

**Candidate Summary**  
**District Health Officer**  
**Northern Nevada Public Health**

*Rebecca Nanyonjo*

**Current/Most Recent Position and Organizational Data**

<b>Current/Most Recent Title, Name of Organization, and Work Location</b>	Director – Merced County Public Health – Merced, CA
<b>Largest # of Employees Supervised</b>	Current: 225 FTE
<b>Largest Budget Managed</b>	Current: \$38 M + \$12 M (from trust fund)
<b>What is the organizational structure surrounding their role? Who do they report up to and who reports to them?</b>	Reports to: Merced County Board of Supervisors Reports to her: 3 Assistant Public Health Directors & 1 Health Officer over Health Administration, Health Operations, and Environmental Health

**How does the candidate’s experience align with the minimum required and desired qualifications?**

<b>Required Education:</b> A master's degree from an accredited college or university in public health, or a closely related field	BS, Biology/Biological Sciences MPH, Epidemiology & International Health DrPH, Preventive Care Epi & Research Methods
<b>Required Experience:</b> 5 years of experience in the development, analysis, and administration of public health programs and services, including experience in an administrative or supervisory position involving program development, fiscal management, and personnel management; OR an equivalent combination of training and experience.	<b>10 years of qualifying experience</b> Merced County Public Health Stanislaus County Health Services Agency Princess Cruises and Carnival Australia
<b>Preferred Licensure/Certifications: N/A</b>	N/A
<b>Air Quality Experience</b>	No, she does not have air quality management experience.
<b>Environmental Health Experience</b>	Yes, she currently oversees Environmental Health as Public Health Director for Merced County.
<b>Clinical and Community Health</b>	Yes, she currently oversees Environmental Health as Public Health Director for Merced County.
<b>Epidemiology and Preparedness</b>	Yes, she is an Epidemiologist by training and focused on Epidemiology projects with Stanislaus, Merced, and Princess Cruises. Rebecca includes a link to her 2023 Merced County Community Health Assessment on her resume.

**Logistics of Candidate Career Transition**

<p><b>Motivation: Why are they interested in the District Health Officer role with Northern Nevada Public Health?</b></p>	<p>Though her current department is larger than NNPH, she sees this as an opportunity to provide Public Health services to a larger population.</p>
<p><b>Minimum salary requirement</b> Range: \$184,683.20-\$258,564.80*.  *For individuals with a Medical Degree, the salary range can extend to \$289,577.60.</p>	<p>Within range.</p>
<p><b>Location: Commute or Relocation?</b></p>	<p>Rebecca lives in Modesto CA. She would relocate with her mom to the Washoe County area. She has driven through the Washoe County area a few times, as the county’s EMS provider is headquartered there.</p>
<p><b>Competition: Are they exploring career opportunities with other organizations?</b></p>	<p>No, she is not currently exploring any other roles.</p>
<p><b>Next Steps: Are there any complications regarding their candidacy to be aware of?</b></p>	<p>She expressed that a major factor for her in considering this position will be feeling comfortable in and accepted by the community. She is continuing to research and explore this point.</p>
<p><b>What unique factor(s) would this candidate bring to this role?</b></p>	<p>Rebecca is a tenured Public Health leader with six years in her current position. With this, she brings experience and a track record of successful implementation and advocacy in a Public Health Director role. She is the first director to bring accredited status to Merced County Public Health, and she is responsible for the only successful closure of meat packing facility in the country (<a href="#">recognized by Gayle King’s morning show</a>). Rebecca says her highest calling is serving the community through a health equity lens, making sure that programs and services are aligned with public health priorities throughout the community.</p>

# Candidate Profile

District Health Officer  
Northern Nevada Public Health

**Name:**

**Current Position:**

**Company, Location of Company:**

Please state your experience and qualifications in the following areas, use examples where appropriate:

- 1. Northern Nevada Public Health's District Health Officer position interacts with a multitude of stakeholders throughout the community, including but not limited to other local and state agencies, community partners, and elected officials. Please describe your experience and approach working with your department's stakeholders and provide an example of when that was successful.**

Public Health is a shared responsibility and, as such, requires multiple non-/traditional partnerships in developing and achieving shared goals with the hopeful outcome of having an engaged, more productive, health community. One recent example of a partnership with Department stakeholders is the developing of the Health Leadership Council (Council) which was formed to identify and execute real and tangible goals for improving social and health outcomes. Partner agreements and a charter were developed to serve as governance structure. This Council included key leaders from multiple sectors such as the County Superintendent, CEOs from both County hospitals, CEO/COO from the community health sector, CEO for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Respite Care CEO, and many others. In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, this Council was used as the table for making key critical decisions. Decisions such as treatment guidelines, recommendations for indoor air quality, vaccine placement, pop up clinics, PPE and many, many other topics were reserved for this weekly discussion. This Council remained in place until early 2023 when the public health emergency was lifted by the Governor and has resumed previous responsibilities. This, I believe, is an example of a partnership where the community, partners, and all of Merced County benefited.

