

**Office of the District Health Officer
District Health Officer Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: July 24, 2025**

DATE: July 16, 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:

DHO activities during June 2025, which included PTO, reflect leadership coordination and collaboration, informational transparency, and stakeholder engagement. Key activities include: REMSA coordination, planning, and presentation to key stakeholders; leadership discussions on budget prioritization processes for enhanced data-driven decision-making; One-on-one and meetings with key staff; HR process review; BARHII leadership interview; presentation to DBOH on NNPH's July 1 restructure; national coordination with NACCHO regarding federal funding and the impact to public health; coordination with EHS regarding Lemon Valley Apartment pool; coordination with the Chair, EHS, and Eldorado Hotel and Casino jacuzzi; on-call management of EMS emergency phone; Coordination and communication with DBOH and stakeholders; supporting staff in various roles.

DHO Performance Measures:

Performance Measure	Metric	June 2025 Total
1. Effective Relationships	Number of strategic partnerships engaged	5
2. Communication	Number of internal/external emailed (sent) communications	142
3. Community Engagement	Number of community meetings/forums attended	4
4. Effective Representation	Number of public health activities advocated or supported.	4
5. Personal Development	Hours spent on professional development	9
6. Leadership	Number of staff leadership or mentorship activities conducted	14
7. Strategic Decision-Making	Number of engagement activities for strategic initiatives	3
8. Crisis Management	Number of crisis response or emergency preparedness actions	2
9. Policy/Program/Budget Implementation	Number of public health programs evaluated	5
Standard Practices		
Total Hours		76
Excess Hours (>160)		4
PTO		88
Sick-Time		0
Holiday		8

Communications & Public Information

The NNPH Communications Team had a strong June 2025, with solid public and media engagement on health topics throughout the month. Key highlights include:

- Mosquito treatment and surveillance
- Record-breaking heat and public health responses
- Tobacco retail and vape shop regulations
- Food safety initiatives
- Youth vaping prevention efforts

Several press releases were issued on key health issues, which include a paint stripping and surface coating permit workshop, a food safety special processes fair and a notice of proposed action. The team also notified the public that NNPH offices were closed for two mornings due to training.

Overall, while the numbers of media coverage and inquiries were down from May, we are pleased with sustained public interest in a range of health-related topics managed or monitored by the NNPH.

Public Health Accreditation

NNPH's Reaccreditation Site Visit is scheduled for July 8th from 8:30-12:30 PM. The purpose of Public Health Accreditation is to improve services, value, and accountability to stakeholders, ultimately advancing the quality and performance of our organization. The process of reaccreditation promotes the use of evidence and forward-thinking approaches to strengthen infrastructure, improve performance, and support local health districts, state health departments, and tribal partners in delivering high-quality programs and services.

Community Health Assessment

NNPH and Renown Health are partnering to conduct the 2026-2029 Washoe County Community Health Assessment. A community health assessment provides the foundation to improve the health of the population through priority setting, planning, policy changes, and coordination of community resources. The alignment of our organizations is an important collaboration in the region as we work together to leverage resources to amplify our reach in the community, to understand what the most pressing needs are in the community, and opportunities to improve health outcomes for our most vulnerable populations.

Workforce Development

In early June, NNPH hosted an all-staff training facilitated by Synclusiv, a Canada-based human resources and organizational development firm. The training, titled "Building Bridges through Communications and Charting the Pathway to Effective Leadership," equipped employees and leaders with practical tools and strategies to strengthen leadership skills, build resilience, and deepen their understanding of how effective communication fosters healthier and more productive work environments. This initiative is part of NNPH's broader workforce development strategy aimed at enhancing staff capabilities and key competencies, specifically in communication and engagement with colleagues, customers, and community partners.

The Synclusiv training was designed to build familiarity with six of the nationally recognized "Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals." Developed by leaders in public health education and practice, these competencies define the essential knowledge and skills required to meet today's public health challenges. To measure the impact of the training, participants completed a self-assessment both before and after the session. This assessment evaluated their perceived proficiency across six core communication and leadership domains.

Survey results indicated notable improvements across all assessed domains. Specifically, the proportion of staff reporting lower levels of proficiency ("not at all" or "slightly") decreased significantly, while the number of those indicating higher proficiency ("strongly" or "extremely") increased. While the data suggests encouraging trends in improved confidence and capability, it is important to acknowledge a key limitation: the number of post-training respondents (68) was considerably lower than the number who completed the pre-assessment (127). As such, a direct one-to-one comparison of results is not possible.

Despite this limitation, the overall trends indicate positive movement in staff development.

Strengthening Relationships with Community Members

Reno-Sparks Indian Clinic Annual Health Fair

NNPH participated in the Reno-Sparks Indian Clinic's Annual Health Fair to support and engage with the

Tribal community. Staff connected with 78 community members, sharing information about NNPH services, including smoking cessation resources, clinical offerings, and mosquito-borne disease prevention.

Sun Valley Community “Intro to Summer” Event

NNPH also participated in the Sun Valley Community "Intro to Summer" event, where staff engaged with 40 community members. Resources and information were provided on NNPH clinical services, the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, and the Food Bank’s Mobile Harvest location in Sun Valley.

Community Health Improvement Plan

5-2-1-0 Healthy Washoe (CHIP Priority 3: Preventative Health Behaviors)

NNPH collaborated with Glenn Duncan Elementary School to promote healthy lifestyles through the 5-2-1-0 framework. Staff participated in the school’s Field Day event, coordinating a variety of physical activity games to engage students in fun, movement-based learning. The team is preparing efforts to expand the program into other areas of the community, including early child education centers, physician offices, and schools.

Un Plan Financiero para Abrir Puertas, a Financial Plan to Open Doors (CHIP Priority 1: Social Determinants of Health- Financial Literacy)

As part of the CHIP’s effort to address the social determinants of health, NNPH and Hello Real Estate hosted a “Budgeting 101” financial literacy session for mothers at the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra. The session served 10 participants and focused on building foundational skills in managing income, including strategies for saving and spending.

Native Youth Wellness Retreat: Rez Girls (CHIP Priority 4: Youth Mental Health)

In response to pressing mental health challenges among Native youth in Washoe County, NNPH supported the Rez Girls Wellness Retreat—part of a CHIP initiative aimed at reducing the prevalence of suicidal ideation and attempts. Led by Tribal Minds and in collaboration with NNPH and other partners, including Urban Indians, Sawabe Muhano, the Reno-Sparks Tribal Health Center, among others, the retreat served 14 participants. It offered a variety of workshops designed to address mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being, tailored specifically to the unique needs of Native youth.

Workshop topics included: Connecting with the Voices of Nature, Nutrition and Moon Time, Teen Sex Education, Money Management, Prayer Tie Making, Healing with the Wheel

Reducing Health Disparities

NNPH has completed the implementation phase of the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) organizational self-assessment, aimed at evaluating the agency’s capacity to address health disparities. In June, five interviews were conducted with division directors to gather leadership perspectives. With data collection now complete, the next phase will focus on a thorough analysis of the findings to inform actionable recommendations and guide strategic next steps.

