NORTHERN NEVADA
Public Health
Serving Reno, Sparks & Washoe County

Office of the District Health Officer
District Health Officer Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: October 23, 2025

DATE: October 16, 2025

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Dr. Chad Kingsley, District Health Officer
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SUBJECT: **District Health Officer Report** - Northern Nevada Public Health Communications Update, Accreditation, Quality Improvement, Workforce Development, Community Health Improvement Program, Equity Projects/Collaborations, Community Events, Public Communications and Outreach.

DHO Overview

Current Update:

Due to the nature of public health, the District Health Officer may provide updates on subject matter that affects local, state, and national interests regarding issues deemed important to NNPH and the DBOH. The scope of NNPH Public Health can be located here www.nnph.org.

Performance Measures Narrative Highlights:

This report outlines my key activities, engagements, and accomplishments as District Health Officer for Northern Nevada Public Health during September 2025. It highlights our continued efforts to strengthen public health infrastructure, foster interagency collaboration, and respond to emerging community needs.

- Effective Relationships: September continued focus was on strengthening internal and external partnerships and NNPH teams, while I maintained open lines of communication with regional partners and elected officials. While attending and speaking at the Bloomberg Health Summit in Baltimore, I met with the NV elected official's staff in DC to discuss current public health issues. This reinforced NNPH's shared commitment to transparent governance and interagency collaboration.
- Communication: I participated in several media interviews, as well as keeping local stakeholders updated, regarding vaccines, specifically access to updated COVID-19. Maintaining transparency and accurate information is crucial for public health. I organized staff meetings to discuss and plan based on the State direction regarding mandated Healthcare Acquired Infections (HAI) in hospitals that will impact the future of NNPH.

- Community Engagement: I attended the NV Association of Counties (NACo) annual conference in Las Vegas, where I was able to network with NV representatives, State staff, and attend sessions related to public health in NV.
- Personal Development: I attended and completed a weeklong Executive Leadership training course provided by Intermountain Health Leadership Institute. The course provided key insights and training into my role and development as a District Health Officer.

DHO Performance Measures:

Performance Measure	Metric	Sept 2025 Total
1. Effective Relationships	Number of strategic partnerships engaged	22
2. Communication	Number of internal/external emailed (sent) communications	371
3. Community Engagement	Number of community meetings/forums attended	15
4. Effective Representation	Number of public health activities advocated or supported.	15
5. Personal Development	Hours spent on professional development	48
6. Leadership	Number of staff leadership or mentorship activities conducted	31
7. Strategic Decision-Making	Number of engagement activities for strategic initiatives	9
8. Crisis Management	Number of crisis response or emergency preparedness actions	2
9. Policy/Program/Budget Implementation	Number of public health programs evaluated	11
Standard Practices		
Total Hours		174
Excess Hours (>152)		14
PTO/Flex		14
Sick-Time		0
Holiday		8

Deputy District Health Officer Update:

The SB118 Annual report was successfully submitted to the Acting Director of the Legislative Council Bureau on September 25. The report included highlights of the work completed in FY25 and the spending plan for Fiscal Year 2026. Highlights for FY25 include:

- Completion of the AQM Divisional Assessment
- Vaping prevention and control, including Youth Vaping Prevention Videos
- Purchase and administration of Vaccines
- Mandated Disease investigation and control activities and staff

Public Health Funds were received, and a collaborative budget was developed under the direction of the Deputy. Funding has been reserved for unfunded mandates, with the flexibility to adjust in response to additional public health threats. These funds may be adjusted to mitigate funding impacts due to the federal shutdown. At the time of writing, the majority of year one funds are being reserved for one-time activities that will improve public health services, including technology purchase, with the flexibility to adjust in response to changes, modernization of applications and systems, and filling in funding gaps. Year two funding is primarily reserved for existing staff who are currently on a funding source with an end date of June 2026. Activities will begin once the BCC approves the increase in NNPH budget authority. This is scheduled for October 21st.

