). The DOA has continued their regular food deliveries to Tribal nations and the school system, even for students learning from home.

Ms. Montooth encouraged the Council to participate or send a proxy to Tribal Taskforce meetings. Six Tribal relations participated. Governor Sisolak has expressed concern that he does not know where the needs are and wishes that every Tribal nation participated in the jurisdiction call. This call will be at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Ms. Montooth then asked for questions about her update.

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM, updated the meeting for the jurisdictional call. The next one will be Tuesday, December 16th at 11:00 a.m., and takes place every two weeks.

David Hunkup suggested that Ms. Montooth send out another email to asking for the emergency managers, if they can't participate in these jurisdictional calls, to pass this on and send a proxy.

Ms. Montooth suggested that Bethany Spam, the Reno Sparks Indian Colony Public Information Officer, serve as a surrogate as she has done so before.

7. Overview of Behavioral Health Resources

Co-Chair Fogerson called for a discussion and overview of Behavioral Health Resources. Dr. Stephanie Woodard, Senior Advisor on Behavioral Health, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services of Division of Public Behavioral Health (DHHS), will provide this information.

Dr. Woodard assured the council that DHHS is working diligently to ensure availability of resources in response to COVID-19. In addition to the large number of hospitalizations, DHHS recognizes the secondary and tertiary impacts of COVID-19, including job loss, housing, instability, and food insecurity.

What they know from disaster behavioral health in general is that there is a somewhat predictable course that follows the onset of a disaster and the response. However, COVID-19 and other pandemics typically do not follow the usual aftermath of a disaster, where the disaster has a very clear beginning, middle and end. The pandemic is not following the same linear trajectory experienced in other disasters.

At nine months into the pandemic, we are starting to see coping strategies breaking down, so part of the response and recovery plan is focusing on wellbeing and prevention of behavioral health issues such as depression and anxiety. The plan also focuses on assistance and support in healthy coping techniques, supporting individuals, and building a resilience plan. Dr. Woodard stressed that early response is important to support struggling individuals, supplemented by strengthening existing behavioral health systems.

When the emergency declaration was accepted, the State was eligible to apply for FEMA and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant funds for a program called Crisis Training and Assistance Program. This has

allowed Nevada to bring in 39 resilience ambassadors, who are embedded in community agencies statewide, including crisis support services. The resilience ambassadors, since July, have had almost 35,000 encounters, and they are still in the process of ramping up for a second cohort.

In the last month, DHHS has launched the Nevada Resilience Project website. It is connected to Nevada 2-1-1, and the website is nevadaresilienceproject.com. The site contains information on the meaning of resilience in this context, a resilience toolkit, as well as behavioral health resources.

Dr. Woodard wished to make the council aware of some specific resources available, those being: a 24/7 crisis hotline through Crisis Support Services of Nevada, including texting capability, and the expansion of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) Children's Mobile Crisis Team, which is a team in Northern Nevada, Washoe County, that operates 24/7. There is also an expansion team in rural Nevada, along with a Mobile Crisis Team for adults.

In an effort to alleviate some of the burden on our emergency rooms in our urban centers, DHHS has also funded through grants funds Desert Parkway Hospital in southern Nevada and Reno Gabriel Healthcare Hospital up in Washoe County to provide not only 24/7 triage for individuals in behavioral health crisis, but also to fund inpatient stays. They have also certified Community Behavioral Health Centers, whose contact information is on the web page, and whose availability is statewide. There is one in Elko, two in Carson City, three in Park County, one in Washoe, and one in Silver Springs. These clinics are able to provide care regardless of pay.

Dr. Woodard underscored that the behavioral stress in the state has become universal, and so DHHS has been watching its level closely through the CDC household pulse survey. In the last measurement period, which was October 28 through November 9, Nevada ranks first in the number of adults endorsing symptoms consistent with depression, with 34% estimated to meet the criteria for depression. Nevada was ranked number 8 for anxiety with just under 40% of respondents endorsing symptoms consistent with anxiety. Overall, Nevada was ranked number two for 47% of respondents endorsing symptoms of depression or anxiety.

Dr. Woodard noted that it is important to recognize how prevalent these conditions are now, and to break down the stigma associated with them, encouraging people to talk about their experiences. The more resources DHHS can provide, the better off the State will be.

