

**Community and Clinical Health Services
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: June 27, 2024**

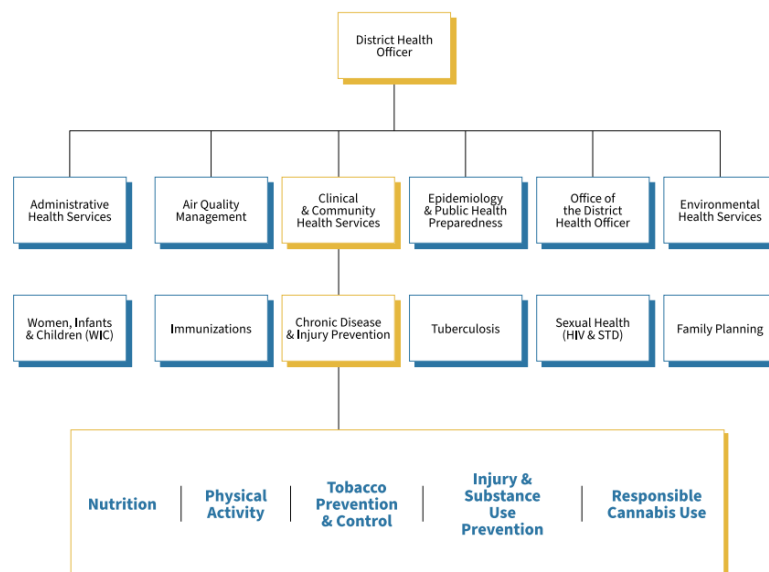
DATE: June 7, 2024

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Lisa Lottritz, RN, MPH
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SUBJECT: Community and Clinical Health Services – Divisional Update – Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Overview; Data & Metrics; Sexual Health (Outreach and Disease Investigation), Immunizations, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, Reproductive and Sexual Health Services, Chronic Disease Injury Prevention Program, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health, Women Infants and Children, and Community Health Workers.

- 1. Divisional Update: Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Program Overview** - The Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP) Program focuses on the modifiable risk factors of tobacco use and exposure, healthy eating, active living, as well as injury prevention and responsible cannabis use. These modifiable risk factors impact the leading causes of death in Washoe County, and by moving the needle on these risk factors, the CDIP Program aims to reduce illness and premature deaths in Washoe County and improve quality of life of those that live, work, and visit our community.



The CDIP Program has six full-time staff and a program manager. The team has several intermittent hourly/public service intern staff who help complete grant deliverables for the program. The team also has a Community Health Worker and an Office Specialist to help support program efforts.

CHRONIC DISEASE & INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM STRATEGIC MAP 2025-2027

MISSION

To advance the Health District's mission to improve and protect our community's quality of life and increase equitable opportunities for better health in the areas of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention.

VISION

A healthy community designed with equitable access, education, and resources to maximize quality of life.

VALUES

Prioritize policy, systems, and environmental changes for community health.

DECREASE CANNABIS

- Increase community awareness on the health impacts of cannabis use and secondhand smoke exposure, through messaging on responsible cannabis use among adults who use and prevention education for youth
- Compile local data on cannabis use and exposure, including a community needs assessment to inform programmatic activities
- Develop a two-year workplan to guide CDIP in addressing the topic area of cannabis use and exposure

INJURY PREVENTION

- Reduce the rate of unintentional slips and falls injury among seniors
- Collaborate with local agencies to reduce the rates of injury
- Lead coordination of Suicide Prevention activities to reduce gun violence-related injury and deaths

HEALTHY EATING ACTIVE LIVING

- Create opportunities to make the healthy choice the easy choice through access, education and collaboration.
- Increase access to healthy foods and beverages where availability is limited
- Promote and offer resources to communicate healthy behaviors for healthy eating and active living
- Identify and support policies that improve the nutrition environment and increases physical activity opportunities

