

**Office of the District Health Officer
District Health Officer Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: August 28, 2025**

DATE: August 15, 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:

July was marked by continued collaboration with local, state, and federal partners. As directed, I connected and communicated with Senator Jackie Rosen's office, establishing a stronger relationship for future collaboration. I coordinated with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and the Nevada Health Authority (NVHA) regarding the July 1 transition of the Environmental Health Section under Agriculture, ensuring our team remained informed and aligned. Internally, I clarified the implications of the NVHA transition and committed to sharing updated organizational charts as they become available. I supported our Epidemiology Program Manager in preparing for and attending the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) meeting, where public concerns about the Washoe Valley fire station were discussed. I provided final approvals for several key press releases, grant and budget authorizations, and internal communications.

I attended the NACCHO annual 360 conference with two NNPH staff and DBOH Member Driscoll. The conference included two days for state SACCHO leaders, offering key insights from state and national partners. Notably, federal tobacco funding went unnoticed. My connection to NACCHO/SACCHO has provided NNPH and Nevada with essential information, support, and strategic guidance.

I continued to foster collaborative relationships with key municipal and community stakeholders. A significant portion of my time during the final two weeks was dedicated to the REMSA Health Franchise Agreement. Key strategic planning meetings and vital communication were conducted to ensure these crucial services for our community.

Further collaborative relationships included enabling communication and cooperation for the Eldorado jacuzzi. I participated in the Nevada Public Health Foundation's Board of Directors, the July Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting, and the Elected Officials & Department Head Meeting, where I represented NNPH's interests and maintained visibility among regional leadership.

I shared updates regarding federal funding delays affecting PHEP, HIV, TB, and 317 programs. These insights were disseminated to key internal stakeholders to inform planning and resource allocation.

I led comprehensive internal planning sessions covering HR, policy review, and interdepartmental coordination to continue strategic planning for federal funding adjustments and programmatic impacts. A portion of my time was spent evaluating my goals, objectives, and self-study initiatives. I conducted the ongoing series of leadership meetings and one-on-ones to align operational priorities and staff development. Additionally, I ensured availability by working closely with staff members, underscoring the importance of maintaining a respectful and solution-oriented work environment.

DHO Performance Measures:

Performance Measure	Metric	August 2025 Total
1. Effective Relationships	Number of strategic partnerships engaged	22
2. Communication	Number of internal/external emailed (sent) communications	405
3. Community Engagement	Number of community meetings/forums attended	6
4. Effective Representation	Number of public health activities advocated or supported.	14
5. Personal Development	Hours spent on professional development	10
6. Leadership	Number of staff leadership or mentorship activities conducted	32
7. Strategic Decision-Making	Number of engagement activities for strategic initiatives	18
8. Crisis Management	Number of crisis response or emergency preparedness actions	2
9. Policy/Program/Budget Implementation	Number of public health programs evaluated	8
Standard Practices		
Total Hours		199.5
Excess Hours (>152)		47.5
PTO		0
Sick-Time		0
Holiday		8

Communications & Public Information

In July, the NNPH communications program collaborated with multiple divisions to increase our visibility of our programs and services. We took part in digital accessibility planning, meeting with multiple divisions to make sure our content and forms on the website are accessible to everyone. We are working on promotional efforts for focus groups tied to the Community Health Assessment. We took part in a Population Health radiological exercise, where we practiced how we'd respond to a car bomb going off in a crowded area where radioactive material was detected. For internal communications, our staff newsletter, The NNPH Buzz, highlighted staff anniversaries, including 25 years for Jen Howell and the retirement of Mike White.

Public Health Accreditation

On July 12th, the Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) team hosted a site visit as part of its reaccreditation process through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). During the visit, staff shared how NNPH meets foundational public health services across several strategic areas:

- Assessment and Surveillance – through the Community Health Assessment (CHA)
- Emergency Preparedness – via the Emergency Operations Plan
- Community Partnership – through the Community Health Improvement Plan and health equity initiatives
- Evidence-Based Interventions – integrated across all program areas
- Organizational Competencies – supported by the Strategic Plan
- Accountability and Performance Management
- Policy Development and Support
- Communications

The PHAB site visit team is currently reviewing both areas of strength and opportunities for growth. Their findings will be presented to the PHAB Board in August. NNPH anticipates a final reaccreditation decision in early September.

Community Health Assessment

In July, NNPH and Renown Health officially launched the 2026 Community Health Assessment (CHA) with the inaugural meeting of the CHA Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is composed of key stakeholders representing higher education, public policy, healthcare, elected officials, tribal communities, marginalized populations, faith-based organizations, and other sectors critical to public health. This diverse representation ensures a comprehensive and inclusive approach to assessing the health needs of Washoe County.