Co-Chair Fogerson called for questions of Dr. Woodard.

David Hunkup commented that it might be helpful to provide links that DHHS could send out from intake to provide to all information seekers for easy access rather than attempting to find the information through a search engine. Dr. Woodard thanked him for his feedback.

Chris Poehlmann, Tribe Liaison for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), requested to talk offline to get feedback for individual assistance to ensure it is working well, and to provide support where needed.

Dr. Woodard mentioned that anyone who wished to be in contact with a resilience ambassador could go to the website and fill out a brief form, after which DHHS can place the applicant with a resilience ambassador within 24 to 48 hours. Staff are in office Monday through Friday and have had 50 individuals reach out to them through the website. Each has been reached quickly. Dr. Woodward stressed that this form is not for crisis, and those in crisis should call the crisis services number on the page.

8. Update on Tribal Health Preparedness Efforts

Emily Gould, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Public Health Preparedness (PHP), provided the NTECC with an update on the DPBH Tribal Health Preparedness efforts to include updates on COVID-19 response support.

Regarding the BinaxNOW test, DPBH has not met their 50% mark to resume regular federal direct shipments. They are redistributing as many as possible. Those already approved for antigen testing will have to undergo a short quality control inspection with Health Care Quality and Compliance (HCQC) to be approved for the BinaxNOW testing.

Reports indicate that Elko has been 100% accurate when compared to a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). The best results with BinaxNOW are suggested to be on individuals with symptoms within seven days of symptom onset. They are also working on finishing touches to the latest crisis standards of care for COVID recommendation document, only awaiting official CDC updated quarantine guidance.

DPBH continues to provide support with the FFA desk. Ms. Gould encourages the Council to reach out and they will be happy to help however they can.

DPBH has been working closely with rural communities and the state immunization program. They are tentatively receiving the vaccine on December 14, and distribution could begin between the 15th and 16th. All tribes aside from Fallon have opted into the Indian Health Service (IHS) receiver program. If there are any tribal communities who are not near a Tribal clinic, they should let Ms. Gould know and DPBH will assist with coordination of distribution. She noted that it is not required to start with the indicated tiers, but a recommendation. It is up to each community to decide which members need the vaccines most.

Co-Chair Fogerson called for questions for Ms. Gould.

Crystal Harjo, DEM, elaborated on the information provided by Ms. Gould. The ongoing issue with the tribes is that they could not get information out of HIS on which Tribes exactly had submitted to IHS for direct recipient status and who was going through the state. She would like to follow up with them after today's vaccine meeting to know whether or not the tribal health centers need to report similar to counties and local jurisdictions. IHS released their own vaccine plan, which is available to NTECC.

Tribal health directors were concerned in regard to storage, dissemination, and rollout. They wanted to do a consortium of tribes to organize these. Ms. Harjo has not received any information after her invitation to join the taskforce.

IHS continues day-to-day deliverables with the Tribes. They recently had a training

workshop for emergency preparedness and public health preparedness.

Ms. Gould has additional questions and will follow up with Belinda to have them answered.

9. Nevada Public Bodies Updates

Co-Chair Fogerson opened the discussion on the Nevada Public Bodies updates. The following are the highlights from each update provided:

- a) Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee – Dave Hunkup, Reno Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC).

The NRAC met on Monday, November 30th. They discussed the reallocation of Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Funds. These have been sent to a fusion center in Southern Nevada, which does not affect the Tribes.

Regarding the Mitigation Grant Program update and funding, the NRAC received an overview from Janelle Woodward, DEM.

Dr. Woodard provided her overview of Behavioral Health Services.

The NRAC discussed the HSGP process.

There was a recommendation for the strategic capacity to be maintained for the fiscal year 2021, led by David Fogerson, DEM, and Deputy Chief Billy Samuels.

- b) Nevada Council on Homeland Security (NCHS) – Lisa Christensen, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

Lisa Christensen was not present on the call to provide this update.

- c) Nevada Commission of Homeland Security Committee on Finance (NCHS) – David Fogerson, DEM/HS.

A commission meeting is scheduled on December 17th, and the NCHS Finance Committee meeting will be taking place shortly before.

- d) Nevada State Emergency Response Council (SERC) – Lance Chantler, RSIC.