YOUTH VAPING PREVENTION, TOBACCO CONTROL

- Eliminate exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke in Washoe County
- Promote quitting tobacco or vaping among adults and youth
- Prevent initiation of tobacco and/or vaping use among youth and young adults

STRATEGIES

CREATE

environments that support healthy behaviors

EDUCATE

using evidence-based information

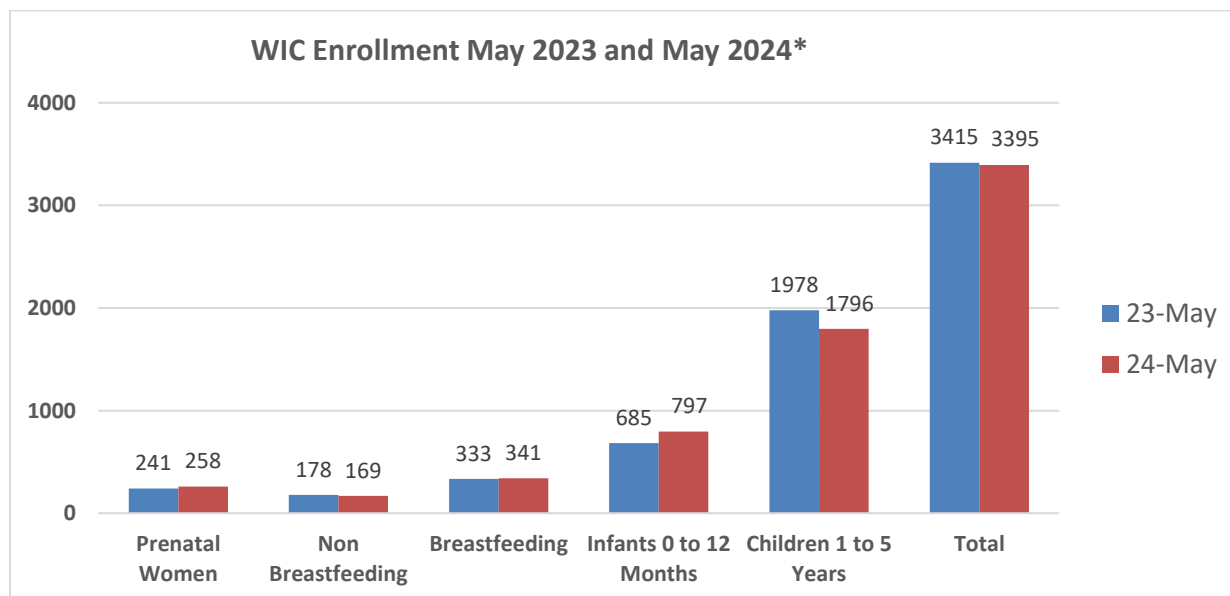
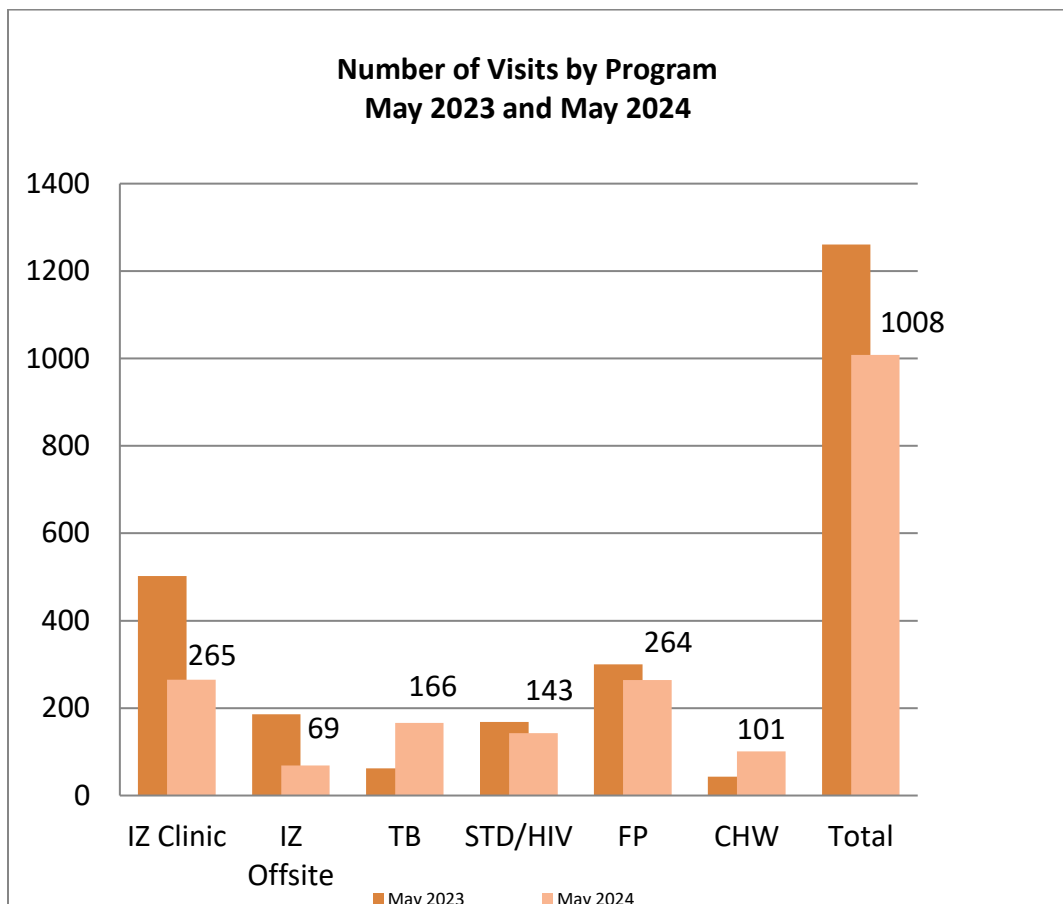
COLLABORATE

