

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Eighty-First Session
February 11, 2021**

The Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair Edgar Flores at 9:01 a.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2021, Online. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Chair
Assemblywoman Selena Torres, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Natha C. Anderson
Assemblywoman Annie Black
Assemblywoman Venicia Considine
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman
Assemblywoman Bea Duran
Assemblyman John Ellison
Assemblywoman Susie Martinez
Assemblyman Andy Matthews
Assemblyman Richard McArthur
Assemblywoman Clara Thomas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jered McDonald, Committee Policy Analyst
Erin Sturdivant, Committee Counsel
Judith Bishop, Committee Manager
Zachary Khan, Committee Secretary
Cheryl Williams, Committee Assistant



OTHERS PRESENT:

Dagny Stapleton, Executive Director, Nevada Association of Counties
Bob Lucey, Chair, Board of Commissioners, Washoe County
Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager, Washoe County
Jamie Rodriguez, Government Affairs Manager, Office of the County Manager,
Washoe County
Nancy Paulson, City Manager, Carson City
Daniel Purdy, Private Citizen, [No location given.]

Chair Flores:

[Roll was called. Protocol was explained.] Members, our policy analyst pointed out and I think it is important that you all notice the transition. We are now moving into local government, and we will be hearing from our cities and counties over the next several days. We will be working with them very closely throughout the entire session. We have three presentations scheduled for today. We are going to take them in the order they appear on the agenda. The first will be by the Nevada Association of Counties, followed by Washoe County, and lastly Carson City.

Dagny Stapleton, Executive Director, Nevada Association of Counties:

We appreciate the opportunity to share information with you about the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO), about what we do as well as all of the things that Nevada's counties do [[Exhibit C](#)]. The Nevada Association of Counties is the statewide association for county government officials and staff for county commissioners. We are a nonpartisan organization and our members are all 17 of Nevada's county governments. The Nevada Association of Counties was formed in 1924, and we are proud of our almost 100 years of working to serve Nevada's counties, including representing them here at the Nevada Legislature. The Nevada Association of Counties is authorized, pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 244.120. Our board of directors is made up of at least one commissioner from each of Nevada's 17 counties. Our current NACO president is Clark County Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick. She followed Commissioner Jim French, who was NACO's 2020 president. Our president-elect is Commissioner Bob Lucey from Washoe County, who I believe you will be hearing from later this morning. And our vice president is Commissioner Varlin Higbee from Lincoln County. The NACO board also includes affiliate members representing the other county-elected offices, including county clerks, assessors, recorders, district attorneys, and sheriffs. The NACO board is a diverse group but works very well together, which is something we are very proud of. We think the reason for this is because, whether big or small, all counties are responsible for providing the same critical services to Nevadans. That includes a broad range of services that we are going to go through with you today. County-elected representatives really do have a lot in common.

I want to also mention NACO staff. Many of you have already met NACO's deputy director, Vinson Guthreau. You will see him frequently in this Committee sharing the county perspective with you on bills that affect counties. The Nevada Association of Counties also has a natural resources manager, Colby Prout, and our office manager, Amanda Evans, who

all do a great job for us. We are small, with a staff of only four, but we try to do our very best to accomplish a whole lot for our members with those limited resources.

This is our mission [page 4, [Exhibit C](#)], basically, to support counties and maximize efficiency in fostering trust in county government. We also serve as a forum for cooperation and coordination amongst Nevada's counties. The second part of this reads, "It is our belief that county government, being closest to the people, has the opportunity to make positive change and lead our communities into the future. We work to provide our counties with the resources to achieve this end."

The NACO board meets once a month and functions as a place where members can exchange information and work together on common issues and goals. Our board includes at least one county commissioner from each of Nevada's counties. We also provide education and resources for our members. We hold an annual conference where we provide workshops and panels on a number of issues important to counties. We also provide workshops and education throughout the year. Our website is also a good resource for our members as well as anyone else who is interested in Nevada's counties. We now have links to each of Nevada's counties' websites as well as publications related to counties, directory of members, and information about our meetings and our conference. We also provide advocacy on behalf of counties, both here during the legislative session and in the interim.

There are many state laws and policies that affect counties. In the 2019 Session, for example, we tracked almost half of the bills introduced as they affected county government in one way or another. That is why you will see us here in Government Affairs and around the virtual building along with the other county staff or lobbyists that are working at the Legislature and advocating for their counties. The Nevada Association of Counties also works on federal issues that affect counties through the National Association of Counties. Each of our counties in Nevada is also a member of that association. Finally, NACO also engages on a number of statutory and statewide committees on which we have representation. One important one is the Board of Trustees for the Fund for Hospital Care to Indigent Persons. Part of counties' responsibilities are to fund care for those defined as indigent, those that do not have the resources to pay for their own care. This board oversees county and other functions that assist with that. Some of the other statewide boards that we have membership on include the following: the Board of Indigent Defense Services, the Committee on Local Government Finance, the Commission on Nuclear Projects, the Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and I will stop there so as not to bore you. There is a lot that we do and of course a lot that affects counties.

We wanted to provide you with some general information about Nevada's counties [page 6]. Counties in Nevada range in population from more than two million in Clark County to just over a thousand in Esmeralda County, Nevada's smallest county. Nevada is one of the most urban states in the United States, urban being defined as the percentage of the population that lives in urban areas. In contrast, Nevada also has 6 of the largest 25 counties in the contiguous U.S. in terms of geography, including some very rural counties and some of the

most remote communities in the continental United States. Thirteen of Nevada's 17 counties contain more than 75 percent public lands, lands that are not in private ownership, but that are managed mostly by the federal government, on which counties provide services. Nevada has the most federal lands of any state in the United States. Key industries and employers in Nevada's counties include: hospitality and tourism, of course, mining, government, retail, construction, health care, agriculture, warehousing, and transportation. I know you have Washoe County and Carson City, which is a county as well, a consolidated municipality, and they will go into that with you. They will be following me, and they can provide more specific examples. And then you will be hearing from Clark County the week after next.

As an introduction, we created a video on this topic we wanted to share with you. It is specific, as so many things are these days, to the COVID-19 response and all that counties are doing. I am going to share that video with you now. [A video was shown, [Exhibit D](#).]

We hope you liked that video. Counties, as you can see from the video, provide all sorts of regional and municipal services to all Nevadans. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, counties have provided much of the local on-the-ground response, including, as you saw in the video, helping to stand up contact tracing and testing. Some counties have paid for tests or additional lab equipment. All counties have assisted in some capacity and are assisting in administering or coordinating testing. Also, this video was made prior to the release of the vaccine, and we wanted to note that counties are also playing a key role in vaccine distribution. Much of that role is the reliance on local emergency response for coordination and distribution. During every crisis or emergency, counties coordinate the local emergency response. They work with the state and, of course, cities and other local entities. But it is our regional county emergency response folks that coordinate a lot of what happens on the ground in our communities. It is our first responders who have helped distribute the vaccines, including helping with shots and standing up Point of Dispensing events (PODs). We will briefly get into who is responsible for public health in Nevada in just a little bit, because counties interface with that. It is also a very important partnership with the state, so we will touch on that as well in a minute.

As you can see from this map [page 8, [Exhibit C](#)], all of Nevada is divided into 17 counties. The services that counties provide are to every one of Nevada's residents and to each of your constituents as well. This is one of the reasons that counties have been such a critical part of the COVID-19 response. In addition to all that we are doing during COVID-19, counties also provide senior and home and human services, as we have mentioned. Libraries in most counties, important infrastructure like roads and water systems, local tax collection and document reporting, and also, for important parts of our local justice system, including justice courts, district attorneys, public defenders, and county jails, and our elections in Nevada are conducted by counties. In addition to regional services, counties also provide municipal services, such as planning and the regulation of development, business licensing, streets and other public infrastructure, parks and recreation, and counties provide those municipal services in areas that are outside of cities, areas we refer to as unincorporated county. Geographically, most of Nevada consists of unincorporated county areas, but there are some urban areas that are unincorporated as well, where the county provides regional as

well as municipal services. These areas actually include the Las Vegas Strip, some parts of urbanized Washoe County, Pahrump, and much of the Carson Valley and Douglas County, and of course Carson City, which is our state's only consolidated city-county. Nevada's counties are also responsible for providing many local services to the poor or indigent, including our human services. Because of this, Nevada's counties provide a lot of what we refer to as the social safety net.

Two key components of this are that counties are an important partner in our state's Medicaid program, and each county has a human services director who may be responsible for a number of county-funded programs, including senior services, indigent burials, indigent medical costs, child protective services, child developmental services, and assisting and coordinating other support programs to those most in need. Here is a more complete list of some of these services [page 9, [Exhibit C](#)]. As we mentioned, some airports in our state are county airports as well as county water and wastewater systems. Counties and county treasurers and assessors are responsible for property tax collection and calculation and distribution. County recorders record and manage all real property deeds and marriage records in every county, along with other important documents. Counties are responsible for planning and development as well as enforcement of the many local ordinances and codes that protect the health and safety and welfare of residents. Counties conduct our federal, state, and local elections and help the Secretary of State manage voter registration. It is counties that own and maintain our voting machines and run our polling locations and manage the staff and volunteers who help with our elections. Counties administer all district and justice courts. Those are the courts that handle all gross misdemeanors and felony cases as well as some misdemeanors in civil actions. Counties also fund and manage our district attorneys and public defenders, as well as county jails and detention centers. Finally, public safety is also a county function, including sheriffs' departments, fire and ambulance response, and 911 systems. An interesting statistic for you is that counties own or maintain 75 percent of all of Nevada's roads.