Lance Chantler was not present on the call to provide this update. Jon Bakkedahl of DEM provided the update.

SERC has focused on filling empty roles on the Council due to leaving members. Several new Commissioners have been introduced across the state.

There was a large discussion on the grant operation inside of SERC to look at increasing several of the grants that SERC offers in dollar value to make them more of an award to the sub-grantee. They hope to expand those grants from \$25,000 to \$35,000 to much larger awards.

SERC was stagnant for well over a year, and now in the last six months they are very active.

Federal partners attended this meeting.

- e) Nevada Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee (IMAC) – David Fogerson, DEM/HS.

IMAC normally meets only once a year, but they have changed to meeting twice a year. They are working on scheduling that meeting for IMAC in March and September of 2021. I

In Nevada, all local government is a member of Mutual Aid and Tribes have the option to opt into Mutual Aid. Four tribal nations have opted in. Co-Chair Fogerson invites other Tribes to opt in.

- f) Nevada Legislative Council on Wildfire Mitigation – Cliff Banuelos, ITCN

Cliff Banuelos, ITCN, took the place of Jackie Conway for this subitem. He has replaced Ms. Conway as the representative for ITCN.

ITCN is focusing on wildfire mitigation. Mr. Banuelos does not yet know when the next meeting will take place.

Karen Hall updated Mr. Banuelos' information.

10. Update from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX

Chris Poehlmann, FEMA Region IX Tribal Liaison, provided the NTECC with an update of FEMA Region IX activities at a regional and Nevada-specific level to include updates on the FEMA Region IX COVID-19 support.

FEMA training campuses are open again. Mostly, FEMA is training remotely. It will conduct tribal training next year March 20th to 27th and will be conducted on campus. The program will limit in-person attendance to 130 students due to COVID concerns, but other students will be able to addend virtually.

FEMA has 580 courses that are specific to Tribal interest.

Mr. Poehlmann is serving in his capacity with DHS on the Lady Justice Initiatives, which is for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Program. He has been working closely with the CDC in their Tribal Support Unit, which can send out a team for contact tracing, in addition to other services. At the moment, most of their assistance is virtual. They do not need to be tasked by FEMA to send services.

FEMA has been working with the Tribal Task Force specifically on COVID-19 and fire. They have also been implementing the Brick Program, which has \$600,000 set aside for Tribes.

FEMA is working directly with Tribes in California so that they can go directly to FEMA instead of through other bodies.

Co-Chair Fogerson called for questions for Mr. Poehlmann.

Cliff Banuelos asked whether FEMA could roll out fire training after the pandemic is over. Mr. Poehlmann said he would pass along this request to his supervisor.

David Hunkup commented that, at Reno-Sparks, they had a plan in place a number of years back, but it needed to be updated. They contracted with a consultant hired by Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County Emergency Manager, who contacted all department directors. They did a resolution for the Tribal council as an action item and got it approved. Over 18 departments contracted.

11. Interoperability Update

Melissa Friend, DEM, was not available for this update. It has been tabled until the next meeting.

12. Project, Grant, and Financial Report Updates from DEM

Crystal Harjo, DEM, provided the NTECC with updates.

Ms. Harjo is looking at the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) supplemental grants. They just finished that, got the funds finalized, and need to get the funds released for NTECC to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). There have been some challenges, namely COVID, and their response is coded differently, so they have not been able to draw down as many funds as they would like.

Regarding training, Ms. Harjo has been in contact with Katie Herr at Emergency Management Institute (EMI). She sent NTECC and DEM resources in terms of bringing the EMI travel curriculum to Nevada. Much of the training will be virtual. At the moment, they are trying to spend as much money as they can before the grants expire, so they do not encounter a loss of funding.

13. Tribal Updates

Co-Chair Fogerson opened the discussion on tribal updates.

- Elko Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone

Alfreida Jake had no updates at this time.

14. Update on State Response to COVID-19

Caleb Cage, State of Nevada COVID-19 Response Director, updated the council on the State's response efforts to COVID-19. Nevada is experiencing a surge in cases, over 2,500 in the last week or so. The Governor has implemented a pause in activities and

reopening, putting back in place a 25% capacity limit across the board, for the next three weeks, at which point he will reevaluate.

