

**Office of the District Health Officer  
District Health Officer Staff Report  
Board Meeting Date: April 25, 2024**

**DATE:** April 10, 2023

**TO:** District Board of Health

**FROM:** Kevin Dick, District Health Officer  
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**SUBJECT:** **District Health Officer Report** – Northern Nevada Public Health Communications Update, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Training, Translations, Public Health Reaccreditation, Quality Improvement, Community Health Improvement Plan, FY25 Budget, Interim Health Committee, EPA PFAS Rule, Pyramid Lake River Justice Tour, New UNR School of Public Health Building Ribbon Cutting, and Public Communications and Outreach.

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NNPH Communications Update

The NNPH Comms team helped organize and sent out messaging leading up to, and announcing, the selection of new District Health Officer Chad Kingsley. We're excited to work with Mr. Kingsley!

Additionally, NNPH comms staff assisted with the annual County Health Rankings event. NNPH staff arranged for interviews with KTVN, KRNK and KUNR with District Health Officer Kevin Dick, Truckee Meadows Tomorrow Executive Director Kylie Rowe and John Packham, PhD, policy director for the Nevada Public Health Association.

NNPH worked with regional partners to distribute information on Mama Care Kits, which are free and have useful supplies for new parents, and also for an upcoming air quality workshop series with the University of Nevada, Reno.

Lastly, our social media accounts gained 155 followers, staff members Laura Clapham and Olivia Alexander-Leeder spoke about food safety on the County's Washoe Life podcast, and Media and Communications Specialist Yera Deavila spoke with the Spanish-language radio station Juan 101.7 for their "A Tu Salud" segment about the COVID-19 4-year anniversary.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training

Over the past few months NNPH's DEI consultant, Tiffany Young has led a training series for NNPH staff. A total of six trainings were held and focused on workplace microaggressions, unconscious bias, and diversity vs. inclusion. A total of 92 staff attended these training opportunities.

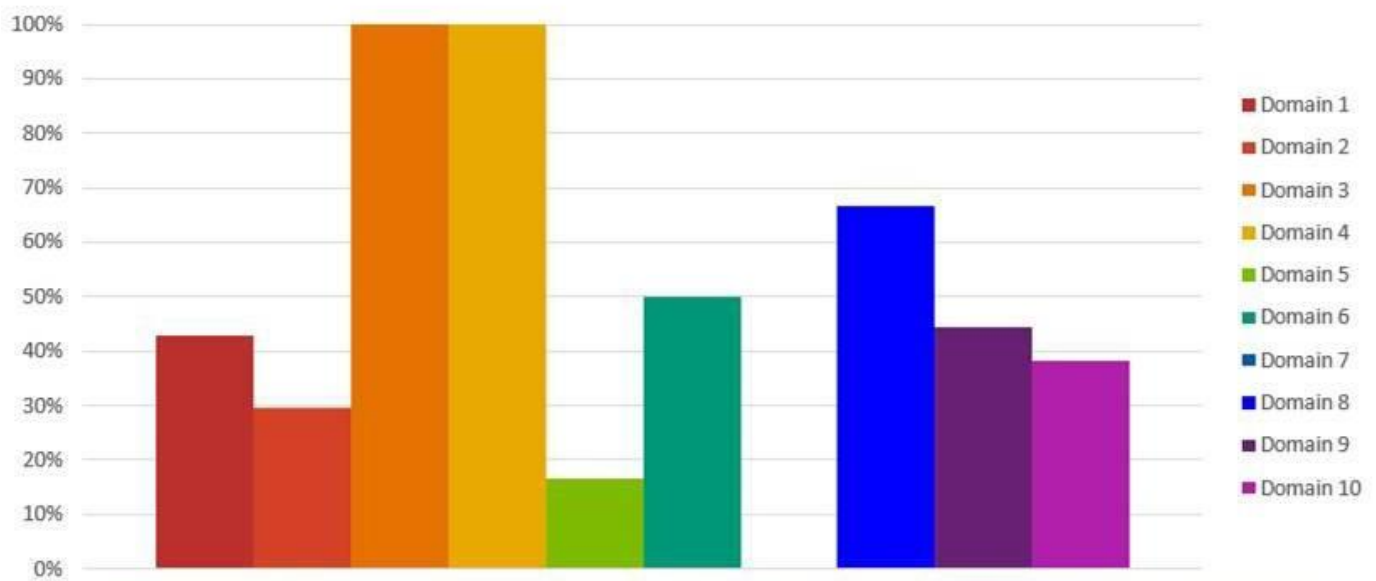
Translations

The health equity team has been collaborating with internal programs to identify their translation needs for priority, public facing documents. To date, 43 program documents have been translated into Spanish, Tagalog, Chinese, and Vietnamese. This effort is to reduce language barriers and ensure public health information is more accessible to the community.

