

Assessment: gathering and using information to identify local public health problems, set goals and objectives and monitor progress.

Enhanced Air Quality Data System

- *Lakes Environmental Software* is an air emissions database that will greatly enhance our ability to respond to the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emissions inventory reporting requirements while also integrating with the County’s existing Permits Plus database. It will help organize and expedite submission of emissions inventory data to EPA as well as interface with the County’s existing permitting database that does not contain all the information needed for EPA air quality emissions reporting requirements. In addition, the software will provide GIS (Geographic Information Systems) capabilities for the emissions data.

Improved Reportable Disease Data

- The National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) was implemented in 2005. NEDSS allows the District to collect and analyze valuable information about cases of reportable diseases. It adds data to the national disease reporting system at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Public Health Preparedness and Epidemiology

- The addition of a GIS Specialist, Hazardous Materials Specialist and Environmental Trainee and Office Assistant II, has provided support for the EPI Center in public health preparedness and response, and surveillance and epidemiology of both natural and human caused emergencies, particularly as day-to-day disease control activities have expanded. These additional personnel will give us greater depth in gathering and using the information currently available to identify public health problems.

Syndromic Surveillance Systems Added

- The District implemented three syndromic surveillance systems: Real-time Outbreak and Disease Surveillance (RODS), National Retail Data Monitor (NRDM), and FirstWatch, to monitor reasons for emergency room visits, medications purchased over-the-counter, and 911 calls in the community. These systems help in early identification of possible public health problems or disease outbreaks.

The Washoe County District Health Department, through its programs and services, pursues the public health mission of health promotion, disease prevention, and protection of the public and the environment, to improve the quality of life for all citizens of Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County.

Health Fund

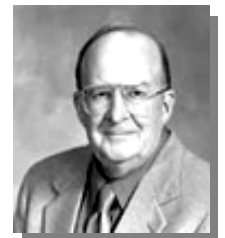
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Transfer from Washoe County- 43.3%	\$ 8,013,231	Salaries – 58.7%	\$ 10,972,979
Licenses & Permits – 9.2%	\$ 1,709,757	Benefits – 19.2%	\$ 3,584,548
Federal Grants – 28.5%	\$ 5,270,295	Services and Supplies – 21.0%	\$ 3,931,983
State Grants – 10.1%	\$ 1,869,429	Capital Outlay – 1.1%	\$ 209,616
Charges for Services- 7.4%	\$ 1,363,153	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (unaudited)*	\$ 18,699,125
Services to Other Agencies – 1.4%	\$ 254,253		
Other-.1%	\$ 40,532		



“I am proud to represent the City of Sparks on the District Board of Health. I encourage all citizens to support the District Health Department’s valuable public health programs, designed to promote health, prevent disease, and protect the public and the environment.”

Phillip Salerno-Chair Sparks City Councilman

“Your Board of Health works to link the community to the local public health department.”



George Furman, MD-Vice Chair Washoe County Appointee

Policy Development: the result of interactions among public and private organizations and individuals to examine information, set priorities, choose a course of action and allocate resources.

Air Quality Attainment

- The EPA issued its final Finding of Attainment for the 1-Hour Ozone and 8-Hour Carbon Monoxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards in Washoe County, NV in the *Federal Register* (Volume 70, Number 84). Effective June 2, 2005, this Finding of Attainment will allow EPA to recognize that Washoe County has not had an exceedance of the 1-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) since February 1990, and the 8-hour carbon monoxide NAAQS since December 1991. This is based on a finding of fact of monitored data.

Highest Recycle Rate in State of Nevada

- The State Legislature has set a goal of 25% recycling for all Nevada counties, which Washoe County continues to exceed. Environmental Health Services (EHS) participated in the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program with over 5,000 pairs of old sneakers collected and sent for recycling to Nike. EHS collaborated with Proctor Hug High School to obtain a \$50,000 Nike grant for a new surface for their running track with installation expected by the fall semester of 2005.

Assurance: ensuring conditions exist and services are accessible that enable the public to be healthy.

Protecting Our Air

- Seventy old polluting woodstoves are out of homes in our area and are ready to be demolished thanks to incentives offered by the Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) and the Nevada Small Business Development Center's Business Environmental Program. The removal of these old stoves will equate to 16 tons less pollution annually! Roughly six percent of all fine particle pollution (PM 2.5) in the United States comes from wood smoke. Replacing older wood stoves with EPA-certified stoves can reduce wood smoke by seventy percent on average.