The State is working with school districts to reopen in-person schooling, placing vulnerable children in the back of the classroom.

Two major announcements: The Nevada National Guard has been extended in the State for another three and a half to four months, and there has been a rollout of the first shipment of vaccine to Nevada, which will be distributed over the next four to six months. COVID-19 Response is working with various partners throughout the State through the Division of Emergency Management in order to meet resource demands.

Co-Chair Fogerson called for questions on Item 14, and asked Mr. Cage to speak more on the immunizations that will be rolling out.

Mr. Cage stated that the two available vaccines are at present under review by the federal government and going through the final process. Nevada will be receiving its first shipment of 164,000 vaccines in the next two weeks, and the government anticipates another shipment in January. As this is a two-shot vaccine, there are 21 days between shots, so those vaccinated in December would need to wait for January to receive the second shot. The second group could begin in January. Indian Health Services is coordinating a vaccine to tribal governments in the state. Vaccines will be received to address tier one.

Co-Chair Fogerson stated that all the Tribes have opted into the Indian Health Services for the vaccine help from DEM or the state, and Mr. Cage confirmed that was also his understanding.

Stacy Montooth from the Nevada Indian Council asked for a confirmation that the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe is going through the state process.

Mr. Cage stated he would follow up with State Health to answer that question.

Co-Chair Fogerson suggested that Ms. Montooth ask that of Jackie Conway when she becomes available in the call.

Emily Gould with State Public Health confirmed that the Fallon Paiute Tribe will receive their vaccinations through the state.

Co-Chair Fogerson asked whether Ms. Gould knew if any other Tribes were receiving the vaccine through the state or the remaining tribes are all signed up with IHS.

Ms. Montooth believes all other Tribes have opted into this but stated that if there are no Tribal clinics nearby, State Public Health can coordinate with the county for Tribal members to receive vaccines.

David Hunkup asked about the December distribution for the vaccine, and what kind of person qualifies for the vaccine under tier one.

Mr. Cage stated he would send the vaccination distribution playbook to Mr. Hunkup at the end of the call. Tier one, he stated, is vulnerable populations and healthcare workers, essential employees, and front line workers. The playbook matches the

federal CDC guidelines and has been developed over the last few months. He will send the playbook after the meeting to ensure the council has access to it.

Co-Chair Fogerson stated that the councilors can make use of the joint information center for COVID-19 information, and thanked Mr. Cage for his help.

15. Update from Nevada Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)

Jill Hemenway, American Red Cross of Northern Nevada was not present to provide this update.

16. Public Comment

Co-Chair Fogerson opened up the discussion to public comment.

Don Pelt, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, asked whether Kevin is going to be in contact with the Biden transition team with regard to extending the COVID Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act past December 31st or going to pursue an additional CARES Act to help rural agencies continue. He suggested that we address that comment in an agenda item next month.

Mr. Pelt also commented that on Saturday the 5th of December, they will be doing drive-through COVID testing, which is available to anyone Tribal or non-Tribal at the Wadsworth Community Center on the corner of 8th Street and State Route 447 in Wadsworth, Nevada. This is being done in conjunction with the Nevada National Guard. It takes place from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or until all 200 tests are exhausted. He urged others to advertise this opportunity on their social media.

Chris Poehlmann reminded everyone that FEMA is having a listening session with all Tribes on December 8th. He sent out information to call in. It will be a virtual listening session from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time in a Zoom meeting.

Jon Bakkedahl, DEM, inquired whether Ms. Montooth had any information in regards to the Biden transition and the extension of any programs.

Ms. Montooth stated she has been in conversation with Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto's staff, and that is a topic on the agenda. It appears the federal government will extend the deadline for spending CARES. As soon as Ms. Montooth knows something, it will be sent to all tribal chairs.

Co-Chair Fogerson noted that the Governor's office and the federal delegation are working together on COVID concerns.

Co-Chair Fogerson called for additional public comments. Hearing none, he closed public comment. DEM will post Mr. Pelt's information regarding the COVID testing tomorrow.

Hearing no further questions, Co-Chair Fogerson closed public comment.

17. Adjourn

Co-Chair Fogerson called for a motion for adjournment. Don Pelt made a motion to adjourn. Duane Masters Sr. seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.