Just to go back briefly to public health, both Clark and Washoe Counties have health districts that are separate entities from their counties, though both of those counties do support those health districts in different ways. Washoe County, for example, is the primary funder of the Washoe County Health District and Carson City has a health authority within their county and through that they actually support three surrounding counties with some public health services, especially during COVID-19. For the remainder of the state, public health is provided by the State of Nevada through the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services through a partnership with the rural counties. The counties each have county health boards and provide payment through assessments for some of the state public health services provided to them.

Here is a map of some of the services that I just mentioned [page 10]. We put this together so you can get a better sense of who does what between the counties and the state. We know this text is a little small here, so we have provided each one of you with a copy of the document on the slide [[Exhibit E](#)]. In blue, you can see the services that are provided by the state and counties in partnership, and that may vary from county to county. In orange, our

state services, and in yellow, at the bottom of each column, are those provided or funded entirely by counties. Those on this list denoted with an asterisk are services the counties are mandated to provide.

There are two examples I wanted to point out on this map. The first is child protective services under the welfare box. Clark and Washoe Counties provide 100 percent of these services to keep the most vulnerable in their communities safe and protected, including the funding. In rural counties, the state provides that service but charges the counties back for the cost of that service, so counties are assessed that cost. Indigent defense is another example. That falls under the judicial box on this map. Nevada is one of the few states where counties have been mandated to take on almost 100 percent of the cost of public defenders.

I want to note quickly that I just got a note that you all did not see my video [[Exhibit D](#)]. I apologize that you could only hear the words. I want to let everyone know, that video is posted on NELIS. If you have not seen it yet, please take a look. We worked hard on it and it really acknowledges a lot of county employees and all of the things they do, which we are really proud of. I wanted to apologize that you all could not see that video, but you can access it on NELIS.

To county revenues [page 11, [Exhibit C](#)] and how our counties are able to provide these services, this slide provides the main revenue sources upon which counties depend. This is the important stuff; this is the money. The two most important funding streams for counties are consolidated taxes (CTX) and property taxes. Consolidated taxes include sales taxes as well as other revenues that are distributed through a formula to each county. For most of Nevada's counties, property tax is their primary source of revenue. That is a very important source of revenue as well. And for our rural counties, another important source of revenue is net proceeds of minerals, which come from mining taxes. Additional funding includes local fees for services and licenses. Finally, another important source of county revenue for Nevada's rural counties are payments in lieu of taxes (PILT). Nevada, as I mentioned, has a high concentration of federal land in almost all of our counties, and counties are required to provide important services on those public lands, including emergency response, roads, and services to those who use or spend time on our public lands. But unlike private property, taxes are not assessed on public lands and federal agencies do not pay taxes. In lieu of that, they provide some federal dollars to counties to provide those services, often not enough to cover what counties provide in services, but still an important source of revenue.

Here is a little more information on some of those key county revenue sources, including who sets the authority and limitations on those taxes. Nevada's counties, for the most part, do not have what we call "Home Rule." Instead, Nevada is a Dillon's Law state, meaning the counties can only perform those actions specifically allowed by you, the Legislature. Take property taxes, for example. It is the Legislature that tells counties how much we can impose and collect. Currently, counties are authorized to collect up to \$3.64 per \$100 of assessed valuation on property. Property tax bills cannot increase on residential property over 3 percent each year. You can also see the different sources here that go into CTX, which is

the largest revenue source for Carson City, and of course a critical revenue source for Clark County. Most importantly, CTX includes sales taxes, but also some cigarette and liquor taxes and real property transfer tax, which is collected when real property changes hands.

Briefly, what are our priorities as NACO on behalf of our members this session [page 13, [Exhibit C](#)]? We always request the counties be a part of the conversation on any policy change at the Legislature that you all may make that takes additional local dollars to implement and to discuss whether new funding sources are also provided along with any new service required. What we call an "unfunded mandate" is a mandate to provide a new or expanded service without new associated revenue to pay for those services or without the ability to raise more revenue. We also make the same request regarding tax abatement. There are many tax abatements created in state law that actually abate local sales, use, and property taxes that could impact county budgets and the counties' ability to provide critical services, so we always ask to be a part of the conversation on those policy areas and any potential policy changes.

A lot of this presentation so far has been about highlighting what counties do and the importance of county governance and services. It is also important for counties to maintain the ability they currently have to carry out those services that they are responsible for. County authority and policy changes and discussions related to that are also important to us. Counties always engage with the budget process here at the Legislature to watch budgeted assessments to counties from the state and other areas of interest, including health and human services, public safety, and Nevada's cooperative extension program, which is funded predominantly by counties.

We do have a handful of bills this session, well, not quite a handful, we have four [page 14]. Each session, the Nevada Association of Counties is authorized to submit five bill draft requests on behalf of counties. The four that our board requested that we move forward with this session include [Assembly Bill 1](#).

Currently, as all of you know, all new legislators are required to take new legislator training. [Assembly Bill 1](#) asks that information on how counties and cities operate be included in that training. Since you as the Legislature have so much of a say over what local governments do, this legislation would ensure that you are provided with training on the services counties provide as well as on county authority and county budgets.

Currently in Nevada law, a qualified individual cannot serve on more than one board whose members are appointed by the governor. In [Assembly Bill 2](#), we are proposing a change to that to remove that restriction, and we want to thank Chair Flores, as that bill will be heard on Monday. We have already spoken to a number of you about it and are looking forward to that hearing.

[Assembly Bill 33](#) would clarify the process to determine paternity. That bill is going to come through from the Assembly Judiciary Committee. [Assembly Bill 33](#) proposes to codify the procedure for determining paternity. In NRS Chapter 432B, this bill would take the existing

procedure and codify that, providing a clarification that would ensure that the law is applied consistently, and that children do not stay in the system longer than absolutely necessary; to be consistent on DNA testing, noticing, timing of hearings, things like that.

Finally, Senate Bill 10. As counties continue to struggle with the effects of the Great Recession on property tax revenue, we are now looking forward to another reduction, depending on what happens with the current economic fallout from COVID-19. This bill would make a very minor change to the formula for calculation on the caps on our property tax bills, which would provide more predictability and stability for local governments going forward.

We want to thank the Committee and you, Mr. Chair, for the opportunity today. This is a picture of our office [page 15, [Exhibit C](#)]. We are right up the street from you all on Minnesota Street and 4th Street. We welcome you to come say hi anytime, of course with a mask on. Finally, we have our contact information here—me and NACO's deputy director [page 16]. I would be happy to answer any questions or provide any additional information that the Committee might be interested in.

Chair Flores:

Thank you for your presentation. I appreciate so much of it highlighting the work of our great employees out there who are on the front lines, doing a lot of heavy lifting on behalf of the state. We have a series of questions coming from several members, and I am going to try and take them in the order that I saw them.

Assemblyman Ellison:

Several years ago, we got the Home Rule bill passed and finally put into place. We were supposed to be tracking to see how it is working out. Can you give me a quick summary of how that is working for you? We had a hard time getting that bill through and, to me, it was a good bill and very important to all of the counties. The other question that I have is a question on CTX.

Dagny Stapleton:

I want to briefly recognize Assemblyman Ellison's former life as a county commissioner, and during that time, his important role in our organization. Thank you for your service to local government. We did have a bill in the 2015 Session [Senate Bill 29 of the 78th Session] to allow counties to have additional limited authority. In Nevada, counties can only do what you all tell us to do in Nevada law. We only have the authority granted to us by the Legislature; we do not have what is known as Home Rule. The Legislature decided we needed a little bit of Home Rule, just to address specific administrative functions, so we did not have to come to you all of the time for tiny changes to statutes for things that we needed. That bill passed. It has been successful. It has been used a handful of times in the years after it passed. And, Assemblyman Ellison, there was a report that we submitted, I believe in the 2017 Interim, on that and I can provide that to you and the Committee. But we have used it successfully, it has been needed. We appreciate that it was put in place, and I can provide that report to you. I would be happy to answer a question about CTX, too, if you have one.

Assemblyman Ellison:

You know, several years ago, the CTX was frozen. Based on the revenues, now you are looking at Senate Bill 10 to provide additional stability for county property tax. I am hoping they can level it off instead of increasing it, because right now those hits have been massive to businesses. The CTX has been frozen, and I was hoping we could address it this session, but we did not get a bill in in time. Has there been any talk with the cities and the counties on the CTX that you know of?

Dagny Stapleton:

Both of those revenue sources are very important—the top two for all counties, the CTX and the property tax. We have not had any conversation about changes to CTX. What I do know is when that conversation happened, there were a lot of stakeholders and a lot of difficult conversations. It is a very complicated formula that determines how sales tax and some of those other taxes are distributed to local governments. To my knowledge, there has not been discussion on changing that. I think everybody seems to be okay with where it is at. Consolidated tax has been impacted profoundly, especially during the months last year when the economy was almost shut down totally and local sales taxes really took a hit during quarantine. But no, we are not interested this session in addressing any changes to CTX.

Assemblyman Ellison:

Marilyn Kirkpatrick did a great job on this in trying to help, but eventually we are going to have to go back and look at that again for some of the smaller counties.