The construction of the new Tuberculosis Clinic is well underway. As of October 1st, NNPH has billed $4,298,859 or 43% of the grant award. The approximately 7,000 square foot building is located on the southwest corner of 9th Street and Wells Avenue. The building will be completed before April 1st, when the team must vacate the existing Kirman clinic.

Communications & Public Information

During September, NNPH Communications coordinated extensive media engagement, including over 50 mentions across local and regional outlets (nearly double the amount compared to August), covering topics such as COVID-19 vaccine availability, rising pertussis cases, air quality concerns, and public health preparedness.

The team also issued four press releases, supported multiple interviews with NNPH leadership, and maintained steady social media engagement across five platforms with Reels (videos) about emergency preparedness, WIC, fall prevention, and more.

Internally, we cultivated the internal newsletter, the Buzz, helped with Take Your Child to Work day planning, and held a meeting with staff on how to make PDFs digitally accessible. Lastly, our own Yera Deavila accepted an award at the 3CMA (City & County Communications and Marketing Association) conference, recognizing NNPH with a top award for its NNPH Loteria project.

Community Health Assessment (CHA): The team conducted 15 focus groups as part of the primary data collection process for the Community Health Assessment. The scope and design of these focus groups were guided by the CHA Steering Committee to ensure inclusive representation reflective of the community's diversity. The purpose of collecting primary data is to address gaps not covered by secondary data and to gain insights into the lived experiences of residents. The findings from these focus groups will be analyzed and integrated with all available data sources to inform the final ranking of local health outcomes.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Updates:

5210 – Healthy Washoe

Staff attended the CSA Head Start event to distribute Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) resources to families, including culturally relevant recipes aimed at increasing fruit and vegetable intake.

An introductory meeting was held with Donner Springs Elementary School to discuss the implementation of the 5210 program. The school expressed interest in conducting a school-wide assessment to explore opportunities for embedding 5210 strategies throughout the academic year.

ITCN-WIC Collaboration

The Fresh Connect voucher program is set to conclude in September. To maximize redemption among WIC clients, social media outreach was implemented to promote eligible farmers' markets. A culturally relevant video recipe for "Three Sisters Soup"—a traditional tribal dish—was also produced, demonstrating how to prepare it using locally sourced ingredients.

Mental Health Initiatives

Aca Entre Nos: Two sessions are scheduled in collaboration with Clayton Middle School and the Community Life Center for October 14 and November 18. These sessions will focus on building resilience and self-management skills among participants.

Staff are engaging in exploratory conversations with the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe and the Children's Advocacy Alliance to better understand current policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes related to mental health.

Attendance at the 4th Annual Washoe County Youth Mental Health Summit provided valuable insights into the Medicaid expansion initiative, which seeks to extend mental health coverage to youth not traditionally eligible. The event also highlighted data on Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) and their protective effects against Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Workforce Development- A training session for all staff is scheduled for October 15–16. The focus will be on utilizing data to develop and implement program strategies aimed at reducing health disparities across the community.

Reducing Health Disparities

Internal Program Collaboration

Ongoing collaboration with the WIC team focuses on improving the WIC interest form to make the language more accessible and enhance public understanding of eligibility requirements.

Additional efforts are underway to increase WIC referrals through integration with other Community and Clinical Health Services (CCHS) programs.

Quality Improvement- The QI Council convened to discuss the integration of data across the organization, reinforcing our strategic vision of becoming a data-driven agency. Each divisional representative received updated performance management reports, and discussions centered on leveraging this data to inform QI

initiatives and identify trends. With 3–4 years of data now available, emerging trends are positioning the agency to make more informed, data-led decisions.

Staff Transfers/Promotions/Resignations

Progressive Promotions:

- Julieta Gallardo – CCHS – Human Services Support Specialist I (HSSSI) to HSSS2, effective 8/26/2025

Transfer:

- Karley Crane – PHD Office Specialist to Program Assistant in DA's office, effective 9/21/2025

Resignation:

- Nafisha Sheldon – CCHS – Public health Nurse I, effective 10/10/2025