

**Office of the District Health Officer
District Health Officer Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: November 21, 2024**

DATE: November 14, 2024
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, and Public Communications and Outreach.

DHO Overview

DHO Community Connections/Collaborations/Communications

REMSA (CEO, CFO) & Board Meeting; City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County (City Manager & Asst. Manager(s)); meet/greet with Commissioner Andriola; Meet with County Treasurer; 2025 Budgetary Meetings; Sparks Mayor's Fundraiser; Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health community workgroup; NV Public Health Association (Monthly Meeting); Attend Nevada Public Health Foundation board meeting; Community Health Alliance ribbon cutting; Truckee Meadows Tomorrow annual data presentation; Reno Spark Chamber of Commerce Health & Wellness Summit; Correlation with Riverside CA Health Department for Community Health Worker presentation.

NNPH Staff Coordination/Collaboration

Deputy Director (daily/weekly), Department Directors (bi-weekly), Department of District Health Officer (bi-weekly), Budget (as needed), Departments/Divisions (CCHS biweekly team huddle, Vital Records, EHS, PHEP, Public Information/Comms).

- Continued Budgetary meetings for strategic planning.
- Attended Vaccine clinic, providing translation services.
- Continued REMSA franchise collaboration.
- Attended Truckee Meadows Tomorrow community progress report.
- Monitored Disease Surveillance.
- Responded to local businesses regarding permitting.
- Coordinated with UNR.
- Awareness/Coordination of Callaghan Fire, staff performing Medical Support.

DHO Performance/Updates

DHO average work week October 25 to November 20: 47 hours

DHO Authorization of Fees

Authority to authorize fees that have changed or require modification for necessary processes has been granted by the Board of Health to the DHO for operational alignment purposes.

The following CCHS fees are being modified to increase efficiencies and align with required state and federal policies and protocols:

Detection test for multiple organisms (used for Binx machine testing gonorrhea and chlamydia) CPT – 87801
Fee- \$70.98

- NNPH is now a CLIA waived lab. This CPT code and fee is applied when completing point of care gonorrhea and chlamydia testing using the Binx machine.

Administration of respiratory syncytial virus, monoclonal antibody, seasonal dose .5mL CPT - 96380 Fee- \$22.57

- Correct CPT code for RSV injection. This injection is a monoclonal antibody, not a vaccine. A specific CPT code was recently added.

Administration of respiratory syncytial virus, monoclonal antibody, seasonal dose 1mL CPT – 96381 Fee- \$22.57

- Correct CPT code for RSV injection. This injection is a monoclonal antibody, not a vaccine. A specific CPT code was recently added.

Communications

NNPH Communications sent out 10 press releases in English and Spanish in October about subjects like the updated COVID-19 vaccine being available in our community, public notices about air quality regulations and action, a statement about how the national IV fluid shortage is impacting healthcare in Washoe County, the daily burn code kicking off and information about the closure of the Lakemill Lodge in Reno.

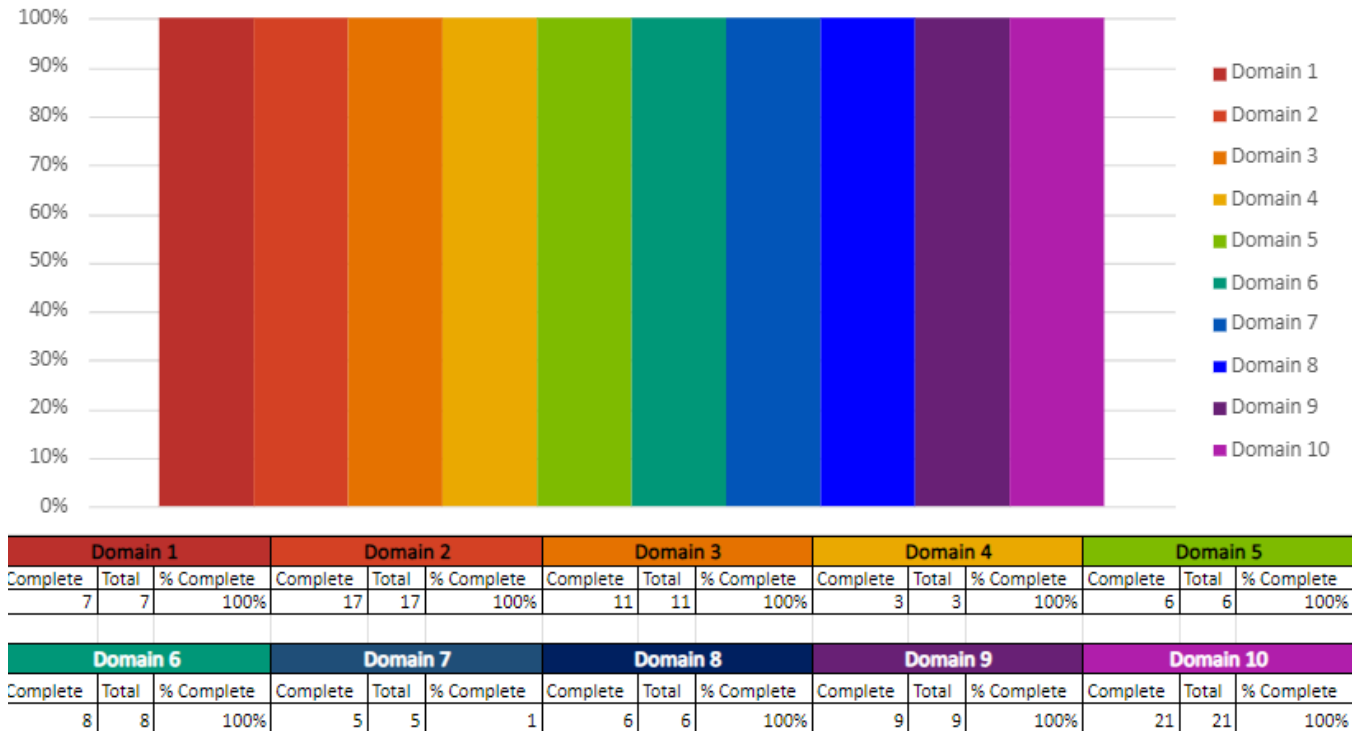
Of the 24 media inquiries, eight were about the Lakemill Lodge after NNPH inspectors shut down the stairwell after finding human feces, debris and drugs. Additionally, we assisted EPHP during their CHEMPACK exercise, a multi-jurisdictional event where a nerve agent antidote was transported across state lines to help the Truckee Community.