Assemblyman Matthews:

One of the frustrations that is voiced to me a lot in Las Vegas, where I live, has to do with the flow of information and communication from the state level to local governments regarding COVID-19, and specifically the new mandates, new restrictions, and new steps that the state is taking in this current climate. I am wondering if you could speak to what kind of feedback you get from your members in terms of the efficiency of how information is getting to our counties, what role NACO plays in trying to facilitate that, and to what extent you have had some success in easing that flow of information. Could you also speak to where that information comes from, in terms of what state-level agencies? They are coming from the Office of the Governor, they are coming from the Department of Health and Human Services. Is the state sharing with your members at the county-level in an efficient way the statistical data that the state is collecting on COVID-19 and on the number of cases? I am really trying to get down to that efficiency of the flow of information between the state and the counties.

Dagny Stapleton:

The Nevada Association of Counties has been very involved with the COVID-19 response at the state and local level. One of our primary roles has been as a conduit for the information from the state to our members. It has been something that we have worked very hard on, to try and make sure that they have as much information as we have and we can get on what is going on at the state level. Earlier in COVID-19, we had regular emails and newsletters going out to our members with everything that we could find out, not only on the state level,

but from the National Association of Counties, what was happening at the national level. That is one of the primary roles of NACO, to try and be that conduit and make sure all of our folks have the information they need, especially because of the level of work and involvement they have locally for COVID-19. Primarily, we communicate with the Governor's Office and Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services. Some of the folks in the Division of Public and Behavioral Health have been really excellent to work with and very accessible, and we regularly push that information out to our members. There have been frustrations with getting information at all levels. I think everybody has experienced that, from what I understand, from the Governor's Office, from the feds and then on down. We have worked hard to try and ease those frustrations and stay in communication with the folks that we know have an understanding of what is going on and then to push that out to our members. We are a member of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force. They do provide statistical information on COVID-19, county by county, and that is pushed out every week and is on their website. We actually have been pretty vocal on how some of those metrics were created and ensuring that that information got out to counties. That task force was a pretty good conduit as well. And NACO, because we were represented on there, really worked hard to pull our members in and to support them in those communications with the Governor's Office. The Nevada Association of Counties was also on the Governor's Local Empowerment Advisory Panel (LEAP), when that was active, trying to pull information out from our members on impacts in some of those directives and some direction on how those could be crafted. I hope that answers your question, Assemblyman.

Assemblyman Matthews:

It does, thank you. In terms of vaccine distribution, how has the Governor's Office worked with the counties to make sure that is happening? Is that going smoothly? Is there room for improvement? I was wondering if you could speak to that.

Dagny Stapleton:

Like anything, what I have heard the vaccination effort called is the largest logistical effort ever undertaken in our country. I think because of that, of course there are huge challenges logistically to get that set up. Early on, when the vaccine was first released, we did work closely with our members when there were frustrations about information coming down, and communication that is from the federal level and the state level down. I think everyone was working their hardest to do their best to get the vaccination efforts set up and to get those communications out. We did make sure, when and where there were frustrations from our members, that we connected them with the appropriate folks at the Division of Public and Behavioral Health who were working on this and they generally have been very accessible. There have been bumps and challenges, but they have been accessible, and we have been able to connect our county folks in with the right folks at the state. There have been frustrations. I want to speak again to how much counties are doing, especially in the vaccination distribution effort and the coordination of that, and we continue to work with the appropriate folks at the state to try to ensure that residents throughout the counties and the state have the information they need. Everybody is doing the best that they can.

Assemblywoman Brown-May:

My question is relevant to indigent care. My home is Clark County, so as you know we have a very robust resident camp in that area. As we talk about coming through the COVID-19 virus, we received a report from the Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination, and Management (Grants Office) just the other day talking about how we are working really hard to bring in funding in order to support that population. I am curious to know if you could tell us a little bit about how indigent care is being handled across the state for each of those counties and the potential increase in the number of homeless residents as a result of so much that has happened in the course of this last year.

Dagny Stapleton:

Indigent care is an important part of what all counties do and in general, as I mentioned, each county has a human services director, and they are responsible for a number of systems and resources to support their residents. I think what one of the human services folks described COVID-19, as things started to slow down during COVID-19, in terms of need because so many people were staying home, but then, of course, we see housing needs increase. And then, as COVID-19 comes to an end, there is a perfect storm of need as the economy has slowed down and people have accessed services less during COVID-19. I think we expect, across the state, for there to be a bump in need, and we are already seeing that. I know Clark County is going to present to this Committee the week after next; they have some really amazing folks and programs in their county social services department. I know they are going to go through some of that in more detail, so that is probably, in terms of some of those details that are put out to some of our individual members, specifically to Clark County, and I know that they are going to cover some of that in their presentation. I can ask for additional information in the meantime.

Assemblywoman Brown-May:

My one follow-up question is relative to federal funding opportunities and grants. In the partnership, I am wondering if you are working with the Nevada Grants Office in order to bring in additional federal funding to cover specifically this immediate population throughout the other 16 counties that perhaps I am not as familiar with.

Dagny Stapleton:

That is a complex question because there are so many federal funds that are accessed by our members that our members rely on, especially in the area of human services. One thing that we did do during COVID-19: a lot of federal funds came down to our members, and we worked diligently to provide our members with information on the array of different federal pots of funding—some new and some expanded—that came through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and other legislation. We had workshops, we pushed that information out to our members, and we made sure that they were aware of how to use their COVID-19 relief fund, their CARES dollars. We worked a lot on that during COVID-19. We do not really interface with the state Grants Office much. We do get notifications from them, but we do not interface with them a whole lot. That is as NACO. As to our individual counties, I cannot speak to that. I know there is a ton of work done on the local level with our members on an array of federal funds. I know that they often work

with our federal delegation and with those offices and the staff and our representatives to help them with a lot of those federal grants also.

Assemblywoman Torres:

I want to preface this question by saying that I understand that the counties have really had to step up to keep our communities safe and healthy during these unprecedented times, and I really do appreciate the work that our counties have been doing. Obviously as a resident of Clark County, I have seen the county really step up to the plate to ensure that our community has access to vaccines, food, and information. I am just wondering if you could speak to a little bit of the issues in equity for the vaccine distribution, access to information throughout the counties, and what the counties have done to address those issues. I also recognize that this is something that we, as a legislative body, share responsibility in the equity of this rollout as well. If you could speak to that, I would really appreciate that.

Dagny Stapleton:

Thank you for the recognition for all that counties have done during COVID-19. Absolutely, that is a very good, important question about equity, and I know it is something that has come up recently—the importance of ensuring that outreach and access is equal amongst all communities. I think you are probably aware that it was from a state level on down how that plan worked in terms of vaccine distribution and the different lanes and that was implemented on the local level. That is a specific question that I can try to get an answer for you, probably specifically from the health districts in terms of actual outreach—what that looks like, fliers, communications, how they do that. I think that is a specific question for those folks, and I could try to seek out that information. You are not the first person who has asked, and we understand the importance of that. I know that they are working hard on that, but I know you are probably looking for specific details on how they are ensuring that that is happening. I can look into that for you. I know you are aware that the vaccine distribution is coming from the state plan, and then implementation is on the local level. In terms of who is prioritized, that has already been determined, but then how folks access that is carried out on a local level. Long-winded answer, but I can try to get more detailed information for you.

Assemblywoman Torres:

Just a closing comment, if there is any information about what we as a legislative body could be doing to ensure that there is equity in those different pockets for our communities' health, I would really appreciate that perspective as well so that local governments and the legislative body can continue to work together.

Assemblywoman Anderson:

I have two questions that are not really related. One of them has to do with Open Meeting Laws. I appreciate how you and the counties reacted to those Open Meeting Law changes during COVID-19. Were there some lessons learned that should be continued and/or some things that were really highlighted based upon those changes?

Dagny Stapleton:

I assume you are talking about the ability for counties to hold meetings remotely. That was very welcome, of course. Counties are subject to the Open Meeting Law, and it is very important that the public has access and is able to participate. Counties, of course, embraced that and really learned, as you all have done, to use Zoom and other platforms to ensure that the public has access. They have been successful. I think what counties saw at first was additional participation because there were new forms of access through the virtual platforms and then I think that tapered off again after that. Will counties continue to use platforms and call-in as an option for public participation in open meetings? I cannot speak for each of them individually. I do not know if that decision has been made once we come out of this. But I would think that yes, there have been things that have been learned and there might be interest in continuing some of the platforms. I would say our members have adapted and it has been successful and they were grateful to be able to do that virtually so that they could continue to be accessible and answer to the public through the Open Meeting Law.

Assemblywoman Anderson:

Thank you. I know that was a really general thing, but the reason I ask has more to do with the second question, which was, do you believe that the counties' technology needs can be met, because I know there is so much emphasis on the technology items and/or that emphasis that is being used on technology. Do you feel that counties are able to use that technology?

Dagny Stapleton:

That is a great question. As you all know, there were CARES dollars, federal dollars, that came into the state during COVID-19 that went down to the counties and that was a use that we saw. A lot of counties used some of those CARES dollars to be able to upgrade some of their technology to ensure that the public had access virtually to their meetings. That was a challenge, to upgrade some of that technology in some of our counties, and they were grateful to have those federal dollars to be able to do that. There was a recognition that there was a need there to be able to upgrade technology, in some instances, to be able to provide that access to the public. Broadband in our rural counties is definitely an issue. There has been a lot of work done on this on the federal level. We know some of you and others throughout the Legislature are trying to work on this issue as well. Access to broadband is always an issue, especially in our rural counties and even in our urban counties as well as different communities. Yes, the technology has been an issue, the federal dollars have been helpful, but there is work that will need to be continued on that front.