- 2. The District Health Officer is the leader of Northern Nevada Public Health. Please describe your leadership style and provide an example of its effectiveness.**

My leadership style includes the use of positive communication where it is important to remain aware of items that are important and request that my staff keep me involved using a shared level of discretion. In my current role, I manage leadership that includes the County Health Officer, 2 Assistant Directors, Human Resources and Executive Analysts. Although the operation and administration

are distributed, I am involved in the strategic planning, assessments, and financial forecasting on an ongoing basis. However, I also believe in executive one's strategy and having measurable outcomes. Personally, I would say most would call me affable, compassionate, human, and professional because I do understand and can relate to employee frustrations. And I equally understand and value developing your leaders and understanding the difference. Understanding these issues in no way diminishes the importance of my role as Department Head in exercising prudence and a high level of discretion.

**3. What is your proudest achievement in your career so far? Please describe the situation at hand, the actions you took, and the results.**

Over the span of my career, I have done many things for which I am grateful to have been able to do. I would say one of the prouder moments of my career is a recent example. During the COVID pandemic, the number of cases was exploding at rates much higher than expected for community and family transmission. During the pandemic, the Department published the business names where outbreaks occurred. This was a long standing agreed to practice with our partners, although not all businesses were happy. In review of the outbreaks and fatalities from COVID, one business was identified as a major problem. I spoke with our state counterparts on how to stem the number of cases in this facility and agreed to recommendations. However, the case count was not decreasing and, if anything, was rapidly increasing. I directed my Epidemiology Unit to conduct a more comprehensive analysis of the data submitted and the number of fatalities was incorrect. Even after this revelation, the Company did not want to make any changes to the operation as this would impact productivity and revenue. After several letters, I tasked the County Health Officer with closure until a terminal cleaning could be conducted as viral transmission required disruption. The Company contacted the USDA, and I received a phone call from the USDA advising that this would not be allowed due to interference with commerce. To make a long story short, the Company was served with a closure notice and subsequently suspended operations for an 8-day period, two terminal cleanings were conducted, and the Environmental Health Division, with assistance from the California Department of Public Health, oversaw these efforts. The result was multiple national interviews, testimony at Congress and, more importantly, reduced morbidity and mortality among the crew from implemented safety measures. I am very proud of this achievement as Merced County was the only jurisdiction in the United States to successfully shut down operations for this type of facility during the pandemic.

# Rebecca Nanyonjo, DrPH

[LinkedIn Profile](#) | [Merced County Community Health Assessment](#)

## EDUCATION

*Doctor of Public Health (DrPH)*

Loma Linda University

Major: Preventive Care

Emphases: Epidemiology and  
Research Methods

*Master of Public Health (MPH)*

Loma Linda University

Major:

Epidemiology

Major: International Health

## KEY SKILLS

Organizational Development  
Executive Leadership  
Strategy and Operations Expert  
Regulatory Compliance  
Govt Relations/Expert Testimony  
Political Savvy  
Peer-Reviewed Publications  
Fiscal Management  
Population Health  
Risk Communication  
Equity  
Teaching & Instruction

## ASSOCIATIONS

American Public Health Assoc  
County Health Exec Assoc of CA  
Calif Conference of Health Officers  
Health Officers Assoc of CA  
Bay Area Health Inequity Initiative  
Central Calif Public Health  
Consortium

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (SUMMARY)

*Merced County*

Director, Public Health (1/2018 – Present)

- Serve as Department Head responsible to lead, direct, and organize strategy, budget, administration, activities, programs, and services of the Health Department.
- Led countywide response to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Develop health legislative platform.
- Serve as Medi-Cal Commissioner for County MCP.
- Serve as EMS Agency Executive Director.
- Serve as Equity Officer.