for greater impact

ADVOCATE

for policy and systems change

a. **Data/Metrics**



*Changes in data can be attributed to several factors including fluctuations in community demand, changes in staffing and changes in scope of work/grant deliverables

WIC Participation Numbers in the Past Year		
Month	Enrollment	Participation w/ Benefits
May 2023	3415	3003
June 2023	3388	3042
July 2023	3446	3075
Aug 2023	3493	3095
Sept 2023	3449	3040
Oct 2023	3406	3020
Nov 2023	3408	3031
Dec 2023	3415	2908
Jan 2024	3357	3076
Feb 2024	3328	3103
March 2024	3342	3114
April 2024	3342	3114
May 2024	3395	3152
Monthly avg	3399	3059
% change May 2023 / May 2024	-0.59%	4.96%

WIC participation numbers

Enrollment: All those enrolled in WIC: (women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or post-partum; infants; and children up through age 5)
Participation with Benefits: All enrolled WIC participants receive food benefits except
- Infants that are exclusively breastfed
- Breastfeeding mothers whose infants receive more than 4 cans of formula per month

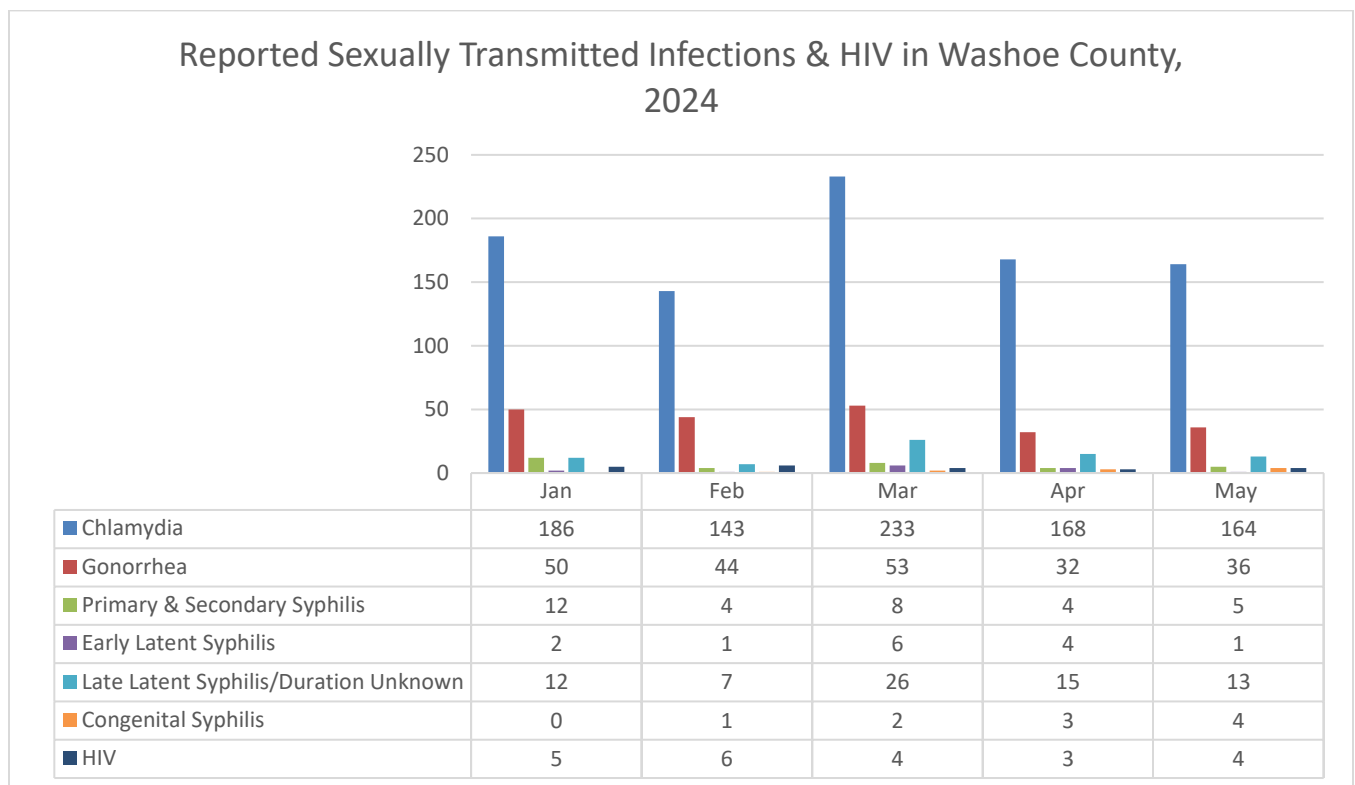
2. Program Reports – Outcomes and Activities

- a. **Sexual Health (Outreach and Disease Investigation)** – The annual STI Engage conference was held June 3-5, 2024, and was attended by the Sexual Health Program Epidemiologist and Program Supervisor. This conference engages government officials, researchers, clinicians, and STI professionals to share new research, innovations, as well as treatment and prevention strategies. Participation in this conference is important due to the consistent increase in new STI infections nationally and in Washoe County, with an emphasis on how to address these increases through a health equity lens. The Epidemiologist received a full scholarship to attend the conference.

In addition to the scholarship for the STI Engage conference, Allison Schleicher, the Sexual Health Program Epidemiologist, is participating in the exam preparation for the inaugural national Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) certification exam. She has received a full scholarship to attend workgroup meetings to finalize the exam in June and July. The workgroup has been developing content for the certification for over a year.

The Sexual Health Program Supervisor is participating in a national training on HIV molecular surveillance, cluster detection and response, June 25-26, 2024. This training supports the national framework to end the HIV epidemic through testing, treatment, prevention, and monitoring (surveillance). Molecular surveillance can connect cases through genetic sequencing and address emerging clusters and outbreaks with this information. Information from this training will assist in the development of protocols for this level of surveillance at the local level.