Chair Flores:

Members, as always, this is just the beginning of the conversation, and all the counties will be here presenting to us. So, if you have very direct, specific questions to a particular county, you have an opportunity to do that. Thank you, Ms. Stapleton. I know you have worked with us in the interim, and I know you are always very active in working with folks. I am going to go ahead and close out the presentation from NACO, and I would like to open up the presentation for Washoe County, please.

Bob Lucey, Chair, Board of Commissioners, Washoe County:

I am here to present to you today our presentation on Washoe County and a brief overview of what we have been doing since the last session. It is nice to see those of you who are returning and those friendly faces that are now here for your first session. Thank you for having us. This is our Washoe County overview [page 1, [Exhibit F](#)]. I am joined here today with Assistant County Manager Kate Thomas and our Legislative Director and Government Affairs Director Jamie Rodriguez, and we will be going through our presentation with you.

I want to talk to you about our commission [page 2]. We are a five-member commission. I serve as the chair; this is my second year as the chair. This year we have elected Vice Chair Vaughn Hartung, who represents District 4. Our new commissioner is Alexis Hill. She was elected in 2020 and took the office in January. Kitty Jung, District 3, is our longest-serving commissioner and will be finalizing her term in the next two years. Commissioner Herman is in her second term as a commissioner. Most of us on the commission have served for a period of time and are fairly experienced with this and try to continue to be up on all of our issues within our districts.

Our county leadership has changed in the last year since we came and presented to you last [page 3]. Over the last two years, we have hired a new county manager, Eric Brown, to represent the county. Mr. Brown comes from a background in private industry, but also is very experienced in government affairs and public affairs as well. A broad base of understanding, he has done a phenomenal job through the COVID-19 response, and we are very happy to have him on board. We also are represented by three assistant county managers that cover all 24 of our departments and oversee those 24 departments in each individual capacity—Assistant County Manager Christine Vuletich, Assistant County Manager Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro. Manager Kate Thomas will go over all of those departments later on in the slides. We also have our Assistant to the County Manager, Elizabeth Jourdin, our Communications Director, Nancy Leuenhagen, and our Security Administrator, Ben West.

For those of you who do not know much about Washoe County, Washoe County is the second most populated county in the state of Nevada. We consider ourselves the largest urban county in the northern part. We are just north of you in Carson City and when most of you legislators fly in, you are flying into the Reno-Tahoe Airport.

Washoe County was established in 1861 [page 4]. We were established as a county before we got statehood. We currently have a population of roughly 471,000 people based upon our last census. We have 2,400 full-time employees here at the county and 24 departments underneath all of those individuals. As you can see, the county is fairly large, 6,551 square miles. You can almost fit the state of Vermont in that. However, most of the population lives in the southern portion of our county, which is only represented by about 26 to 27 square miles. Most of our populace lives within that Truckee Meadows region, which is in the municipality of Reno and Sparks. Our total budget annually is about \$714 million and our manager will go through that.

Next, I want to introduce Assistant County Manager Thomas. She is going to take you through the next couple of slides in more detail about the county and our operations.

Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager, Washoe County:

As Chair Lucey mentioned, we are quite a large county. We have 6,500 square miles, and within our county we do have three incorporated cities you will see here [page 5, [Exhibit F](#)]. You are likely very familiar with us as the second most populous county in the state. We have the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and our jurisdiction which is shown here on a slide that shows how we drill in on that geographical area and who our neighbors are [page 6]. Within our jurisdiction we have governance structures that are outside just the county jurisdiction. With their own separate boards, we have the City of Reno, City of Sparks, you can see here several general improvement districts, separate fire protection districts, and in the gray box you will see here, the governing bodies that have members of our various constituencies represented. These are areas where, for example the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) has members from our organization that are placed onto these boards, just to give you a scale of what it is that we do as a county. Our local service responsibility includes servicing both residents that are in unincorporated Washoe County as well as servicing the entire region.

I am going to start with the things we do in unincorporated Washoe County for our residents that are specific to Washoe County [page 7]. Those are replicated in our various cities, things like business licensing that you are familiar with, road maintenance, snowplowing, and stormwater. Those are the types of things that we do specifically for Washoe County. But on a broader base, as Ms. Stapleton from NACO mentioned, we do services for all Washoe County residents on a broad scale, which is represented by the amount of property tax that we get [page 8]. You will see things such as animal control, we have a consolidated jail that services our entire region, we have the courts that we are responsible for funding—not the judges but the court functions themselves. We offer crime lab services; we do a lot for the indigent, as per some previous questions from some Committee members. We have the public administrator, we have the public guardian, we do a lot for the homeless folks, and we have a human services agency, which is well-represented and very capable in handling child protection, adult, and senior services.

Drilling a little bit in on the revenues that help us perform the services that you just heard about, our general fund [page 9] is our general operating budget for the county. It is not all funds, but it is the one that does not have any specific restraints around it from an accounting perspective. That general fund primarily receives its revenue from property taxes, as you can see here. Consolidated tax is the other big portion that may have some fines and forfeitures, charges for service, things of that nature that comprise the rest of that fund of revenue.

As far as what we spend that revenue on [page 10], mostly counties and cities spend a lot of it on people. People are at the heart of what we do to provide these services. Salaries and benefits make up 72 percent of the revenue that we spend, about \$355 million in the general fund. When you look at all of the funds in Washoe County [page 11], you will see that our general fund that we just covered is about 50 percent of that, our general operating funds.

But we do have special revenue funds. Those include things like the health fund, animal services, our enhanced 911 fund, child protective services, the indigent tax levy, and our road fund all of which are in the special revenue funds that you see there. The enterprise funds are funds like our building, golf, and utilities funds. Internal services are our health fund and our risk fund to take care of all of those employees that you saw that we host.

As you well know, over the past year we have received and allocated money out through the CARES federal program [page 12, [Exhibit F](#)]. Regionally we received almost \$90 million, \$86.1 million, and of that, Washoe County received \$20 million. Now that does not include, as we have noted here, the health district's direct allocation to help us directly combat COVID-19 and the testing and the tracing and so forth. But we did spend \$750,000 of our county allocation that was directed to the regional incident management team. As the pandemic came forward in our county, the county, who oversees emergency management, stepped forward as the lead entity to provide both the testing and the tracing, to do the emergency management, to declare the state of emergency along with our regional partners, and to start targeting and triaging issues like people that are now experiencing homelessness, things of that nature. We have banded together, and Washoe County pays the largest portion of that. As I mentioned, we were the lead entity, but we did collaborate as a region. I think that is important to note. We worked together and made sure that that \$86 million that we received was well spent and it went to the folks that needed it the most [page 13]. We managed, as a county, a balance expenditure of \$20.2 million in the CARES funding specific to Washoe County. And here [page 14] you will see the eligible categories for where we spent that money. I will not go into great detail, unless you want to cover that in questions, but you will see the breakout of how Washoe County provided the \$20 million out into our region, things like public health expenditures, which we talked about, personal protective equipment, our assistance to small businesses, and administrative expenses. We are finalizing the reporting and the reconciliation that is due to the state by March 1, but this is where we stand today before we submit that final reconciliation.

The last slide [page 15], before I turn it back over to Chair Lucey, talks a little bit about the COVID-19 outreach that the county led as part of the Regional Information Center (RIC) and our partnership with Reno and Sparks. We took the lead in the creation of the RIC, and that is where we banded together to present cohesive communication to our residents around COVID-19. The last thing we need in a pandemic is the county giving different information than the two cities, et cetera, so we really did a good job in coming together regionally to deliver clear information to our residents—on how to handle the pandemic, where you can get testing—and now, around the vaccination issues. We even did a regional recovery survey where we asked our residents, in preparation for the next emergency, things of the nature of how impacted have you been, do you have adequate access to food resources, so that we can better plan as a region on how to fill in any gaps that we have going forward. We launched our marketing campaign in fall of 2020. You will see in these pictures and often see us wearing our "Mask On, Move On" masks here. That was to promote the healthy protocols. We feel it has been very successful. We have shown that with our numbers that are starting to go down. Our total campaign impressions were nearly 30 million from this outreach. With lots of social engagement, a lot of outreach, one-on-one connections, information in

two languages, we really are proud of the efforts we did around the COVID-19 outreach. With that, I will turn it over to Chair Lucey to talk a little bit more specifically about something we are very proud of that we also stood up here in August.