*Stanislaus County Health Services Agency*

Chief Deputy Director (5/2016 – 1/2018)

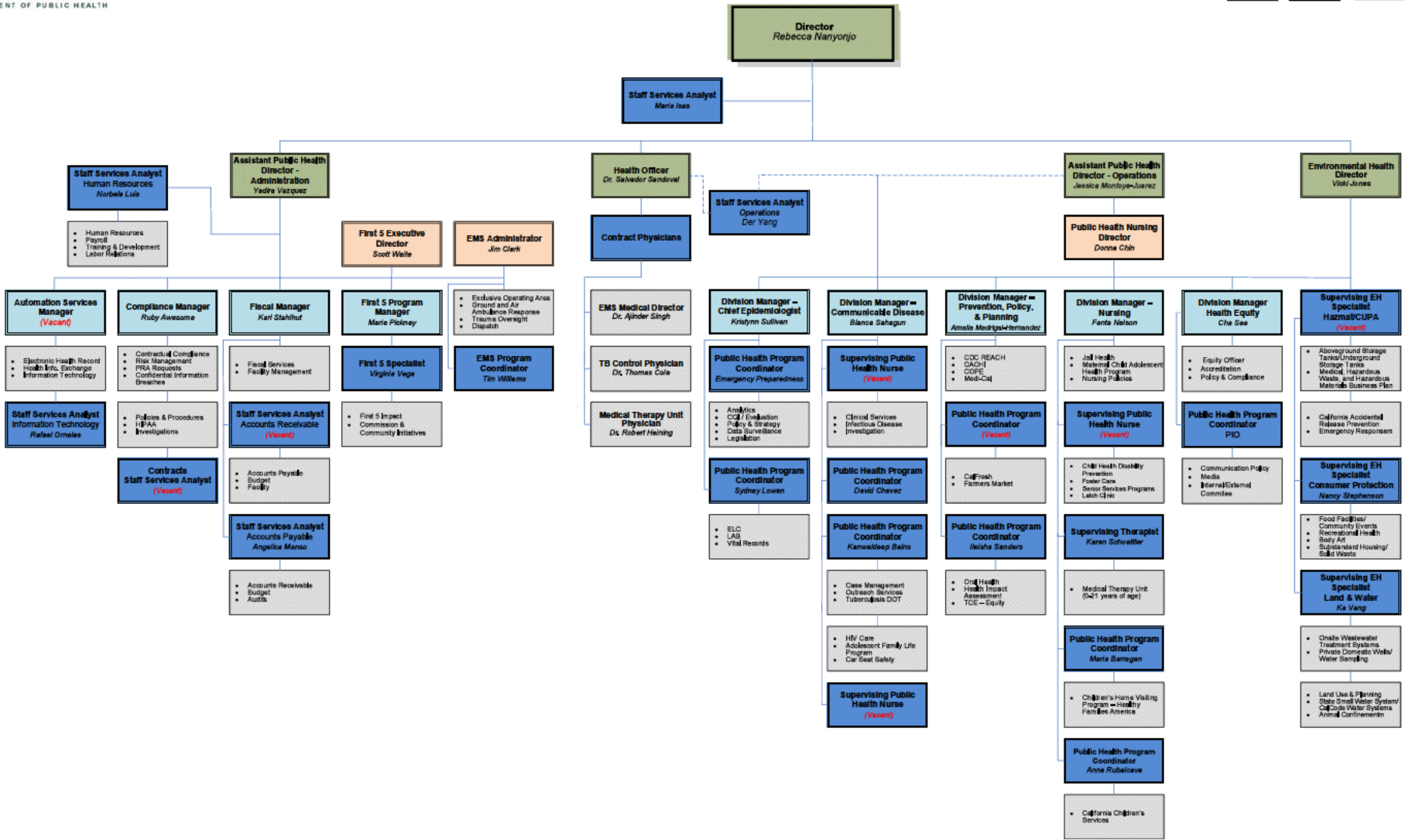
Public Health Director (2/2014 – 11/2016)

- Responsible to lead, direct, and strategize activities, programs, and services of the County Health Agency - Public Health and FOHC-LAL clinical system.
- Oversaw contracts, clinical operations and residency.
- Negotiated PMPM rates based on scope of services.
- Provided administrative and operational oversight for the County HIE to improve services to improve health.
- Developed policies and local ordinances.

*Princess Cruises and Carnival Australia*

Senior Public Health Director (6/2008 – 1/2014)

- Represented Company with key international decision makers in developing policies of global significance.
- Developed Company and public health policy.
- Developed forecasting epidemiologic tools used for forecasting to ensure rapid response and mitigation.
- Built health repository for medical and health policies.
- Oversaw clinical (physicians and nurses) and occupational staff onboard and in office globally.
- Determine service priorities and resource allocation through cost/benefit analyses.



Legend:  
Executive Leadership - Grey & Green Striped Box  
Management - Dark Blue Filled Box  
Supervisors - Light Blue Filled Box  
Categories:  
Vacant Positions - Red (Vacant) in Name Area  
Assignments - Grey & White Striped Box