

ACCESS YOUR DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1001 East 9th Street, Bldg. B, Reno, NV 89520

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 Services328-2411
Public Health Emergency Preparedness328-6130
Vital Statistics (Birth & Death Certificates)328-2456

Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) 401 Ryland, Reno

AQMD General Information784-7200
AQMD Fax.....784-7225
Air Quality Index.....785-4110
Public Information Officer784-7203

Community and Clinical Health Services (CCHS)

CCHS General Information328-2441
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 Mall328-2470
Tuberculosis.....785-4785
Clinic Fax328-3751
Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention.....328-2459
Communicable Disease Control328-2447
HIV Prevention.....328-3647
Immunization.....328-3724
Public Health Nursing328-2628
Tobacco Prevention and Control328-2442
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 Fax328-6176
After Hours Emergency Hotline328-2436
Environmental Engineering/Safe Drinking Water Act328-2429
Food/Environmental Facility Construction Inspection328-2612
Food Facility Inspection328-3737
Hazardous Materials.....328-2423
Liquid Waste328-2429
Public Information Officer328-6140
Solid Waste Management.....328-2423
Temporary Food Permits and Inspection.....328-2620
Vector-Borne Disease Control Field Station785-4599



“The District Board of Health works to assure optimal health for our community through policy, education, advocacy and collaboration.”

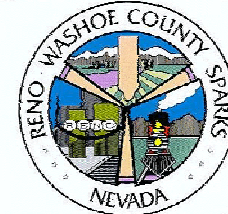
George Furman, MD
Washoe County Appointee

Washoe County District Health Department

2003/2004

Report to the Community

DISTRICT HEALTH



DEPARTMENT

The District Health Department made steady progress this year to assure residents received needed services. Budget reductions required greater efficiency and reliance on collaborative efforts with community partners. Providers in the community met the challenge, assuring that childhood immunizations, flu vaccines and tuberculosis skin tests were available to everyone needing them.

We strategically reclassified vacant positions in anticipation of fiscal year 2004/2005 when the budget will allow filling them. The need to restore clinical services was balanced with the need for technological support, data management and analysis expertise. We reviewed and streamlined programs to better serve the public while remaining true to our mission of promoting health, preventing disease and protecting the public and the environment.

We reviewed and updated temporary food establishment regulations, food service manager regulations and air quality regulations, to reflect best practices and better protect the public.

Staff responded to a 20% increase in air quality permits, a 30% increase in construction plan reviews requests and 38% in temporary food permits.



To learn more about the District Health Department, visit our website at www.washoecounty.us/health.

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

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

Enhanced Data Recovery System

- All District Health Department air quality monitoring stations now utilize the new Central Data Acquisition System. This system enhances the Air Quality Management Division’s already superior data recovery system and provides the public better and timely air quality information. An EPA report rated us first in Nevada and third in EPA Region 9 for data accuracy and completeness.

Information Technology (IT) Strategic Plan

- Scientific Technologies Corporation analyzed our IT infrastructure and developed an IT strategic plan for the Department. The plan supports the need for sharing data in a secured environment, participation in national and statewide technology-oriented public health initiatives, and technical infrastructure to support day-to-day and emergency operations.

Emerging Infectious Diseases and Enhanced Surveillance

- The Epi Center conducts continuous surveillance of communicable diseases in Washoe County to gain early control of epidemics and prevent additional cases. Staff made significant progress on implementing electronic reporting systems that allow quick exchange of information from labs, hospitals, health care providers, pharmacies and other public health agencies.
- In an attempt to detect outbreaks in their initial stages and minimize the spread of disease, the District Health Department started monitoring over-the-counter pharmacy sales for anti-diarrhea and cold medications, and Emergency Medical Services dispatch data. These data sources augment current laboratory and health care provider based reporting to detect naturally occurring or bioterrorism related infectious disease events.
- The Vector Borne Diseases Program initiated a multi-county West Nile Virus Working Group in anticipation of the 2004 mosquito season. The group developed a statewide interlocal agreement, allowing counties to assist each other in mosquito control and prevent or respond to the arrival of West Nile Virus in Nevada.

HEALTH FUND

REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Transfer from Washoe County- 45%	\$7,469,280	Salaries - 62%	\$10,018,998
Licenses & Permits - 11%	\$1,771,742	Benefits - 19%	\$3,138,907
Federal Grants - 29%	\$4,739,817	Operating - 18%	\$2,842,284
State Grants - 6%	\$1,040,705	Capital Outlay - 1%	\$106,174
Charges for Services- 8%	\$1,359,885	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (unaudited)*	\$16,206,362
Services to Other Agencies - 1%	\$178,148	* Totals do not equal as the variance	
Other - 0%	(\$6,098)	falls to Fund Balance	
TOTAL REVENUE (unaudited)*	\$16,553,479		



“With nearly 373,000 residents and six million yearly visitors to Washoe County, it is vital that we maintain the highest standards of public health and safety.”