Bob Lucey:

I want to thank Assistant County Manager Thomas for presenting the COVID-19 response. As she pointed out, one of the major things that we are very proud of here in Washoe County within the region that we worked on with our regional partners, Reno and Sparks, is the issue of homelessness, those individuals that are experiencing homelessness and those vulnerable populations within that. This would not have come to fruition without a wonderful partnership with the state. So many of you that participated in this process, we want to thank you as well. From Governor Sandoval to Governor Sisolak, both administrations, and the Legislature had a tremendous impact on this. This project was originally known as the Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) campus, or the state mental health facility, which we have conveniently renamed and rebranded to Our Place [page 16, [Exhibit F](#)] and it is unlocking a better tomorrow for those vulnerable populations. This area now shelters women, children, and families, and we separated some of the population to better service those individuals. I want to take you through a brief presentation on that facility. This is Our Place campus. The Our Place campus now is represented here on the screen [page 17]. Most of the individual places you can see are represented in the color blue. We have buildings 602 and 603 that house maternity and families, and 604 which is also maternity and families. I will go through statistics on those individuals. Our buildings 600 and 601 represented are completely housing all of our individual women. We have a modular dining facility, which we will hopefully make permanent in future months, and one of the major things, which you saw in the previous slide, is our early learning center. It is a tremendous outreach for these children. We have preschool learning, we have training, we have day care services for those women and families that are looking for jobs and employment. On campus we also still have TADS [Temporary Assistance for Displaced Seniors] that represents our seniors, we have our Hope First Cottages, and we have our Women's CrossRoads that has been a highly successful program here in Washoe County for the past few years.

I want to talk a little bit about the capacity here. Previously here within the region, we had no separation for ages 18-21 [page 18]. All of our individuals were joined into our homeless shelter at our Record Street center. Now at Our Place, the independent youth have 36 available beds for themselves. Women who previously only had 50 beds here in the region now have 105. Previously we were only able to have the capacity for 44 children in day care. Now at Our Place, 85 children can be provided with that kind of program daily. Our families and maternity went from 27 beds to 38 family bedrooms, so I want to point that out, family bedrooms. Most of our bedrooms at our facility are at least four beds in each bedroom, for these families. And through COVID-19 expansion, we saw a massive uptick in these individuals experiencing homelessness and we were able to repurpose another building on campus, which is building 8B, which allowed us to have eight additional families.

I will share with you some successes on this. Since we opened the facility in July of 2020, we have serviced 320 individuals total. Currently, we have 176 that are being housed at the facility. Through that facility, 93 percent of our residents at Our Place have been experiencing homelessness for a year or more. Out of that population, 64 percent of individuals are self-identified with a disability, either physical or developmental or having some sort of mental illness. Some of the success that we want to talk about is 40 percent of our residents currently are on track in the next three months to exit to successful transitional housing. We want to report that out of those 320 women that we have served, we have had 15 percent of those individuals have successful exits and are now in transitional housing. Programming is key, we have found, through this entire setup of Our Place, to make sure that these individuals and these families and women that are experiencing homelessness have the opportunity to continue to find successful employment and find successful living in housing. Some of those components are: we were able to give them the ability to bring pets to the facility, they get to stay twice as long at Our Place, helping them to get established, they are immediately assigned a caseworker that stays with them long after they leave our facility in Our Place. We have caseworkers that are on site and the guests have access to them 24 hours a day, at any time. We have a robust intake process and also, they have their own space and ability to lock up their own private possessions. They are also guarded 24/7 by private security within the gated community, so access to and from is very safe for these individuals. We want to make sure that as we continue to service and continue to elevate this program, we are looking to continue to make sure that these individuals have a safe place to go. It is through the cooperation of the state and our local regional partners here in these facilities that this has been able to grow. With that, we are looking forward to expanding it to bring more beds in the next coming months. We will hopefully come back to you with further updates on Our Place.

And with that, I want to bring Assistant County Manager Thomas back to talk about the other programs that we are doing for the process services for the men and some of the other individuals experiencing homelessness.

Kate Thomas:

Commissioner Lucey talked about the significant progress of the Our Place campus. There has been a model in our region for quite some time where the City of Reno was operating the emergency shelter process with the community assistance center in downtown Reno. What has happened through COVID-19 is we have learned that a landlocked, basically more constrained, location did not allow for proper social distancing. Through a series of movements, and in an attempt to get more physical space between the folks for more security and safety, there was a move to acquire what you see here [page 19] and has now been deemed the Nevada Cares campus. The City of Reno has taken the lead in securing the land through the pandemic and working on the shelter design and purchase and they are the current leads in the continuum of care, the CoC. What happened was, on November 18 we had a joint meeting of Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County where all of our policymakers got together. They approved a cost-share agreement for the acquisition and development of this land, which cost \$16.8 million. The cost-share agreement for operation was \$8.2 million of an annual shelter operating budget, which you will see in the next slide [page 20], which we

consider our interlocal agreement. There was a third-party purchase of what we call the Wells Cargo portion, right here it says the Reno Housing Authority [page 19, [Exhibit F](#)], we are looking to do transitional housing in that location. I want to point out that it is a 15-acre site. Right now, it is being facilitated by the City of Reno; however, there have been regional discussions about Washoe County moving more into the lead role on this campus. We do get the indigent tax, things of that nature, the successes we are seeing around the Our Place campus, so we are starting to transition as the lead. Currently, we are facilitating the safe camping location that you see noted on this graphic as the Common Area [page 19]. We needed to expand the level of services that we provide for folks that were not quite ready to go into shelter. We have seen some presentations on how it can be done correctly, and we think it might be an option for us. There was some discussion at the November meeting about doing a pilot program there. The 15-acre site has 10 acres for homeless services, 5 for future transitional housing, and that again is going to be the Reno Housing Authority, and the shelter site that you see there is a 46,000-square-foot shelter structure, what is called a "Sprung" structure, and it will have utilities and things like that. It is going to have four self-contained bathroom and shower units. It will be a fully functioning campus, which complements what we are doing at the Our Place campus. I will tell you this will largely be men, because the Our Place campus handles women and families, so this will be men, with the exception of the sanctioned camping location.

I mentioned the interlocal agreement for operations [page 20]. Over the years, we have had what is called a transitional governing board where the three entities oversee the operations of the shelter, but the cost split is such that Washoe County pays almost 70 percent of those costs, and we are the lead for the women and families now. We have also put in a \$15 million capital investment at Our Place campus, so we are moving into the role where Washoe County is a little bit more significant in the realm of homelessness. The City of Reno here, from our \$8.1 million budget, spends about \$1.8 million. They are currently coordinating those providers that we talked about and the City of Sparks has some skin in the game as well, with about \$650,000 that they contribute for our total in this fiscal year of \$8.1 million. We anticipate those costs to increase significantly with the introduction of the Nevada Cares campus and the growing need around this issue as you all are very aware. With that, I want to turn it over to our Legislative Relations Director, Jamie Rodriguez, to talk about, in addition to homelessness, some of our other legislative priorities.

**Jamie Rodriguez, Government Affairs Manager, Office of the County Manager,
Washoe County:**

I wanted to walk very quickly through the legislative priorities that the Washoe County Board of Commissioners approved for this session. The first is respect for governmental roles [page 21]. We appreciate that we all have a role to play to make sure that the residents of Nevada are well represented and their needs are met and working with each other to make sure that we are able to do that in the best possible way. Regional solutions to service provision, we believe that there are not very many issues that are really just one jurisdiction's place to address, and so we are going to be making sure that we are working together in coordination and collaboration to help address whatever services and regional needs may come up. The third priority is to recover our economic strength. Not news to anybody here,

this has been a difficult year and we are really hoping to look at supporting economic recovery and development to help us get back on our feet with the needs and funding that we need for our residents. The last is communication. This one is always important, this session maybe a little bit more as it is a little bit harder since we are not all in the building and able to see each other as regularly. We want to make sure that we are able to effectively represent Washoe County and our legislative goals with the legislative body.

I wanted to highlight what our Washoe County legislative team is and who those members are [page 22]. Again, I am the government affairs manager. We do have representation from some other offices, which include Jennifer Noble from the district attorney's office, Corey Solferino and Mary Sarah Kinner from the sheriff's office, Kendra Bertschy from the public defender's office, and Joelle Gutman Dodson from the Washoe County Health District. We do also contract with Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP, or whom you may know as Alfredo Alonso. Those are the individuals who represent Washoe County down at the Legislature. Before I turn it over for questions, I wanted to point out that we did not miss a slide, we do not have a bill to bring to you, so there is no Washoe County piece of legislation or bill draft request that was introduced. With that, Chair, I am happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have.

Chair Flores:

Thank you for the presentation. It is great seeing all of you, even if it is just virtually. With that, we will open up our first question with Assemblywoman Brown-May

Assemblywoman Brown-May:

I am curious to know about homelessness and the issues that are relevant to our indigent population throughout the state. I want to congratulate you on the development of the Our Place campus, all of the wonderful, robust services that it looks like you have developed. I do have some very specific questions relative to that, and I agree with the "Unlocking a Better Tomorrow" slogan, so congratulations on your efforts there. First, is there a waiting list for Our Place? If there is a waiting list, how are you tracking the folks that are in need of services? Second, do you have an average cost to serve somebody who is in that program and can you show the cost-benefit analysis? Are we saving the county money while funding this wonderful opportunity? Can you tell us about the caseload for each one of your case managers and how are they able to track long-term?

Bob Lucey:

Right now, there is currently no waiting list at Our Place for the women and children. Most of the families have been sheltered. However, we are working continuously with the City of Reno and the City of Sparks. As we identify more individuals, we will continue to service that. We have seen a cost-benefit evaluation. I want to point out the county invested \$14.5 million into this facility to stand up the facility. We also have a contract with our community partner, the Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality (RISE), which is our operations service. They have been running the facility for us. But the cost-benefit we are seeing is that these individuals are now truly being housed. We are not finding them adding services to our local hospitals and facilities. We have seen calls for service from the Reno

Police Department and Sparks Police Department decrease. We are working with a group called Built For Zero that is doing some data analysis. We are currently in the process of that, and we will continue to evaluate that on an ongoing basis. It is very difficult, in that we just opened the facility back in July, to have robust data for you at this outset. I am going to bring Assistant County Manager Thomas onto the screen, and she can answer some of the discussions regarding the caseworkers and the time line for that as well.