Public Health Reaccreditation

46% of reaccreditation documents are ready for submission and about 15% are being reviewed. In the last month, two domains have been closed out with all documents complete and ready for submission. The Statewide Health Care Assessment project is underway and on track to be wrapped up by the end of May. Partners completed analysis of secondary data and will begin stakeholder interviews in April to gather primary data from primary care and behavioral health providers.

Domain Progress



Domain 1			Domain 2			Domain 3			Domain 4			Domain 5		
Complete	Total	% Complete	Complete	Total	% Complete	Complete	Total	% Complete	Complete	Total	% Complete	Complete	Total	% Complete
3	7	43%	5	17	29%	11	11	100%	3	3	100%	1	6	17%
Domain 6			Domain 7			Domain 8			Domain 9			Domain 10		
Complete	Total	% Complete	Complete	Total	% Complete	Complete	Total	% Complete	Complete	Total	% Complete	Complete	Total	% Complete
4	8	50%	0	5	0%	4	6	67%	4	9	44%	8	21	38%

Quality Improvement

NNPH is well underway on its efforts to formally stand up its Quality Improvement (QI) program once again via three efforts that started in late February and continue into April as follows:

QI Survey – Staff and senior leaders took a survey regarding their feelings on the current state of QI around NNPH. The results have now been analyzed and will be presented to division directors and supervisors at upcoming meetings, with accompanying tips on how everyone can help move the needle toward improving our QI culture in certain areas the survey identified.

QI Council – All divisions have volunteered at least one member to represent them on the newly-created QI council (Q-Team). The Q-Team will likely host its first meeting in May, and they will play a lead role in crafting QI policies, procedures, and projects across the agency.

QI Policy – Our former QI policy from 2019 and a series of nationally-recognized QI policies from fellow health districts have been reviewed and used to inform the outline of a new QI policy for NNPH. The intent is for the new QI procedures to be as user-friendly, approachable, and streamlined as possible to encourage employees to submit QI projects and engage in QI-related initiatives. The new policy outline has been created and will be evaluated and edited by the QI council before senior leadership reviews.

### CHIP

#### ***5210 Healthy Washoe***

Two elementary schools have been added to the list of implementing sites. Staff are working to conduct environmental scans of the schools and will complete actions plans with school champions in the coming weeks. Additionally, the 5210 Healthy Washoe Campaign kicked off April 1st and will run through May 31st. The campaign can be found on social media, TV, and streaming services Ads as well as two billboards, one off Wells and one off South Virginia and Kietzke Lane.

#### ***Financial Literacy***

A total of classes of 4 classes have been provided to the community on: budgeting, creating credit and maintaining it, reading a loan estimate and taxes. All of the presenters were bilingual and able to do the presentations in English and Spanish as 46% of the participants are Spanish speaking. The next class is on April 20th at the Neil Road Recreational Center and the topic is about creating a plan to save for college.

#### ***Tribal Minds***

NNPH and Tribal Minds partnered to deliver a wellness retreat focused on improving mental health among youth in the tribal communities NNPH is helping the organization with the planning efforts to ensure registered participants receive program resources.

#### ***Aca Entre Nos***

The team collaborated with Candelen to provide an Aca Entre Nos session focused on parent/ caregiver proactive stress management/coping skills to the families they serve. Nine participants, all with children under the age of five, were in attendance. The team is working to develop a partnership with the School District to provide resources to bilingual-bicultural students and families.

#### ***Family Health Festivals***

The first event is on May 22nd at the Neil Road Recreation Center from 4-7pm. The committee is proactively recruiting providers who are able to provide direct services for families. In addition, NNPH is working with Community Health Alliance and likely Costco to provide vaccinations. Finally, two sponsorships have been secured to support future events.

