

**Office of the District Health Officer
District Health Officer Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: December 19, 2024**

DATE: December 13, 2024
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.

DHO Overview

DHO Community Connections/Collaborations/Communications

Attended Bloomberg Public Health Summit in DC; Meet/coordinated with Carson HHS; met/coordinated with SNHD Leadership; met/coordinated with CNHDD; met/coordinated with Senator Donate; Produced NV State Board of Health Report for NNPH (NV BOH postponed until January 2025); Meet with Sparks Fire Services; Attended NPHF Board Meeting (voting member); Attended Northern Nevada Behavioral Health Community Board (voting member); Sent proxy to UNR SPH Community Advisory Board (voting member); Presented at Reno City Hall to community stakeholders consisting of restauranters and contractors.

DHO Performance

Avg. Work week: 51hrs

Conducted 1-1 with staff; Participated in EH leadership planning and strategic planning; held NNPH leadership strategic planning; participated in NNPH staff events; conducted monthly all-staff meetings; promptly answered emails; performed duties as assigned.

Staff Transfers/Promotions/Resignations

Rachel Cord - Account Clerk II in AHS to Office Supervisor in CSD - effective 12/09/2024
Briana Johnson - EHS Specialist in EHS to Assessor I in Assessor's Office - effective 12/16/2024
Hallie Plato - EHS Trainee - EHS - resigned effective 12/19/2024

Communications

NNPH Comms worked on several press releases for Air Quality, maintained communication regarding the Lakemill Lodge public health issues, provided restaurant inspection data to media, and celebrated the Great American Smokeout.

For Air Quality Management Division, we issued releases about openings on the Air Pollution Control Hearing Board, a Yellow Burn Code, information about a compliance assistance workshop and requested comments from the public about an Exceptional Events Demonstration.

We provided data related to restaurant closures in Washoe County to the Reno Gazette-Journal, which continues to attract a lot of attention from people in the area. We have used the timeliness of recent power outages to educate the community on food safety related to refrigerators and freezers and how long until food spoils. In Regarding the October closure of the Lakemill Lodge, we updated media about our reinspections and worked with the City of Reno on communicating those updates.

Lastly on public communication, we updated the community on our Thanksgiving and Veterans Day closures and celebrated the Great American Smokeout.

Internally, we served all divisions with our new ticketing system with over 40 tickets received in November. We also continue to work on website accessibility.

Community Health Improvement Plan

5210 Healthy Washoe

A meeting with the Washoe County School District's FACE coordinators was hosted to discuss partnership opportunities to improve nutrition and physical activity among students by integrating 5210 Healthy Cafeterias and Fuel Up Healthy, Go! programs. During the meeting, staff also talked about the benefits of these programs, uplifting the existing Washoe County School District Wellness Policy.

Un Plan Financiero para Abrir Puertas, a Financial Plan to Open Doors (Financial Literacy)

The financial literacy series ended with 83 participants, 46% of whom were Spanish speakers. Topics covered included budgeting, credit building, and college savings. The program received positive feedback, with participants requesting more classes.

Aca Entre Nos

The project team held the first mental health destigmatization session with Clayton Middle School families at the Community Life Center. Due to unexpectedly low attendance, the team is rethinking their outreach strategies for future sessions.

Building Organizational Capacity to Reduce Health Disparities

Language Posters and IDs

The designs for the language posters and ID cards for public-facing areas were finalized. The poster and ID cards will inform Limited English Proficient (LEP) community members about the services available to them if other non-English languages are needed for services.

Language Resources Training

Staff training will be provided in December and January to educate staff on using language access tools, such as Language Line Solutions and Wordly AI. The purpose of the training is to ensure that staff are equipped to use these tools effectively when engaging with LEP individuals.

Bilingual Tracking Staff Focus Groups

The Health Equity Team completed multiple focus groups with bilingual staff to gather feedback about the tracking process for bilingual pay. Staff discussed challenges with the current process and opportunities for improvement so that more staff can account for their time when providing services in another language.

Quality Improvement

NNPH's inaugural "Quality Month" wrapped up in late November. The event was designed to promote staff awareness of NNPH's new Quality Improvement plan and QI vision. Staff participated in a "scavenger hunt," looking for specific information within the NNPH QI Plan. They also participated in a "Flat Stanley" activity, where they were asked to photograph a cartoon character in a colleague's workspace by highlighting said colleague/program as an example of ongoing QI efforts in the health district.

Workforce Development

For the past three months, NNPH has been participating in a national-level study, the Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PH WINS). The Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PHWINS) will measure strengths and gaps to inform future investments in funding, training, recruitment, and retention. NNPH is aiming for 100% participation in this survey. NNPH has now surpassed the minimum amount of participation required to have the survey administrator (the de Beaumont Foundation) generate a data analysis comparison dashboard. Despite having cleared this threshold, outreach efforts continue to obtain more responses from our larger divisions.