Kate Thomas:

The caseworker ratios at Our Place are significantly lower caseworker-to-client ratios than we are seeing in the men's shelter. We credit that to the success of this operation. To add on to what Chair Lucey said about the wait list, our provider, which is RISE, has been a great partner. In their contract we have built in the ability for them, if the shelter is full, to work with a couple of our local motel providers to get shelter for those individuals so we do not just say, "Sorry we are full, we do not have any other options for you." We have been working hard to make sure those folks are not unsheltered. That has been tough, word travels quickly. But it is not our priority method for having folks sheltered, as it is pretty isolating and does not have as direct an impact with case management. When rooms open, we move those folks into the Our Place campus where they are supported with services. The important thing to note is we, as we stand this up, are seeing what we call "churn." It is the people who are moving on to successful transitional housing situations, in which case we can bring in additional folks if we do get to the situation where we have a waiting list. The last piece of the continuum that we are working on at the Cares campus allows for that safe camping location. So we are hoping, with all of those pieces in the continuum of care, that we are going to get to a point, including our work with Built For Zero, to get to that functional zero point for homelessness.

Bob Lucey:

I want to add one last detail. I want to point out that currently the caseload through our caseworker ratio is 15:1. We are within our national standards of the caseload management numbers, so we continue to work on that. Entries and exits are happening to keep our wait list down. As we try to find these individuals that true transitional housing or permanent housing, we are transitioning those individuals out, which is actually helping us keep that wait list or our occupancy at a level that we can manage.

Assemblywoman Torres:

I have some specific questions about the vaccination rollout in Washoe County. I want to know what the county is doing to ensure that all the vaccines are used and how many have been lost due to mismanagement.

Kate Thomas:

That last number that I heard is as soon as we are offered vaccinations, we have a 90 percent rate of getting those shots into arms through our health district and the point of distribution, or the POD, that we have set up. We do not have a lot of loss. There have been situations we have heard all over the nation about the nature of how these vaccines have to be kept once they are taken out of cold storage. The timing that we have to get those into arms has

allowed for a couple of our staff that may not have been as high on the list to get those, not many. But we are very proud of our ability to follow the Governor's playbook and get those vaccinations to the folks that need it first on our front lines. We are ensuring that that is happening very equitably here. The last thing we want to do is be the subject of some sort of scandal where people are line jumping or something like that. We are very proud of the work we are doing with that high level of vaccination rate.

Assemblywoman Torres:

What steps has the county taken to ensure that we lose less of our vaccines?

Kate Thomas:

We can vaccinate 300 individuals an hour. The way that the health district set up our POD with the help of the National Guard and other community partners, we have very little waste. I cannot speak specifically to that, I am not overseeing that very function, but we can certainly get that information back for you. We know the coveted nature of this vaccine and how important it is to those that are both frontline workers or those that are 70 years old or older currently. It is something that we make a high priority. We experience very little waste.

Assemblyman Ellison:

I was looking at the size of the campus, it is amazing how large it is. With something like that, it blows my mind how big it is, and I am glad that you are addressing the family issues and keeping the families together. One of the questions I have for some of the campuses is, how do you control drug abuse? If they do bring in drugs, are they kicked out and not allowed to come back? How do you handle that with something of this size?

Kate Thomas:

There is a difference in what will occur at the Our Place campus versus what is happening at the Cares campus. The Cares campus is a no-barriers facility. There are some federal funds that are tied to that that afford that opportunity for folks to come to the campus under the influence, and there has been some usage previously, but the requirement is that that is a low-barrier facility. Our Place does not allow drug use on campus. What you do outside of the campus gates is really up to you. When you come on the campus you will be respectful. We have a child care facility that is important, and there are some rules around that. We are working through very different models, but a lot of that is tied to federal funding.

Assemblyman Ellison:

It is amazing. I was looking at one of the ones with the bathrooms and bedroom areas, it is really nice actually, really nice. Looking at something this size, is that through just revenues? A lot of it is federal funding and grants, but does that go through as a tax increase or is it just strictly through general fund money?

Kate Thomas:

For funding for the existing Cares campus that was purchased, there were some resources that both the two cities and the county came forward with. There were some CARES Act

expenses we were able to utilize that freed up some general funds that allowed that land acquisition of the 15 acres that you are talking about. The Our Place campus, however, has dedicated funding that came through the indigent fund that allowed us to utilize some of the fund balance and other issues that we had around the Child Protection Services Fund as well as the indigent fund. We were able to come up with that one-time capital investment of the \$15 million that our chair talked about through non-general fund use and through competitive bidding as well as utilization of those existing special revenue funds. Very little general fund was used for capital investment in that project. There was no tax increase for this.

Assemblyman Ellison:

I did not know you could do that through the indigent fund, I thought that was only medical, but that is a great idea. We are having a problem in our area and this might be something that I can take back to them and ask them to investigate. It is amazing, the size and how well maintained this thing is, so good job.

Assemblywoman Anderson:

I do have a few questions because there are just so many things going through my head, but I will just try to stick to two. The first is to verify when it comes to the social workers and everybody at Our Place, are they being funded from self-funding or is it grants or is it a variety of little areas? Where is that funding coming from for the staffing for Our Place?

Kate Thomas:

You are exactly right. There is a blend of funding sources that happen for the staffing of that. We are exploring continued grant opportunities, as was alluded to in the previous presentation. There are monies out there for staffing and other supportive services for this issue from federal and state levels. We only set this up in July/August, so we still have some growing pains, but right now the funding was allocated through the budget process. Again, we checked out that indigent fund—which I will highlight is a little different than the Fund for Hospital Care to Indigent Persons, which is something that NACO works on—our indigent fund is a portion of the tax rate that we get. It supports things like our public defense, we use it for homeless services and things of that nature. That is a pretty good revenue source for us around this. That combined with grants, combined with a little bit of general fund that is transferred in, helps us to round out that funding.

Assemblywoman Anderson:

My second question has to do with the budget itself. Clark County, as well as other areas of the state, is very well known for their big events that happen, some of the awesome festivals that happen in Clark County. I know that in Washoe County as well there are many incredible festivals or events that we have that have had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. What sort of impact does that have on your budget and more importantly on the staffing? Has that impacted any sort of Washoe County staffing elements?

Bob Lucey:

The convention space and large gatherings such as our signature events absolutely have been impacted by that. Now as it pertains to our budget, we have seen a decrease in visitation in

the area, which has led to challenges to CTX and some decrease to our budget. We have our budget team still going through that. I sat as the chair of the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA) for the last six years, and Mayor Schieve from the City of Reno is now the chair of that organization. This has had a tremendous impact on us here locally and to both of our municipalities within the region.

Assemblyman Anderson:

And when it comes to staffing, has there not been a change of any of your staff?

Bob Lucey:

No, we have not seen staffing changes due to this, but we have had impacts to the budget which we have had to adjust. All three entities have adjusted, including the RSCVA, but other than that, no we have not seen staff changes.

Assemblywoman Thomas:

I appreciate the presentation, that was wonderful, especially going to Our Place. I love the concept. My question is about wraparound services. We kind of touched on it, but I would like more detail. I would think that some of the dialogue that you would have would be about drug treatment and behavioral health care. There are a lot of issues and if you do not have wraparound services, how do you meet the care for women and children? I am assuming that when you say families, that this is just geared to women and children. I did not see anything that would indicate that you have men on this campus.

Bob Lucey:

I do want to talk to you about the wraparound services. When we developed Our Place, we developed that with programming in mind. That is our number one component at Our Place, to provide those wraparound services. So not only are all the individuals that are at Our Place provided with a caseworker and have caseworkers that are available to them at all times, we have a substance abuse counselor on site at all times. We also have domestic violence counselors on site at all times, and we have housing coordinators. We have those wraparound services at the facility itself to help with that. As we transition and stand up the safe campus, we will have those services available to those individuals at that facility as well.

Now, when you speak to the families and children, there are men on the Our Place campus that reside with their families in those specific buildings. The mothers, fathers, and children can all be housed together, and that is specifically overseen by RISE, our operator at Our Place, but then also overseen by our human services agency through Washoe County and Director Amber Howell and her staff. We also have a program that we have brought to this Committee before, but I want to continue to highlight, these are not our only two programs in Washoe County. Years ago, we had issues with serial inebriety in our community. We stood up a program called CrossRoads, for which we have received national attention. There is a women's CrossRoads and then we also have a men's CrossRoads, two different locations within the community. Those work for individuals that are experiencing substance abuse issues and alcohol abuse issues. They have caseworkers there. We have a Sober 24 program which is a potential alternative sentencing program for those individuals that are

experiencing challenges through alternative sentencing. They can test 24 hours a day, so that alleviates their problems with losing jobs, losing housing, losing whatever they may have, and allowing them to test and continue to move through and work on those issues as well. Through all these different programs, we do have those complete wraparound services for all those individuals that are looking for that type of service.