During the initial meeting, Steering Committee members identified priority populations for targeted focus groups to ensure the qualitative data collected adds valuable context to the quantitative findings. NNPH's Health Equity team is currently coordinating approximately 15 community focus groups to gather resident input on health and wellness across the county. Community engagement and outreach efforts are being developed in close collaboration with Steering Committee partners to maximize participation and ensure meaningful community representation.

Workforce Development

In mid-July, ASTHO and the de Beaumont Foundation released the results of their 2024 Public Health Workforce Interest and Needs (PHWINS) survey. This national-level survey supports the government public health workforce in understanding strengths and gaps to help inform investments in funding, training, recruitment, and retention. NNPH received a customized PHWINS report highlighting survey responses related to workforce demographics, employee satisfaction, employee well-being, community engagement, and training needs, among other topics. Accordingly, PHWINS survey results will be one of the chief data sources NNPH will use when drafting the upcoming 2025-2027 Workforce Development Plan for the organization. Staff expect to present the new WFD plan to DBOH in September 2025.

Community Health Improvement Plan

Family Health Festival: The second Family Health Festival for CY2025 was held on Saturday, July 26, at Hug High School. In the approximately ten years that FHF has been operating, this was the largest festival ever held in terms of client attendance. Final numbers won't be in for a few weeks, but here are some preliminary findings that are known for now:

- More than 1000 people, comprising more than 300 households, visited this FHF.
- Approximately 48 community service providers were onsite, offering services aimed at expanding access to healthcare, promoting educational initiatives, and supplying clients with a variety of free physical goods and services
- Some key service figures known for now are:
 - 292 households received Mobile Harvest (Food Bank of Northern Nevada, healthy produce/food)
 - 75 children received a total of 152 back-to-school immunizations
 - Molina Healthcare was the principal sponsor for this event, and they provided approximately \$4000 worth of free school supplies to event attendees. Given the massive crowd size, the school supplies ran out about 1.5 hours into the event.
- Outreach efforts (mass text from FBNN and WCSD)
- Washoe County school district-wide text message sent to WCSD families alerting them of the FHF, successfully reaching more than 22,000 phone numbers
- Food Bank of Northern Nevada text message sent to FBNN clients who access Mobile Harvest and other FBNN services near Hug High School (reached 2000+ individual clients)

Fresh Connect Initiative: The Fresh Connect initiative with the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada WIC project began this month. WIC recipients can now use vouchers to receive fresh fruits and vegetables at local farmers' markets.

Native Youth Wellness Retreats: The "Chief Good Day Camp" Native youth wellness retreat took place from July 16th to 19th, offering culturally relevant workshops on financial literacy, healthy relationships, and substance use awareness among Tribal youth.

Reducing Health Disparities

- Health Equity Committee: Progress continues on the NNPH organizational-wide SDOH survey to understand service access, identify barriers, and use data to inform and improve services. This

initiative was discussed at a recent leadership meeting, with the next steps including identifying key opportunities to promote the survey to all clients.

- BARHII Assessment: The assessment process is ongoing. Management interviews were conducted in June, and all qualitative data is being reviewed. A final presentation of key findings will be developed.

Quality Improvement

- EHS/EPHP: The project to improve communication and collaboration between NNPH (PHD and EHS) and Washoe County's Community Services Department (CSD) on special event permitting has been successfully completed. Together, the teams revised the application process to provide clearer guidance to event organizers on the required permits and information needed to ensure public safety and compliance with existing regulations. This initiative has strengthened interagency coordination and improved the overall experience for applicants.
- AQM: The team has been developing an automated process with the goal of getting 100% annual permit maintenance fees paid within 45 days of invoicing. This new process will decrease the amount of staff time and resources AQM currently spends working on the invoice process. Throughout the course of last year, AQM collected, on average, approximately 87% of the stationary source permit maintenance fees within the 45-day target range. The division aims for a 100% rate stemming from the improved data collection, data management, and general automation this QI effort will bring.
- With the QI project now underway, an average of 95.67% of invoices have been paid within the target 45 days of the invoice date from January-May. The AQMD continues to see most invoices paid online through ACH (electronic payment), minimizing staff time collecting/posting payments. Overall, the division is seeing improvements with automation of the process and is currently working on better data collection and management. The AQMD is looking to complete this project by January 2026.

Staff Transfers/Promotions/Resignations

Mary Beth Reeve – Promoted from APRN to Nurse Practitioner in CCHS – effective 8/25/25

Luke Franklin – Senior Environmental Health Specialist in EHS – last day 8/19/25