***Jim Shaw, Chairman
Washoe County Commissioner***



“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
Sparks City Councilman***

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.

Truckee Meadows Clean Cities Coalition

- The Air Quality Management Division assumed a leadership role in Truckee Meadows Clean Cities Coalition. This coalition supports the Department of Energy's commitment to energy use for transportation that is more efficient, less dependent on foreign sources, less environmentally disruptive, sustainable and safe. This leadership role included co-sponsorship, coordination and participation in the Biodiesel Summit and the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Symposium.

Energy Conservation

- The Air Quality Management Division collaborated with the University of Nevada, Reno on a sustainable campus project, using campus-generated waste oils for the production of Biodiesel. Biodeisel is made by combining alcohol (usually methanol) with vegetable oil, animal fat, or recycled cooking greases. It can be used as an additive to reduce vehicle emissions (typically 20%) or in its pure form as a renewable alternative fuel for diesel engines. The project resulted in a successful grant award from the EPA for further implementation and testing.

Dedicated Property Tax for Vector Borne Disease Emergencies

- The Washoe County Board of Commissioners increased the property tax rate one-half cent for a vector borne disease emergency fund. The threat of West Nile Virus prompted the Commissioners to take action before the legislative \$3.64 tax rate cap was reached and before the virus spread to Washoe County.

Elimination of Tuberculin Skin Testing for Schoolteachers

- The District Health Department and the Nevada State Health Division partnered to recommend the Department of Education eliminate the TB skin-testing requirement for teachers. Based on new CDC guidelines and national trends, routine skin testing for this population is no longer necessary. This change in policy will save thousands of dollars in direct costs for teachers and significant savings in health care resources for the state, as approximately six thousand fewer skin tests will be performed annually.

Access to Health Care

- The District Health Department continued providing leadership for the Washoe County Access to Health Care Network. The September 2003 Forum on Access to Health Care was attended by 65 individuals representing a broad range of local organizations. Outcomes of the Forum included refinement of the five-year strategic plan and development of a grant application for over two million dollars in federal funding over three years to improve access to care in Washoe County.



“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***

“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***



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

Protecting Our Clean Air

- Tetrachloroethylene (PERC) is a potentially harmful chemical used primarily in dry cleaning establishments. To reduce the public exposure to PERC, the Air Quality Management Division, in collaboration with Nevada Small Business Development Center, established a rebate program offering all dry cleaners financial assistance for the elimination of PERC in their operations.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- The Epi Center was formed with the hiring of a Director and regrouping of staff to provide comprehensive epidemiologic, surveillance and community assessment capacity. The Epi Center provides data necessary to identify and prioritize public health problems; and design and evaluate interventions to minimize health risks.
- To ensure a competent workforce, the Epi Center collaborated with the University of California at Berkeley to train more than 80 public health professionals from northern Nevada and nearby California counties on the recognition, investigation and suppression of disease epidemics.

Communicable Disease Control

- The Epi Center started surveillance of community-associated methicillin-resistant *Staph aureus* (CA-MRSA) infections in 2003. The program identified two epidemics of this difficult to treat, highly contagious, aggressive infection among indigent persons and jail inmates; and educated the community on prevention, recognition of cases and appropriate treatment.

Tobacco Prevention

- The District Health Department secured grant funding for a two-year Tobacco Use Prevention Project, focusing on educational outreach to the target populations of Latinos and young adults 18-24 years of age.

Broad-based Delivery of Immunization Services

- Through the Department's leadership in building community coalitions, access to childhood, adolescent and adult immunizations increased. An impressive example was the successful provision of flu vaccine. The Northern Nevada Immunization Coalition members immunized 76,300 people and had only 800 doses remaining in our inventory district wide at the end of the flu season.

Working for a Smokefree Environment

- Staff collaborated with community partners on several secondhand smoke awareness campaigns, including a voluntary smokefree restaurant campaign that focuses on reducing exposure to secondhand smoke. This year saw an increase in participating restaurants from 180 to 226. Other venues such as grocery stores, daycare centers and video arcades are also participating.

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



“The rapidly growing population of the Truckee Meadows has made a major increase in the demand on public health resources and manpower.”

Robert Myles, MD

“Public health impacts everyone’s daily life, from the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat, to protecting us from outbreaks of communicable diseases.”

***Dwight Dortch
Reno City Councilman***