Mosquito Abatement

- The Vector Borne Disease program added summer staff to monitor and treat catch basins in the Reno/Sparks area for mosquito control. By targeting these 18,000 plus basins, the Vector Program has been able to improve the abatement level for mosquitoes, lessening the chance of human illness. Mosquito bites can transmit illnesses such as West Nile Virus and St. Louis encephalitis.

Electronic Access to Health Information

- The Health Department's increased access to electronic information is a result of a dedicated Computer Application Specialist. This person stores, analyzes and disseminates data for emergency preparation and response, policy and program development, as well as public education.

Lead in Mexican Candies

- In September, 2004, the District Health Department further advanced Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warnings regarding candies and seasonings from Mexico that contained high levels of lead. Health educators, environmentalists, nurses, and public information officers, teamed to provide an extensive outreach campaign that included over 16,000 brochures in both English and Spanish with 12,500 of them inserted in *Ahora*, the leading Hispanic newspaper in Washoe County.



Dan Gustin
Reno City Councilman

"The proactive leadership role by the District Health Department and its Board is essential for continuous improvement of the health status within our community. It is personally rewarding to see we truly can make a difference."



David Humke
Washoe County Commissioner

"Public Health is a collective community concern, therefore I'm proud to be a part of this regional collaboration that maximizes our ability as a community to respond to the needs of our citizens."

Assurance: ensuring conditions exist and services are accessible that enable the public to be healthy.

Collaborations Key to Emergency Preparedness and Response

- The Emergency Medical Services Program collaborated with area hospitals, Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), the Airport Authority of Washoe County, Washoe County Emergency Management and a variety of public safety agencies. This enabled planning, response, and evaluation of the field and Regional Emergency Operations Center components of the triennial Airport Authority community-wide disaster exercise in May of 2005.

Partners Promoting Adult Immunizations and the 2004/2005 Flu Season

- Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness that hospitalizes more than 200,000 people and kills nearly 36,000 people every year. Vaccine shortages during the 2004/2005 flu season required comprehensive strategic planning and cooperative spirit among local immunization providers. For a second consecutive flu season, District Health Department staff coordinated the efforts of the Partners Promoting Adult Immunizations (PPAI) subcommittee of the Northern Nevada Immunization Coalition in the inventory and management of the extremely limited vaccine supply. Through planning and teamwork, the District Health Department and PPAI members immunized over 51,300 people and supplied other communities such as Las Vegas with much-needed vaccine to guarantee that high risk patients needing flu shots received them.

Puzzling Outbreak Defined

- The District recognized 17 outbreaks of gastroenteritis. There were over 350 reports of illness associated with these outbreaks. One of these was a puzzling outbreak of gastroenteritis associated with a sushi restaurant. The District's epidemiology team along with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) investigated this outbreak and identified the cause. As a result, food establishments and the public were educated on food safety and hygiene.

"The District Health Department is very important to the health and well being of the community. Its programs and clinical services have a positive impact on everyone regardless of age, occupation, ethnic background or income."



Denis Humphreys, OD
City of Sparks Appointee

Professional Development

- Our recent graduates from the Great Basin Public Health Leadership Institute will ensure continued leadership to accomplish our mission.

Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention

- Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention staff has implemented several initiatives. These include community-based walking programs, workplace wellness activities, involvement in community planning groups, and various coalitions. These coalitions include the Washoe County Obesity Coalition, the Washoe County School District Pilot Food Policy Committee, and the Washoe County Chronic Disease Coalition. The Washoe County District Health Department also inaugurated a new interactive website. The community's newest resource for chronic disease information and local prevention activities is www.gethealthywashoe.com

More Reliable Data

- During fiscal year 2004/05, Environmental Health staff continued to move all well and septic documentation from microfiche to Geographic Information Services (GIS). This is a more reliable reference point for locating both old and new well and septic systems in Washoe County. A more efficient means of reading plans was also put into place, which provides citizens and developers quicker turnaround times on well and septic plans.

Public Health Preparedness (PHP)

- The Public Health Preparedness Program conducted two functional exercises of the District's emergency response plans in 2005 to identify areas of our planning and preparedness that need improvement in order to function more effectively in a real event.

"As the demography of the area changes, so must the Health Department. In September 2005, the Board welcomed new Health Officer, Dr. Mary Anderson, who will be stepping into the position held by Barbara Hunt, RN, for the past five years. Dr. Anderson inherits a strong department, one that has a positive impact on our community. The Board wishes Dr. Anderson well in her new position, and looks forward to working with her."