We invite any of the Assembly members and any members of this Committee or any members from the Legislature in its entirety to come please visit Our Place. We would love to give you a robust tour of Our Place and CrossRoads to show you that programming. Our U.S. Senator, Catherine Cortez Masto, visited Our Place last Friday. From what I was told, she enjoyed the tour very much and believes it should be a national model. I would like to show you those kinds of things. I know through Assistant County Manager Schiller and Chairwoman Kirkpatrick they are working on a very similar model in Clark County. We are going to try to replicate this through the state and continue to evolve this as we continue to grow.

Assemblywoman Thomas:

I appreciate that invitation, thank you so much. I would love to come out and tour the facility. How long do residents stay at the facility? Is it a six-month program or longer?

Bob Lucey:

Right now, it is about a six-month program. However, we do allow them to stay, if circumstances arise. Obviously with COVID-19 we are very flexible with those dates, we try to accommodate everybody we can, but we also make sure as we allow these residents to stay, that we are still working on that programming for them and truly finding them transitional housing.

Chair Flores:

Thank you again for the presentation. We look forward to working with you during this legislative cycle. We are going to close out the presentation from Washoe County and go into our final presentation by Carson City.

Nancy Paulson, City Manager, Carson City:

Just a little bit about Carson City: the Consolidated Municipality of Carson City was established in 1969 by consolidating Ormsby County and Carson City into one municipal government. I was not here back in 1969, I was alive, but was not here. I assume one of the main reasons was to avoid duplication of services due to the city's relatively small geographical area. At just 146 square miles, Carson City is the smallest of all counties in Nevada, as far as area. We had to put a little star on the map just so you could see where we are at [page 2, [Exhibit G](#)]. The city has a population of a little more than 56,000. The city's powers, because we are a consolidated municipality, are contained in the Carson City Charter, in addition to any powers that are granted to a city or a county through *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS). The city is governed by a five-member board of supervisors made up of the mayor and four supervisors that are elected at-large, but they must reside in the ward that they represent. We are the only consolidated municipality in Nevada and, in fact,

there are not very many across the United States. I think the closest one to us is San Francisco. It gets us out of the tug-of-war that can happen between cities and counties, but it also means that we have to perform all of the functions of both a city and a county.

Carson City is a council-manager form of government [page 3, [Exhibit G](#)] where the board is the policymaking arm and the city manager is an administrative and operational arm. The city manager is one of four positions that are appointed by the board, and I am the only one that reports directly to the board. I have the responsibility of appointing the deputy city manager and eight department directors, such as fire, health, parks, and public works. Running Carson City requires many roles to operate it, and this requires that we all work together to keep it on track. For the most part, Carson City runs like a well-oiled machine, I am happy to say. In addition to all of the departments, we also have five elected offices and the courts [page 4] that are run by elected officials, and that includes the sheriff, the district attorney, the assessor, treasurer, clerk-recorder, and the district and justice courts [page 4].

Some of the many functions that this city's larger departments perform I have listed on the next few slides [pages 5-9]. The community development department is responsible for managing the construction permitting process, issuing business licenses, city zoning, the subdivision land development process, and growth management. This picture [page 5] was taken at the groundbreaking ceremony for the South Carson Complete Streets project, and later on in the presentation, you will see the completed project. You probably have already seen it in person. We also have the fire department, and they are responsible for fire suppression, emergency management, and emergency medical services. This picture [page 6] was taken in front of the fire department's new ladder truck. We had been without a ladder truck since 2011, and we had to rely on mutual aid from our neighboring counties to be able to access roofs and second-story buildings. We saw a lot of this activity right before the session started.

Public works is one of our largest departments, and they have approximately 140 employees [page 7]. They oversee the sewer division and the water division. They also have the streets division, and the streets division is responsible for maintaining the city's streets, signs, pavement markings, and traffic signals. Probably one of the biggest challenges for Carson City and local governments across the country is the ability to maintain our streets with the limited amount of fuel tax revenue that we receive. Our annual budget to spend on roads is approximately \$4 million, with an estimated annual deficit of about \$15 million to be able to maintain our streets at a pretty good level. Thanks to Senate Bill 48 of the 80th Session, the city was able to levy a 5-cent diesel fuel tax. That only provides about \$400,000, but every little bit helps. However, we have seen a drop in fuel tax revenues due to the pandemic and the stay-at-home orders and more employees working from home. We do not have as many state workers coming into the city and filling up before they go home. Due to the shortage in fuel tax, the board elected to transfer \$400,000 from the general fund to be able to make up some of those losses. Public works also runs the transportation division that oversees the city's public transit system. You may have seen our Jump Around Carson (JAC) buses roaming around town. Lastly, public works manages the landfill, which contributes about \$2 million to our general fund annually.

Believe it or not, our health department provides other services to the public in addition to the COVID-19 response [page 8, [Exhibit G](#)]. These include adolescent health and tobacco programs and running our community health clinic. The disease prevention and control division oversees the inspections and permitting of food establishments, child care facilities, and hotels/motels. That division also oversees epidemiology. I am not sure if everyone knew about epidemiology, or could even pronounce it prior to COVID-19, but they have been front and center during this fight against COVID-19 and they play a vital role in the response. They provide the disease investigation, contact tracing, and all the reporting. Lastly, under health, we have human services, and that provides health, welfare, and community services that are required by NRS.

Next is Carson City parks and recreation and open space [page 9]. Carson City voters approved a ballot question back in November of 1996 that increased our sales tax by a quarter of 1 percent. That is restricted to be used only on the acquisition, development, and maintenance of parks, open space, trails, and recreational facilities. That tax raises approximately \$2.8 million annually and has allowed us to fund projects such as the aquatic facility and our multipurpose athletic center, or the MAC, and also the acquisition of open space that will preserve our mountains, conserve wildlife habitat, and protect our drinking water and allow outdoor enjoyment of these natural areas. So far, we have acquired over 21 properties, or almost 7,000 acres. If you did not realize the significant impact this initiative had on improving the quality of life in our community, it was made abundantly clear during the outbreak when we saw unprecedented usage of our parks and open space. We had to start policing our trails, because there are so many people. We had to make sure they were social distancing. This is a picture [page 9] of the Carson River trail that was completed in October 2020 and this is part of a network of trails that will connect residents to almost 5,000 acres of open space within the Carson River-Prison Hill area. So, get out and enjoy our open space.

Next, a little bit about our general fund revenues and the city's budget. This slide [page 10] shows the components of the general fund revenues from our fiscal year 2021 budget. Our two largest revenue sources in the general fund are property taxes at 32.8 percent, or \$27 million, and consolidated taxes (CTX) at 37.8 percent, or \$31 million. Total budgeted revenue for fiscal year 2021 for the general fund was approximately \$82 million. The CTX and the property tax, as you can see, make up 70 percent of the general fund revenue. Another, charges for services, at almost 18 percent, includes the landfill revenues and our parks and recreation programs.

I know no one could imagine how the world was going to change beginning with unprecedented closures of nonessential businesses, casinos, schools, in the middle of March last year. This hit right in the middle of all the local governments trying to finalize their 2021 budget, so we pretty much had to redo our entire budget. We anticipated that sales tax revenue would drop significantly, so we dropped our projections for four months. We dropped, between March and June of 2020, by \$3 million and we cut another almost \$4 million from the fiscal year 2021 budget. What that did was essentially wipe out the city's planned capital budget for 2021. But thanks to federal aid being pumped into the economy,

such as the Paycheck Protection Program for our businesses, the additional unemployment compensation, CARES Act funding, and the stimulus checks, the city did not see the large drop in sales tax, and we were able to sustain our planned capital budget and keep that on track.

Next, this is the city's fiscal year 2021 general budget expenditures, a total of \$74.6 million [page 11, [Exhibit G](#)]. As you can see by far the largest portion of expenditures is for public safety at 47 percent, or \$35 million. This includes fire, sheriff, our juvenile detention and probation, and alternative sentencing. The general government comes in second at almost 25 percent. This includes the departments at city hall such as finance, information technology, human resources, the assessor, the treasurer, the district attorney, community development, and our facilities maintenance. Although the pandemic forced us to change the way that we provided services to the public, the city has remained fully functioning throughout the pandemic. Our buildings were only closed to the public for two months, between March and May. Salaries and benefits, you can see from this slide [page 12], make up 75 percent of general fund expenditures. The city has a little over 600 full-time employees, of which 448 are paid from the general fund. The city is also bound by ten separate employee agreements. That makes payroll very challenging.

Let us talk about development in Carson City [page 13]. While we are constrained by a very small geographical area, development within the city is going strong. With construction being deemed an essential business, COVID-19 really had little effect on the projects around the city. These next few slides are some of the projects that are in progress. This is Blackstone Ranch, south of Carson High School, with 75 single family lots planned here [page 13]. Just south of that is Lompa Ranch, and that is a 372-unit residential apartment complex [page 14]. This is Andersen Ranch over on the west side of town, and this will create 203 single family lots [page 15]. And for commercial, those of you from Las Vegas probably do not get as excited as we do about these new restaurants, but we have another Dutch Bros going in right next to Chick-fil-A in south Carson, right at the connection of Highway 50 [page 16], and in that same area is Panera Bread [page 17].

