

**Office of the District Health Officer
District Health Officer Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: May 22, 2025**

DATE: May 14, 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:

In April, the District Health Officer engaged in various activities to advance public health initiatives and address community concerns. He participated in several key meetings, including interviews with the Media and NPR, and coordinated with staff from all departments to ensure smooth operations and effective communication with his team. Chad worked with NACCHO, NALHO, NACO, meet with new director of NV State Laboratory worked to enhance public health services and addressing the needs of the community.

NNPH July 1 Restructure:

The DHO has been working with team members to balance and restructure NNPH and will present the upcoming organizational changes to the DBOH in June.

NNPH Budget :

The DHO is coordinating and collaborating internally and externally to address and prepare for the anticipated local, state, and federal budgetary impacts.

DHO Performance Measures:

Performance Measure	Metric	Apr 2025 Total
1. Effective Relationships	Number of strategic partnerships engaged	23
2. Communication	Number of internal/external emailed (sent) communications	371
3. Community Engagement	Number of community meetings/forums attended	21
4. Effective Representation	Number of public health activities advocated or supported.	13
5. Personal Development	Hours spent on professional development	11
6. Leadership	Number of staff leadership or mentorship activities conducted	35
7. Strategic Decision-Making	Number of engagement activities for strategic initiatives	13
8. Crisis Management	Number of crisis response or emergency preparedness actions	3
9. Policy/Program/Budget Implementation	Number of public health programs evaluated	8
Standard Practices		
Total Hours		182
Excess Hours (>160)		22
PTO		0
Sick-Time		0
Holiday		0

Communications & Public Information

Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) received broad media coverage this month, especially around school-based immunization clinics, food safety inspections, and National Public Health Week. Reporters showed strong interest in the impact of federal grant cuts on vaccine access, with multiple interviews conducted and follow-ups pending. Mosquito abatement program changes and respiratory illness trends also attracted coverage, along with bilingual outreach on domestic wells, septic safety, and upcoming community events. NNPH continues to strengthen public engagement through targeted media responses and expanded Spanish-language communications.

Accreditation

The Reaccreditation site visit is scheduled for July 8th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. In preparation, the committee is actively gathering supporting documentation and coordinating with subject matter experts who will speak to each domain. During the visit, NNPH will be expected to demonstrate compliance with public health best practices, operational efficiency through robust infrastructure, and a sustained commitment to continuous improvement.

Workforce Development

Final edits are underway for the “Introduction to Health” video, which will be implemented for all new employees starting in May/June. Historically, NNPH Division Directors conducted a quarterly “Intro to Health” course, presenting overviews of their respective divisions. These sessions often exceeded their scheduled time, limiting opportunities for interaction and engagement with new staff. The new format transitions these presentations into a professionally scripted and recorded video that captures each division’s key functions. New employees will view the video within their first two months of employment. Following the screening, Division Directors will participate in a 20–30-minute open panel Q&A to foster dialogue and connection. This updated approach is designed to provide a more structured, consistent, and educational experience while allowing for more meaningful and interactive engagement between new employees and senior leadership.

Quality Improvement

NNPH completed its first formal quality improvement project, focused on addressing inconsistencies and challenges faced by bilingual staff in tracking their bilingual service time. NNPH is exploring pathways to better track and determine how to improve services provided in non-English languages. The findings suggested opportunities to better communicate the bilingual pay process to all employees to ensure consistent messaging of the policy requirements. Staff worked with the Human Resources Representative to clarify language in the policy and followed up with email communications. Further discussions are underway to better support staff using their bilingual skill sets to provide services.

Community Health Improvement Plan

Fresh Connect

- NNPH is collaborating with Inter Tribal Council of Nevada to develop and implement the “Fresh Connect” program. This effort aims to increase fruit and vegetable intake among Tribal WIC participants by increasing access to healthy food options such as farmers markets and culturally responsive nutrition outreach. The program development created parameters for the voucher system and have been working with farmers to solidify contracts. The program is scheduled to launch in July.

Family Health Festival

- The next Family Health Festival will take place on Thursday, May 22, from 4-7 PM at the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center. Renown Health and Silver Summit are the main sponsors of the event which is focused on bridging families to mental and behavioral health services in community. Additional health care providers will be onsite such as NNPH's immunization's team to ensure students have an opportunity to receive school required vaccines before the rush in July. The FHF committee is working with MCOs to expand their scope of services available during events so that families have more access or are aware of the benefits available to them through their insurance.

5210 Healthy Washoe

- The team continues to expand 5210 programming in Title I elementary schools by engaging with families, connecting families to the school's school pantry, and sharing practical tips for building healthy habits and emphasizing preventive health. The team is working to create messaging about available and nearby resources to access food and physical activity spaces over the summer months. Additionally, NNPH participated in the Food Bank of Northern Nevada's Food is Medicine Symposium as a panelist on community-based approaches to food justice, emphasizing culturally relevant strategies. The discussion provided an opportunity to discuss 5210 Healthy Washoe and Power Up Kids with community members to engage in a discussion about nutrition and physical activity through policy, systems, and environmental changes.

Financial Literacy

- On April 10th, a financial literacy session was held at the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra, attended by 11 community members. The session focused on building and protecting assets as part of an ongoing series aimed at expanding financial literacy among the Spanish-speaking community.

Aca Entre Nos (AEN)

- AEN is hosting two events in May. The session on May 7th will take place at Clayton Middle School and will focus on supporting youth through the summer months when lack of structure, higher screen time, reduced time with peers can impact mental health. In an effort to increase event attendance, this session is going to be part of Clayton's Cub Parent Night event. Another session will be held on May 20th at Swope Middle School. This session will focus on families supporting their youth emotionally and psychologically as they transition from 6th grade into middle school.

Performance Management

The NNPH Quality Improvement (QI) Council continues to gain access to and receive training on the organization's performance management system, ClearPoint. With enhanced access to strategic plan data and key performance metrics, the Council is better positioned to provide informed guidance and advocate for initiatives that support program efficiencies and continuous improvement. The team remains focused on strengthening the organization's capacity among all staffing levels to make data-informed decisions and promoting best practices for leveraging data to advance NNPH's strategic priorities.

Reducing Health Disparities

Language Posters & "I Speak" Cards

- To align with Washoe County's Language Access Plan, which requires signage indicating the availability of interpretation services, NNPH developed and distributed language posters and identification cards. These materials were placed at key public-facing areas, including the CCHS

fishbowl, both WIC sites, and the EHS and Vitals front desks—to help clients identify their preferred language and ensure they receive services accordingly.

Staff Transfers/Promotions/Resignations

- Julissa Pulido - 5/8/25 – EHS progressive promotion from Environmental Health Trainee to Environment Health Specialist
- Giavonna Bethea - 5/22/25 - EHS progressive promotion from Environmental Health Trainee to Environment Health Specialist