### FY25 Budget

On April 16, 2024, the County Manager’s Recommended FY25 Budget is scheduled to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

### Interim Health Committee

On Monday April 8, the Nevada Health Districts and Health Authority (Carson City Health and Human Service, Central Nevada Health District, Northern Nevada Public Health, and Southern Nevada Health District) co-presented to the 2024 Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. The presentation: Public Health in Nevada, the State of the Districts and Health Authorities summarized the individual and shared priorities of the Districts and Health Authority, the current state of uncertainty and concern the future of public health is facing due to the imminent end of ARPA funding, federal cuts, overall financial ambiguity, as well as current and future workforce concerns. The Districts and Health Authority reviewed the process in how the decision was made to spend their SB118 one-shot allocated funds. A brief SB92 (Street Food Vendor) update from SNHD and NNPH was given. Time was dedicated to discussing two important issues in public health statewide: the continued need for improvement of data modernization, and the alarming rise in STI’s including congenital syphilis and HIV. The presentation concluded with a strong recommendation to the committee emphasizing the need for ongoing non-categorical and sustainable funding.

It was mentioned that Governor Lombardo’s strategic plan includes the goal to improve access to primary care and public health services. The Governor’s plan explicitly states that he wants to “identify dedicated funding streams for public health services.”

### EPA PFAS Rule

PFAS are a series of man-made chemical compounds that persist in the environment for long periods of time. They are often called “forever chemicals.” For decades PFAS chemicals have been used in industry and consumer products such as nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, and stain resistant furniture. These chemicals have been important for certain industries and uses. And the latest science shows that these chemicals are harmful to our health.

PFAS exposure over a long period of time can cause cancer and other serious illnesses that decrease quality of life or result in death. PFAS exposure during critical life stages such as pregnancy or early childhood can also result in adverse health impacts. On April 10, 2024, EPA established nationwide, legally enforceable drinking water limits for several well-researched PFAS chemicals to reduce PFAS exposure for approximately 100 million Americans served by public drinking water systems.

Water systems must take action to reduce the levels of these PFAS in drinking water if the level of PFAS in their drinking water exceeds regulatory standards. Regulated public water systems have three years to complete their initial monitoring for these chemicals. Systems must include their results in their Annual Water Quality reports to customers. Systems that detect PFAS above the new standards will have five years to implement solutions that reduce PFAS in their drinking water. Water systems must also notify the public if levels of regulated PFAS exceed these new standards. The standards are provided in the table below.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection has information on PFAS in Nevada and PFAS sampling results on their webpage at: <https://ndep.nv.gov/water/pfas-in-nevada>.

Chemical	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
PFOA	0	4.0 ppt
PFOS	0	4.0 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixture of two or more: PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	Hazard Index of 1	Hazard Index of 1

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety and are non-enforceable public health goals.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology and taking cost into consideration. MCLs are enforceable standards.

**ppt:** parts per trillion

**Hazard Index (HI):** The Hazard Index is a long-established approach that EPA regularly uses to understand health risk from a chemical mixture (i.e., exposure to multiple chemicals). The HI is made up of a sum of fractions. Each fraction compares the level of each PFAS measured in the water to the health-based water concentration.

Pyramid Lake River Justice Tour

On April 11, I participated on a tour hosted by indigenous peoples of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT) engaged in a River Justice project addressing solid waste impacts to the Truckee River watershed and Pyramid Lake. The group has received grant funding from the Truckee River Fund to conduct cleanup projects from Wadsworth to Pyramid Lake. The tour was offered to local organizations and citizens concerned about the watershed and our water resources and visited the PLPT hatchery spawning operations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Marble Bluff Fish Passage and Research Facility, and the PLPT Museum and Visitor Center. DBOH Board Member Commissioner Garcia, TMWA and Washoe County Sustainability program staff, and many others also joined the tour.



### New UNR School of Public Health Building Ribbon Cutting

On April 4, DBOH Chairman Dahir and leadership staff of Northern Nevada Public Health attended the ribbon cutting and open house for the new School of Public Health (SPH) building at UNR. The building was remodeled to house the SPH and provides a dedicated space for the school's faculty for the first time. Previously faculty were housed in Lombardi Rec and other dispersed locations on campus. Kinesiology will remain at Lombardi Rec. Chairman Dahir presented the SPH with a Chairman's Certificate of Recognition from NNPH, and a proclamation from the City of Sparks.





Att.: March Media Mentions  
EPA PFAS Fact Sheet