Next, I just wanted to talk a little bit about some of the investments the city is making in our future [page 18]. While still recovering from the effects of the recession and the need to stimulate economic development in Carson City, the board approved a levy of one-eighth of 1 percent sales tax for public infrastructure projects. The downtown streetscape improvement projects, the downtown Carson Street, completed in October 2016, and Curry Street, completed in October 2018, have revitalized our downtown with new restaurants, retail, and residential units. It has been amazing to see all the activity in downtown. While it did slow down a bit during COVID-19, most of the businesses have been able to remain open, and some new ones have popped up, so that was good news. This is the after picture of South Carson Street [page 19].

With the completion of the downtown area, the focus of these infrastructure projects has switched to our various corridors. Among the many benefits of improvements to these corridors is the stimulation of economic activity, providing safer travel for pedestrians and

cyclists, and the replacement of aging infrastructure, the water and sewer lines. One of the best parts is these projects will beautify the city's southern, eastern, and northern gateways into Nevada's capital city. This is the picture of the South Carson Street project that was completed at the end of 2020. I think they are still working on some landscaping. The city was able to leverage our infrastructure sales tax revenue to secure both state and federal funds to finance about 75 percent of this slightly-over \$20 million project. As you may know, the state owns a prime piece of real estate along this corridor and it is the site of the old National Guard armory. We look forward to seeing this property developed to increase economic development along this important and vibrant commercial corridor.

Next, we will talk about health and human services and our COVID-19 response [page 20]. I think Ms. Stapleton talked about this earlier. We are a local health authority. We are not a district like Washoe County and Southern Nevada. According to NRS, in order to be a health district, two or more counties or cities need to join together to form the district. Our health department is just a department of the city under the direction of the health director. *Nevada Revised Statutes* 439.280 [page 21] requires each county to have a county board of health made up of the board of county commissioners, in our case it is the board of supervisors, the sheriff, and the county health officer. The county health officer is appointed by the board and acts as the chair of the board of health, and Carson City Code of Ordinances 9.01.070 requires the health officer to be licensed to practice medicine in the state of Nevada, and they may be a Carson City physician.

The health department currently administers a budget of about \$9.4 million [page 22]. This is an increase of over \$3 million due to the influx of grant funds to fight COVID-19. Staffing at the health department pre-COVID-19 was about 38 full-time employees. Currently they are at 66 full-time employees, and that does not include the many National Guard members that we have received help from and FEMA employees, and we are so thankful to get that help. This chart shows the breakdown of how the department is funded. As you can see, this department relies heavily on state and federal grants, 63 percent, or \$6 million, of the revenue. Twenty-nine percent is from the city's general fund and the rest is from charges for services and interlocal agreements.

This is a time line of the city's COVID-19 response [page 23]. As you can see, the city has been at this for almost a year, as have all the other governments. Because this is a public health emergency, the public health preparedness division is leading the response. In February, they initiated an emergency operation center just in their department, but by the middle of March, we saw the closure of nonessential businesses. Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey Counties are known as the Quad Counties. That was a big question in the media a lot, Who are these Quad Counties? We combined resources to open a single emergency operations center to support our health department. Many of you might not know, I think Ms. Stapleton talked about it earlier, while the health department is housed in Carson City, we perform many services for the other three counties, most notably, the COVID-19 testing, the vaccines, and contact tracing for those counties. The population of the Quad Counties is approximately 169,000. On May 5, 2020, the health department held its first community testing event, and so far, they have conducted 92 testing events

throughout the four counties, and they also continue to do testing at the health department Monday through Friday. As of yesterday, the Quad Counties have reported almost 11,000 positive cases of COVID-19. Of those, 2,349 are still active and unfortunately, we have had 197 deaths.

At the end of December, the health department held their first vaccination event, and they have now conducted 38 events throughout the Quad Counties. As of February 8, 2020, we have received 12,575 doses of the vaccine. We have administered 11,932. The difference between those two numbers are second doses that should be administered this week. So far, our allocation for the Quad Counties has only averaged about 1,500 per week, but the health department and the Quad Counties are prepared to ramp up to administer at least 7,000 vaccines a week, thanks to our city, county, and state partners, our hospitals, medical groups, the National Guard, and the many volunteers from Carson City. Another thing to note is that our COVID-19 response has been 100 percent grant-funded.

This is our CARES Act allocations [page 24, [Exhibit G](#)]. Carson City received \$10.2 million in CARES Act funding from the state, and we were able to use every last dollar. We used \$4.8 million of it to offset city COVID-19 costs. We support our local businesses with personal protective equipment and sanitation supplies for \$500,000. We provided funding to the school district, \$1.55 million. Carson City nonprofits received \$1 million and the Carson-Tahoe Regional Medical Center received \$2.35 million. I think one of the questions earlier was about information technology. We were able to use our CARES Act funding to upgrade our board room to allow for social distancing as well as upgrades to our technology to support the web participation. Because the Carson City Health Department is providing emergency response for all the Quad Counties, they are constantly taking their show on the road with the help of the trailer down at the bottom [page 25]. Whether it is a sunny or snowy day, the show must go on. The picture on the bottom right was an event in Douglas County in the middle of a snowstorm [page 25]. As a result of that and the unpredictable northern Nevada winter weather, the health department is working on securing several large indoor facilities to accommodate large vaccine events in all of the four counties. In closing, I want to thank all of our city partners, volunteers, residents, businesses, and the health department for their unwavering dedication towards the fight against COVID-19, and I thank you for having me today.

Chair Flores:

Thank you for your presentation. It is great to see that there is development and new investment coming in. Members, any questions?

Assemblywoman Brown-May:

Ms. Paulson, I want to congratulate you on the Complete Streets project that you worked on and have successfully constructed. As a cyclist, multiple mobility is very important for the safety of our pedestrians and wheelchair users and cyclists and recreational users. Thank you for those efforts. We have wonderful recreational opportunities, but it is nice to be able to navigate our downtown streets safely and to commute to and from work. I think it is important for how we continue to develop our communities.

Nancy Paulson:

Thank you. I look forward to seeing you walking up and down the street.

Assemblywoman Anderson:

I also enjoyed the presentation, but I was disappointed that there was nothing about the deer. Because I am Assembly District 30, every time I drive here from the Sparks area, I get a chance to drive through this lovely area, and I always see a family of deer. Thank you for taking care of those deer. I know that it is a very important thing for your city.

Nancy Paulson:

Yes, thank you. I live on the west side and I have probably seen about ten a day for the last 20 years, and I still stop to look at them because they are just beautiful.

Chair Flores:

I do not believe we have any more questions from our members. Thank you again for the presentation. We look forward to being here with you for the next X number of months, and please reach out if we could be of service to you. I am going to close out the presentation from Carson City. If we could go to public comment.

Daniel Purdy, Private Citizen:

Daniel Purdy, brother of Thomas Purdy murdered at Washoe County Jail. Now that you guys are all done stroking each other's ego, we can get down to business. Five years ago, he was murdered at the jail. He got [unintelligible] by Reno Police, who had hog-tied my brother for 45 minutes. He was in the prone position, which means his legs going up towards his stomach and crushing his diaphragm. We were told by the medical examiner that my brother died of excited delirium. The medical association has not even recognized excited delirium as a cause of death. I have been going back and forth with Washoe County for them to just do their job, to hold the sheriff accountable. Washoe County would rather pay out millions of dollars to have five times the national average when it comes to death. Now, if there are ten cases, and all of them have been justified, really, does that make sense to anyone? Answer: no, it does not. So, I respectfully request that the Legislature and Washoe County put some sort of policy in place to hold the sheriff and the deputies accountable for their actions.

Chair Flores:

Thank you. If we could please go to the next caller. [There was no one]. Members, I appreciate the questions today and the participation. As we continue to move forward with our local government, understandably, every single one of you has received numerous phone calls from desperate Nevadans expressing concern and frustration. We know that our work is not perfect, but this is an opportunity to ask tough questions and at the same exact time acknowledge that there is not a single person who is working in this world that can say they are an expert. In this unprecedented time, we are all trying to do the best we can, but at the

same time, we have an obligation to ask questions. We walk that fine line. I appreciate everybody's participation, and we will continue to have difficult conversations to be able to work collectively to make it better for all Nevadans.

Members, I want to remind you that tomorrow we have two presentations along with two bill hearings. Please give yourself an opportunity to review those bills, familiarize yourself with them, and be prepared for some questions. The meeting is adjourned [at 11:11 a.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Zachary Khan
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman Edgar Flores, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.

[Exhibit C](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "Presentation to the Assembly Government Affairs Committee: The Nevada Association of Counties (NACO)," dated February 11, 2021, presented and submitted by Dagny Stapleton, Executive Director, Nevada Association of Counties.

[Exhibit D](#) is a YouTube video titled "We Are Counties," published on YouTube.com September 18, 2020, presented and submitted by Dagny Stapleton, Executive Director, Nevada Association of Counties.

[Exhibit E](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint slide titled "State and County Service Providers," presented and submitted by Dagny Stapleton, Executive Director, Nevada Association of Counties.

[Exhibit F](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "Washoe County Overview," dated February 11, 2021, presented by Bob Lucey, Chair, Board of Commissioners, Washoe County; Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager, Washoe County; and Jamie Rodriguez, Government Affairs Manager, Office of the County Manager, Washoe County; and submitted by Jamie Rodriguez, Government Affairs Manager, Office of the County Manager, Washoe County.

[Exhibit G](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "Assembly Government Affairs," dated February 11, 2021, presented and submitted by Nancy Paulson, City Manager, Carson City.