Cases of congenital syphilis continue to rise. Through May 31, 2024, 10 cases have been reported for the year. Intensive case management of the infants is conducted for 15 months after delivery to ensure proper testing, testing, and follow up.



- b. **Immunizations** – The immunization team continues to focus on providing vaccines to individuals who are uninsured or underinsured and unable to receive vaccines elsewhere. Clinic staff vaccinated 259 clients while providing a total of 655 routine vaccinations in May. The clinic is still providing both flu and COVID-19 vaccines, with a total of 36 flu vaccines and 32 COVID-19 vaccines administered in May. Walk-ins are accepted daily. Staff offer community provider education regarding vaccine storage and handling and inventory and address special medical and employee vaccine cases.

In May, there were four community events. A total of 69 school-aged persons or family members received 218 vaccine doses, of which 33 COVID vaccines and 40 flu vaccines were provided. The

community events included the Mobile Harvest – Food Bank, held the first Tuesday of every month and three Back-To-School-focused events held at a middle school, a high school, and the Family Health Festival at Neil Road. Planning activities are underway for June, July, and August Back-To-School events.

The team is on target to meet NSIP required activities as VFC (Vaccines for Children) Compliance and IQIP (Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers) visits continue. Three compliance visits, two IQIP visits, and five follow-up visits were completed in May. In addition, staff plan to conduct visits and/or training with five new provider sites in Washoe County in the month of June. Site reviewer staff received initial training to address 317, or “bridge,” funded compliance activities. These compliance visits are for providers who receive federally funded adult vaccine.

The program concluded an internal year-long quality improvement project (IQIP) in May, which focused on increasing vaccine communication and completion rates for adolescent immunizations, namely Meningococcal B and HPV vaccines. Staff saw an increase in vaccination rates and are currently reviewing strategies to continue this project.

Program staff continue the development, case management, and reporting activities for the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) with thirteen cases currently under management. Case managers attended a virtual summit in May to increase collective awareness around reporting, lab interpretation, CDC initiatives, and gain insight into program improvements.

The immunization program is currently working on an additional grant for FY 25 which will be specific for School Located Vaccination Clinics (SLVC's). Staff have established a partnership with the Washoe County School District to focus on Title I schools. There will be a focus on seasonal vaccinations paired with catch up vaccinations.

- c. **Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program** – The TB program currently has five cases of active TB. Two cases of extra-pulmonary TB and three cases of pulmonary TB. Each case is unique and comes with their own set of challenges to include medical complexity, psychosocial concerns, unstable housing, etc. As a result of these various situations, it takes countless hours to get these clients through treatment successfully which can last 6-9 months, sometime longer. In addition to the five active disease cases, the program is also managing 35 Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) clients. LTBI treatment can take as little as 12 weeks or as long as 6 months depending on the regimen that is used based on the client's medical history and preference. During LTBI treatment, staff regularly check in with clients to assess compliance, address any medical side effects that might be experienced and perform any testing or labs that are required.

In April and May 2024, the program completed 20 evaluations for LTBI, presented 38 cases to the consulting physician, performed 202 instances of directly observed therapy, and started three clients on LTBI treatment.

- d. **Reproductive and Sexual Health Services** - The Family Planning Sexual Health Program (FPSHP) has submitted a request to fill for an Intermittent Hourly Community Health Aide. Ruth Castillo has resigned from this position due to lack of availability. In the meantime, the PHNs and RNs will be cross training to learn how to assist the APRN during the client visit. This ensures no disruption in clinic services due to sick calls or annual leave.

