

**Office of the District Health Officer  
District Health Officer Staff Report  
Board Meeting Date: February 27, 2025**

**DATE:** February 20, 2025  
**TO:** District Board of Health  
**FROM:** Dr. Chad Kingsley, District Health Officer  
775-328-2416; ckingsley@nnph.org  
**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.

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**DHO Overview**

During December 2024 and January 2025, the Office of the District Health Officer remained actively engaged in advancing Northern Nevada Public Health's (NNPH) strategic priorities and strengthening regional public health leadership. A key focus was the reorganization of the District Board of Health (DBOH) membership, ensuring alignment with governance best practices and community representation. NNPH successfully held its annual strategic retreat, fostering collaboration and goal setting for the upcoming year. I attended the Bloomberg Summit, gaining insights on innovative public health strategies, and participated in multiple community advisory board meetings to reinforce partnerships and address local health needs. Internally, I conducted one-on-one meetings with department directors and staff to enhance communication and operational effectiveness. Coordination of ongoing discussions with REMSA continued, aiming to optimize emergency medical services within our jurisdiction. Routine internal meetings and SACCHO engagements ensured continuity in public health initiatives, while my recent appointment as Executive Director of the Nevada Association of Local Health Officials (NALHO) positions NNPH to play a leading role in statewide public health advocacy and collaboration. These activities reflect NNPH's commitment to strategic growth, effective governance, and community-centered public health leadership.

**DHO Community Connections/Collaborations/Communications**

For NNPH Communications, our media and communications support specialist Noah Glick resigned as he and his family moved to Sacramento. We greatly appreciate Noah's contributions and wish him well. The decision was made to freeze the position and not rehire due to budget constraints.

During January, we received multiple media requests related to respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses. NNPH epidemiologist Danika Williams was interviewed. We also facilitated interviews/statements related to federal grant freezes, food safety and inspection reports, and sexually transmitted infections. We did receive questions about bird flu, but since it's only impacting animals at this time, we referred them to the Department of Agriculture. We distributed several press releases for Air Quality Management, including proposed asbestos regulation revisions, compliance assistance and requests to join the Air Pollution Control Hearing

Board. We facilitated four media requests for Spanish-language media, of which Dr. Chad Kingsley was interviewed and spoke to Lesly Mariscal about EHS and AQMD permitting.

For December, we had 42 media inquiries, which is high for that time of year. Many were around flu, norovirus and RSV – part of that was because we had a media day for Spanish language media outlets, for which our own Yeraldin Deavila did six interviews in Spanish in one day (might be a record!). We also saw great media attention around our groundbreaking of the new Tuberculosis Clinic, which included a ceremony at the site that had great attendance from our Reno and Sparks city councils and the Washoe County Commission. A shigellosis outbreak also received good media attention – epidemiologist Christabell Sotelo-Zecena was interviewed in Spanish by Entravision.

### **Reaccreditation**

In 2019 NNPH became an Accredited Health District by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Accreditation provides a framework for health departments to identify performance improvement opportunities, demonstrate credibility, develop leadership, and improve relationships with the community. It serves as both an accountability and transparency mechanism and transforms public health practice. Health Districts must reapply for reaccreditation five years after accreditation status has been awarded. Reaccreditation ensures that accredited health departments continue to evolve, improve, and advance their public health practice to serve their community. NNPH submitted the Health District's Reaccreditation Application in September 2024. The application consists of 98 documents that demonstrate how the health district met PHAB's Standards & Measures to ensure operations, programs, and services function effectively and efficiently, and align with national public health best practices. Of the 98 documents that were submitted, PHAB requested further information about 13 documents that will be submitted within 60 days. After the documents are submitted, the PHAB team will schedule a site visit.

### **Quality Improvement**

Progress continues for various NNPH QI projects currently underway. The AHS-ODHO project is more than halfway complete, with a new and improved "supervisor toolkit" debuting at the beginning of January on the NNPH intranet site. The toolkit provides a uniform and streamlined set of instructions for supervisors regarding how to hire and prepare for a new employee's arrival, such that every new employee's first day on the job runs smoothly. Phase 2 of this QI project, which largely centers around an "Introduction to the Health District" video lesson being created, is now underway. Each division director will be recorded giving a brief overview of their division's work, and this video will be used during new employee onboarding orientations. CCHS was the first division to be scripted and shot, and this took place at the end of January. Other divisions will be scripted, shot, and edited in February and early March. The goal is to have the final video complete by end of March 2025.

### **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)**

Four CHIP Committee meetings were hosted with community partners in December to discuss the progress of CHIP initiatives in CY24 and to identify opportunities for further collaboration that address the community's needs. Over 300 people participated, and the next steps are being identified with partners to determine implementation activities.

5210 Healthy Washoe Program: NNPH team members met with Washoe County School District's Family and Community Engagement Liaisons to discuss aligning the school wellness policy with the 5210 Healthy

Washoe Program for Title 1 schools. The team will continue to work toward expanding the program into other schools to provide healthier lunchroom environments and physical activity opportunities.

Un Plan Financiero para Abrir Puertas, a Financial Plan to Open Doors (Financial Literacy): This initiative focuses on improving financial literacy in Spanish Speaking communities. Planning for year three is underway. This quarter, the project team will continue working with the Women's and Children's Center of the Sierra to build recruitment participants and to host program sessions. The classes provide education about basic budgeting and financial concepts for quality of life.

Aca Entre Nos: NNPH works in collaboration with mental health providers and a local pediatrician to reduce stigma about mental health in the Spanish speaking community. The team is coordinating efforts to implement a series of mental health sessions at Clayton Middle School. The first session of the year will take place in February and focus on building resiliency among families.

Family Health Festival: The first festival is expected to take place in mid-to-late May. In partnership with Renown, the FHF committee has decided that each festival this year will have a more specific focus area than ever before. All festivals will continue being open to all attendees looking to improve their access to healthcare, but each festival will prioritize certain community partners and focus areas. The Spring festival will be centered around Mental Health, the summer festival around Back to School needs, and the Fall festival around Infant and Maternal care. The committee is finalizing details regarding the 2025 sponsorship agreements and memoranda of understanding between FHF and managed care organizations. With access to healthcare continuing to be a pressing need in Washoe County, FHF is exploring ways to partner in increasingly strategic and effective ways with Medicaid providers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and agencies who may be able to provide direct medical services onsite at FHF events.

### **Language Access**

The team successfully completed the final staff training sessions for Wordly and Language Line. Four training sessions were held reaching over 40 NNPH staff members. These systems will provide staff the ability to interpret and translate programs and services in non-English languages. Posters and language identification cards are in the printing process to educate the community about these resources. The posters will be posted in public-facing areas for staff and clients in the coming weeks.

### **Staff Transfers/Promotions/Resignations**

Jasmine Olvera – Community Health Worker in CCHS to EHS Trainee – effective 1/13/2025

Taylor Stokes – EHS Trainee to EHS Specialist 1/17/2025

Melanie Jackson – EHS Trainee – effective 1/3/2025

Noah Glick – ODHO Media & Communication Support Specialist - effective 1/3/2025

Lissa Callahan – EPHP Statistician – effective 2/28/2025