Robert Myles, MD
District Board of Health Physician Appointee

ACCESS YOUR DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1001 East 9th Street, Bldg. B, Reno, NV 89512
PO Box 11130, Reno, NV 89520
401 Ryland Street, Suite 331, Reno, NV 89502 (AQMD)

General Information (775 area code for all numbers).....328-2400
Internet Address: www.washoecounty.us/health

ADMINISTRATIVE HEALTH SERVICES (AHS)

AHS General Information.....328-2410
AHS Fax.....328-2279
Emergency Medical Services.....328-2698
Vital Statistics (Birth & Death Records).....328-2456

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DIVISION (AQMD)

AQMD General Information.....784-7200
AQMD Fax.....784-7225
Air Quality Index.....785-4110
Public Information Officer.....784-7203

COMMUNITY AND CLINICAL HEALTH SERVICES (CCHS)

CCHS General Information.....328-2441
CCHS Fax.....328-3750

Clinic Appointments for the following services:

Family Planning.....328-2470
Immunization.....328-2470
Podiatry.....328-2470
Sexually Transmitted Diseases.....328-2470
Teen Health Mall.....328-2470
Tuberculosis.....785-4785

Clinic Fax.....328-3751
Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention.....328-2459
HIV Prevention.....328-3647
Immunization.....328-3724
Public Health Nursing.....328-2628
Tobacco Prevention and Control.....328-2442
Tuberculosis Control (10 Kirman Avenue, Reno).....785-4785
Women, Infants and Children (WIC).....328-2299
WIC Marketing.....328-2448

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (EHS)

EHS General Information.....328-2434
EHS Fax.....328-6176
After Hours Emergency Hotline.....328-2436
Environmental Engineering/Safe Drinking Water Act.....328-2429
Food/Environmental Facility Construction Inspection.....328-2612
Food Facility Inspection.....328-3737
Hazardous Materials.....328-2423
Liquid Waste.....328-2429
Public Information Officer.....328-6140
Solid Waste Management.....328-2423
Temporary Food Permits and Inspection.....328-2620
Vector-Borne Disease Control Field Station.....785-4599

EPI CENTER

Communicable Disease Control.....328-2447
Public Health Preparedness.....328-6130
Public Information Officer.....328-2483



“The District Health Department is vital to our community’s future. With the rapid growth of our area, it is imperative that all health services meet our community’s needs.”

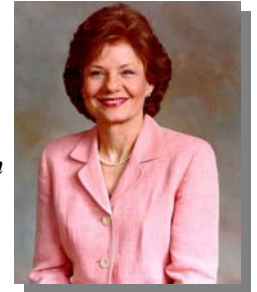
Matt Smith
City of Reno Appointee

Washoe County District Health Department

2004/2005

Report to the Community

As I look back on my five years as District Health Officer, three significant changes to our focus include:



Barbara Lee Hunt, RN, MPA
Washoe County District
Health Officer

The emergence of public health preparedness as a leading public health priority

Closely aligned with our public health preparedness program is our EPI Center, which was formally implemented 18 months ago and includes our communicable disease program along with public health preparedness program. The Communicable Disease program part of the EPI Center is supported with local funds and serves as the repository of local public health data as well as the center of our disease surveillance, investigation, and outbreak control activities.

The increased focus on chronic disease prevention and control

Chronic diseases are seven of the top ten causes of death nationally, statewide, and in Washoe County. The District Health Department has worked with the school district to make positive changes in its culture by taking steps toward implementation of a healthy food choice policy that would decrease the availability of unhealthy foods for students on campus, and the implementation of school district wide tobacco free campus policy.

Significant progress in addressing access to health care issues

Access to health care for the uninsured and underinsured is an issue the District Health Department has had a key role in addressing. We have worked with a number of community stakeholders to form the Washoe County Access to Health Care Network. The Network’s steering council wrote a five-year strategic plan and a federal grant application, which resulted in a grant award of \$2.3 million over a three-year period to address a variety of factors.

For the future, my crystal ball tells me that we will continue to provide leadership in the community to improve access to health care; we will carry out the activities outlined in the Board of Health’s new strategic plan; and there will be a new District Health Officer. My announced retirement in April 2005 took effect August 1, 2005 and I look forward to exploring personal interests that have taken a back seat the last few years.

Please welcome Dr. Mary Anderson, new District Health Officer as she brings a new era and new level of accomplishment to the District Health Department.