Program staff have been working to implement several changes in the FPSHP. Starting June 10, 2024, the FPSHP will start accepting a new insurance, United Health Care/UMR. The addition of United Health Care/UMR required several changes to the way lab tests are collected and sent. Program leaders have been working to train staff on the changes and new processes. In April, the FPSHP received notice from Dr. Mark Pandori that he will be resigning as lab director for the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory and lab director for the NNPH lab. With his resignation, program leaders have made the decision to transition to a CLIA-Waived lab. Per NRS regulations, an APRN can be a lab director for a CLIA-waived lab which eliminates the need to contract with an outside lab director. There will be minimal impact on client services with staff developing a work around for the one in-house lab test impacted by this change. Staff anticipate this change to be effective July 1, 2024.

In other activities, walk-in appointments continue to be a popular option for clients with the walk-in appointment rate for May being approximately 48%. Program leaders are working on the Annual Progress Report for Title X. Program staff are still awaiting the final Notice of Award for April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025. Staff are hopeful to receive the final Notice of Award within the next month.

- e. **Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP) Program** – Staff presented to 30 attendees at the Vision Zero Truckee Meadows Task Force meeting. Staff shared findings from the Get Active Washoe Survey and the Walking Audit conducted last summer, focusing on physical activity engagement and the built environment. Sharing the report allowed for open discussion on current projects regarding safe, active transportation and the role CDIP could have within these projects.

Staff attended Lena Juniper's family picnic day for kindergarten classrooms. Part of the Power Up Kids Program is to find channels to engage families and students in healthy eating and active living. Staff provided interactive games, educational materials, a planting activity, and fruits and vegetables for students and families to enjoy and try.

Staff worked with Bethel AME Church in Sparks to host two No Menthol Sunday educational events on May 17th and May 19th. These events reached approximately 50 community members

with information on menthol flavoring in tobacco products and other tobacco industry tactics employed to target and addict the African American population. Additionally, the church reached 1,000 community members with this messaging through the distribution of flyers at businesses, multifamily housing properties, schools, etc., located near the church.

Staff led coordination of the employee garden planting day on May 14th in partnership with the Green Team. The employee garden is in the courtyard of the county complex and in addition to the new plants, the area has a new sign introducing and welcoming people to the garden.

The CDIP team participated in a strategic planning session on May 17th to discuss program direction and activities for FY25-27. The strategic map produced from the work done at this meeting is featured in the Divisional Update.

Staff attended the Ride Reno, Spin Sparks event on May 18th to promote safe cycling and active transportation for Bike Month.

Staff coordinated and produced a :30 second and :15 second Suicide Prevention video for various media promotions this fall. The video was filmed by a local media vendor and highlights the importance of temporary safe storage of lethal means (of suicide) during a time of crisis, and the Washoe Suicide Prevention Alliance – future safe storage locations map.

- f. **Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH)** – Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health activities include Lead Screening, Newborn Screening, Cribs for Kids, and Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR).

The NNPH Lead team works with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Lead Program Specialist. The NNPH Lead team is currently following twelve open cases.

Public Health Nurses and Community Health Workers (CHWs) continue to follow-up and provide coordination education and resources on referrals from the Nevada Newborn Screening Program to ensure all infants receive the second newborn screening.

NNPH CHW's held three Cribs for Kids classes in May. CHWs are Baby and Me Tobacco Free facilitators and promote PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System), Nevada 211 and Nevada Medical Home Portal.

The Fetal Infant Mortality Review Board (FIMR) meets monthly, except for June and December. The FIMR Board met on May 16, 2024, and reviewed five cases. One interview was completed, and three more interviews are scheduled. A request for 2022 data has been submitted and 2023 data cleaning is in progress. Staff met with April Stahl, Social Services Specialist III, working for State Child Death

Review, regarding how Child Death Review (CDR) and FIMR work together. The NNPH FIMR program welcomed new member Rachel Mack, LMSW, LADC, Associate Director of the "Empowered" program at Roseman University College of Medicine which is a non-profit program which has recently expanded to Northern Nevada. Empowered was developed to help women navigate difficulties related to opioid and stimulant use disorders during pregnancy and the post-partum period. They help to develop a path for women, their infants, and their families to go from recovery, to stabilization, to resilience.

