

Chair & County Health Officer,

Dr. Charles Stringham

Board Members,

Ken Tipton, County Commission Chair

Jesse Hill, County Commissioner

Jim French, County Commissioner

Ron Cerri, County Commissioner

Tom Hoss, County Commissioner

Mike Allen, Humboldt County Sheriff

Humboldt County Health Board

Humboldt County Courthouse
50 West Fifth Street Room 205
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH BOARD VOTES TO DISBAND 'BUSINESS EDUCATOR PROGRAM'

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— The Humboldt County Health Board placed their confidence squarely in local business Thursday, February 4, as they voted to rescind two offending paragraphs in a letter that was sent out last week.

The letter, which announced the reinstatement of the county's Business Educator Program, advised that city and county volunteers would be visiting local businesses and reviewing a checklist of best practices for mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

However, the board, which is comprised of Health Officer Charles Stringham, members of the Humboldt County Commission and Sheriff Mike Allen, agreed with angry business owners that the program represents an overreach into non-county business matters.

Board members unanimously voted to strike the two paragraphs and consider, during a special meeting next week, how to formally apologize for the release of the letter and any ensuing concerns, and to announce the disbanding of the Business Educator Program.

Dr. Stringham, MD, a 25-year business owner himself, told health board participants during his weekly report, "Humboldt County has always been business friendly, and I want all business owners to know that this board understands the difficulties of being in business; the county does not have an adversarial relationship with business."

County Commissioners and Sheriff Allen echoed the same sentiments as they discussed the mailing and its negative fallout. The board was united in their belief that businesses' safe practices during the COVID-19 pandemic have helped protect staff and patrons—practices they believe will continue even as the county fully opens up in the coming months.

The Business Educator Program was first introduced to the community in April 2020 to help businesses navigate the ups and downs of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, with decreasing case numbers and increasing vaccinations, board members said they believe the pandemic is seeing its last hurrah.

Dr. Stringham agreed, noting that with warmer weather on the way and no major holidays in sight, “I think the worst of the pandemic is behind us; I think we can look forward to better times ahead.”

Health board staff shared that reinstating the Business Educator Program was an effort to appease state officials who asked that Humboldt County beef up its efforts to lower its case numbers; this is the 12th week that Humboldt County has been flagged for an elevated disease transmission.

However, news that Humboldt County will likely drop off the state’s flagged list on Monday, February 8, only served to bolster board members’ feelings that the Business Educator Program should be dissolved.

The Health Board’s discussion that led to Thursday’s decision to disband the Business Educator Program may be accessed [here](#).

Business owners or community residents may email questions, concerns or suggestions to Covid19@humboldtcountynv.gov, or call the office of the Humboldt County Manager at (775) 623-6300 during regular business hours.

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