On the NNPH website, we successfully launched EHS' new Active Managerial Control (AMC) webpage after a year-long effort. We worked together to create six instructional videos (another six in Spanish, 12 total) about food safety actions that can be taken to prevent foodborne illness. An ad campaign about the videos will be running in through the end of the year.

Lastly, NNPH Media & Communications Specialist Yeraldin Deavila was given the Golden Spike Award at the 2024 PRSA Silver Spikes on Wednesday, Nov. 13. The award is given to the top public relations professional in the Reno-Sparks region. Ms. Deavila has completely transformed our communication to the Hispanic Community with a lens toward vulnerable populations and public health equity. Ms. Deavila is also celebrating her 3-year anniversary with NNPH this month. Congrats to Yera!

Accreditation

NNPH’s application for reaccreditation was submitted on September 20th. The PHAB is reviewing the 93 documents submitted and will reach out to NNPH to schedule the site visit in the coming months.



Community Health Improvement Plan

Family Health Festival

The final FHF took place on October 9th at O’Brien Middle School. 101 families and 44 service providers attended. Various services including medical insurance sign-ups, hearing screenings, blood pressure checks, haircuts, and free nutritious food were onsite. Over the next few months, the committee will be discussing goals and the schedule for 2025. See attached for specific details about the event.

5210 Healthy Washoe

- The 5210 Healthy Washoe coordinators are working with Glenn Duncan to implement initiatives that will incorporate smarter lunchroom tactics and physical activity opportunities.
- For Hispanic Heritage month, the ODHO, CDIP and Communications team created a video to promote 5210 Loteria in the community. NNPH’s edition of this traditional Hispanic board game features bilingual cards inspired by culturally relevant foods and activities to help create healthy habits using the 5210 messages.

Un Plan Financiero para Abrir Puertas, a Financial Plan to Open Doors (Financial Literacy)

The Health Equity Team, Hello Real Estate, and the Women and Children’s Center of the Sierra (WACCS) hosted three bilingual classes focused on how to create a budget, how to build and sustain credit, and the importance of having and keeping money in a bank account. 26 participants attended these sessions with a mix of new and recurring participants.

Aca Entre Nos

Aca Entre Nos event has been rescheduled to November 12th at the Community Life Center on Kings Row. Clayton counselors have selected Spanish-speaking families to participate in this four-part series focused on emotional resilience

and community building. Each recruited family will receive a Visa gift card as an incentive. The program's effectiveness will be measured by administering pre- and post-surveys during the first and last session.

Building Organizational Capacity to Reduce Health Disparities

Program Integration

In an effort to uplift the organization's mission and strategic priorities, the team is providing technical assistance to every division to begin measuring the organization's capacity to address equity. Capacity building is being measured by five points including, data infrastructure, understanding health disparities, collaboration, skills and training, and resource allocation. Two examples that have come from these efforts are:

- A Community Organizers is working with EHS's Special Events & Temporary Foods program to create an action plan for four projects focused on equity. These projects include developing educational materials for community events, improving communication between event organizers and vendors about food requirements, and launching a campaign to raise public awareness of the reasons behind food inspection practices that have recently caught media attention.
- A Community Organizer connected the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada's (ITCN) WIC team with NNPH's FIMR team. ITCN will join the FIMR review team as a new partner, enhancing the diversity the FIMR team aims for. ITCN will attend their first meeting next month. The CO also established ITCN as a site who will distribute at least 25 Mama Care Kits.

Language Accessibility

In accordance with Assembly Bill 266 (AB 266), NNPH has utilized County resources to identify and translate vital documents using the County's Vital Document Identification Guidance. The team is preparing a training for staff to be using the The Language Line and Wordly, two platforms available for interpretation and translation services. Once staff complete the training, language posters will be placed throughout NNPH service areas to increase awareness about the services available to the community if they prefer to receive services in non-English languages.

Quality Improvement

ODHO is working across divisions to improve the overall experience of new hires through the new employee onboarding process. The following efforts are underway:

- ODHO staff are coordinating efforts to improve sessions in the New to NNPH Onboarding Program based on the feedback received from program evaluations completed by new hires who have graduated from the program.
- AHS and ODHO are working to streamline the process between HR, hiring managers, and TS to ensure new hires are prepared for their first day at NNPH. For example, staff are creating technology checklists to ensure new employees have access on day-one to the tools needed to accomplish their day-to-day tasks.
- Staff are modernizing "Intro to Health" by incorporating the idea into the New to NNPH Onboarding Program and by creating division specific videos to educate new hires about the organization's mission, values, programs, and services. The tentative date for project completion is March 2025.

NNPH launched its inaugural "World Quality Month" event in November. Various activities and fun challenges will be shared with staff to get them excited about using their expertise to determine program and service improvements, and to help staff become more familiar with QI concepts.