Two FIMR staff members were awarded travel scholarships from the National Child Fatality Review and Prevention Program to attend "Enhancing Equity in Fatality Review Together" (EEFRT) with our national partners in New Orleans June 3-6, 2024.

Staff continue to provide updates on fetal and infant deaths at the Washoe County Community Child Death Review as requested. The next Child Death Review meeting will be held on June 7, 2024. Child Death Review meetings are held every other month.

The Northern Nevada Maternal Child Health Coalition (NNMCHC) met on May 9, 2024. The Coalition is currently co-chaired by NNPH FIMR staff members Rebecca Gonzales and Kelcie Atkin and Maricruz Schaefer as treasurer. At the meeting, the owner of Kindred Health Coaching spoke about "Anything but the Gym," a local free fitness program for women. The NNMCHC hosted a packing party for New Mama Care Kits and created 189 bags to give to our local distributors.

- g. **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** – WIC partnered with Molina Health Plan of Nevada to host a diaper give-away in conjunction with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada's monthly Mobile Harvest event held in the northeast parking lot of the County Complex. The event was successful, allowing outreach to new families about WIC services.

WIC leadership worked on the program's Local Agency Nutrition Services Plan (LANSP) Phase 1 for the period (Oct 2024-Sept 2025). The LANSP is an opportunity to annually assess our WIC program's needs and outline steps for improvement. The plan includes goals for the program as well as plans for staff training and program outreach.

WIC leadership prepared for filling program vacancies and increasing coverage due to vacancies. The WIC Human Services Support Specialist (HSSS) position was posted, and to help with maintaining participation numbers an additional IH Community Health Aid (CHA) was recruited, and the current IH CHA's hours were increased.

WIC Registered Dietitians (RD's) attended the California WIC conference virtually, increasing knowledge, and gathering information for NNPH WIC program efforts. Key sessions will be shared with staff to meet required nutrition education training hours.

The WIC team welcomed a representative from the Northern Nevada International Center (NNIC) to a team meeting to present information about NNIC and their Refugee Resettlement Program. The WIC program has been seeing more refugee clients and the presentation helped the team learn about additional resources available to these clients.

- h. **Community Health Workers (CHWs)** – The CHWs continue to be busy supporting clients receiving services at NNPH and assisted 101 clients in the month of May with health care and social service resources. Additionally, the CHWs conducted nine outreach activities in May. The CHWs performed dual roles at the Family Health Festival on May 22, 2024. Not only did they have a table with NNPH resources to provide to participants, but they also helped participants navigate the Family Health Festival to locate necessary resources.

On May 23, 2024, CCHS leadership was informed by the Department of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) that they will no longer be providing a staff member onsite weekly to provide insurance enrollment assistance. This is unfortunate for our clients as some clients need in-person assistance to enroll in Medicaid or other welfare services. NNPH staff will continue to provide paper applications for assistance to clients and will return these applications virtually to DWSS. The CHWs have begun referring clients needing insurance assistance to Patient Educators at Nevada Health Centers and have submitted an MOU to Nevada Health Centers to provide a bilingual Patient Educator onsite at NNPH weekly to provide insurance enrollment assistance.

Through their partnership with Anthem, the CHWs have secured 30 menstrual product kits to distribute to clients in need of menstrual products due to financial or other barriers such as housing instability. The kits are from Project Marilyn and contain enough supplies for one menstrual cycle. The CHWs will monitor usage as well as identify potential funding sources for the creation of a menstrual product bank at NNPH.

On May 31st and June 1st, two CHWs attended Join Together Northern Nevada's Washoe County Prevention Conference. They learned valuable information on substance misuse prevention, substance misuse trends, overdose prevention, adverse childhood experiences and social determinants of health. The information learned will further help them assist clients in both harm reduction and navigation of services.