Moving forward and building a culture of health.
ABOUT THE WASHOE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

The Washoe County Health District has jurisdiction over all public health matters in Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County through the policy-making District Board of Health.

The Washoe County Health District consists of the following five divisions:

Administrative Health Services (AHS)
AHS oversees financial management and budgeting, grants management, information technology, personnel and payroll, purchasing and facilities management. AHS also coordinates financial activities such as billings and collections, cash management, and audit resolution.

Air Quality Management (AQM)
AQMD is responsible for controlling sources of air pollution and assuring compliance with local, state and federal environmental laws governing air quality.

Community and Clinical Health Services (CCHS)
CCHS focuses on disease prevention, community and individual education and wellness.

Environmental Health Services (EHS)
EHS ensures compliance with local, state and federal laws regulating food, waste, water, vector and other areas of public health. While many programs require enforcement, strong education components, promoting a collaborative approach to meet public health standards at the local and national levels are also emphasized.

Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness (EPHP)
EPHP conducts disease surveillance and outbreak investigations, coordinates public health response to disaster with partner agencies, and provides training on topics related to public health emergencies, such as bioterrorism and natural disasters. EPHP also provides oversight of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Vital Statistics.

OUR WEBSITES

www.WashoeCounty.us/health
www.OurCleanAir.com
www.GetHealthyWashoe.com
Moving forward and building a culture of health

While the Health District continued public health service delivery community-wide in 2015, it also continued to implement recommendations from the 2014 Fundamental Review, engaging partners in building a culture of health in the Truckee Meadows.

Several key accomplishments from Fundamental Review recommendations included:

- Quality Improvement (QI) training for all Health District staff, developing a QI implementation plan, and implementing QI projects to increase efficiency and effectiveness.
- Cost analysis of each District program to better understand services delivered, staffing levels and resource investments. Program analysis provides information to consider when redirecting resources or adding services.
- Preparation of a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) with a committee of stakeholders guiding the effort and engaging a variety of organizations developing shared plans to improve priority areas that include: Education, Behavioral Health, Food Security, and Access to Healthcare and Social Services. The CHIP should be available in early 2016.
- Fee schedule revisions for services provided in AQM, CCHS, and EHS. New fees for AQM and EHS will be phased in over the next two years, allowing the Health District to fully recover costs for these services. Cost-control measures combined with cost recovery efforts are critical to the fiscal sustainability of the Health District.

The Health District continued to play a leadership role in Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities (TMHC), a coalition of regional partners engaging diverse stakeholders collectively shaping a healthier community. A TMHC conference in January convened leaders in Health, Education, and Community Development resulting in pilot programs to improve access to health and social services in low-income areas of the 89502 zip code. Partners subsequently worked to deliver services at two Family Health Festivals, and successfully prepare a significant planning grant which will address food security issues in the 89502 area.

Please stay engaged with the work of the Health District and the health of our community. Visit our website and track our efforts as we continue to protect and enhance the quality of life in Washoe County.
These are very exciting times for public health here in Washoe County. I am proud to chair the Washoe County District Board of Health as we continue to build a culture of health for our community. Over the past year several initiatives which the Board tasked to the Health District came to fruition. Completing these activities further demonstrates the excellent stewardship of the Board and the hard working public health professionals at the Washoe County Health District.

In 2014 the Board approved the Cost/Benefit Analysis process to ensure programs and services are managed and funded in a fiscally responsible manner and resources are allocated properly. The Health District’s Fee Schedule was updated so that businesses and individuals are charged appropriately for services provided. Food regulations and training requirements were updated to conform with national standards.

The Board conducted oversight of Emergency Medical Services to ensure that the system of EMS providers in the region are working efficiently together to provide quality pre-hospital care. We approved a Mutual Aid Evacuation Annex to our Emergency Operating Plan to coordinate transportation and care of patients who require evacuation from a Washoe County hospital during a disaster, with minimal disruption to the provision of acute emergency care to the community.

These are just a few of the many accomplishments of the Washoe County District Board of Health and the Washoe County Health District in 2015 that fulfill our mission to protect and enhance the quality of life for all citizens and visitors to Washoe County. As you review our 2015 Annual Report consider the ways in which you, your family, your friends and associates benefit from the work of our public health professionals and steps you can take to build a culture of health in our community.

The mission of the Washoe County Health District is to protect and enhance the quality of life for all citizens and visitors of Washoe County through health promotion, disease prevention, public health emergency preparedness, and environmental services.
ADMINISTRATIVE HEALTH SERVICES

Anna Heenan, Administrative Health Services Officer

Summary of financial operations
By supporting fiscal operations throughout the Health District and ensuring proper fiscal controls from all Divisions, the 2015 fiscal year ended with $19.4 million in expenditures, and for the first time in several years, experienced a positive net change in the fund balance of $112,707, for a total ending fund balance of $2.3 million.

Grant monitoring and compliance
AHS monitored 32 grants totaling $5.7 million in revenue. This is 29% of total Health District resources. With the assistance of the Certified Grants Management Specialist on staff the Health District continues to be a leader in grant monitoring and compliance in Washoe County.

Cost analysis and updated fee schedules
By Fundamental Review directive, AHS completed cost analyses for 19 programs determining the true cost of its services and appropriate fees and charges for the Health District’s revenue-generating programs. Utilizing uniform cost methodology and tracking related financial performance management ratios, AHS is improving the Health District’s ability to commit financial resources reflecting community priorities, stewardship, and improved program performance.

Special projects
Staff assisted Environmental Health Services and Air Quality Management with the implementation of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) in the District fleet. GPS placement is expected to reduce fleet operating expenditures, improve fleet communications and productivity, and maximize the fleet safety and security.

Staff developed procedures to reduce costs and increase efficiencies with the annual inventory tracking system for Health District assets. AHS streamlined the billing process for the use of copy machines, and increased the use of the Health District’s credit cards instead of purchase orders for office supply orders, pharmaceuticals and other items. AHS also replaced all credit card machines with new chip card terminals making card payments more secure.

The AHS Technology Team continued progress on the Regional Permitting System for Environmental Health Services and Air Quality Management in addition to helping Community and Clinical Health Services vet and install the new Patagonia Electronic Health Record (EHR) system for patient records management.
Truckee Meadows redesignation
For the first time since the adoption of the 1970 Clean Air Act, Washoe County is in attainment of all federal air quality standards. The redesignation by EPA acknowledges the effectiveness of the control strategies developed by AQM and the tremendous cooperative efforts of our community stakeholders.

RenOpen Streets
RenOpen Streets became the first Open Streets event in Nevada as part of the international Cyclovia Movement aimed at promoting healthy vibrant communities, physical activity, and clean air. More than 40 vendors lined 1.6 miles of roadway in downtown Reno that were closed to vehicles and opened to everyone for walking, biking, dancing, and playing in the streets.

New ozone standard
AQM provided funding to the University of Nevada, Reno Business Environmental Program to re-establish a U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Coalition in preparation for EPA’s release of tougher ozone standards, because over 50% of the ozone precursors in the Truckee Meadows come from vehicles. The Reno-Tahoe Clean Cities Coalition is bringing public and private stakeholders together to reduce petroleum consumption by using alternative and renewable fuels, idle-reduction measures, fuel economy improvements, and emerging transportation technologies. Installing GPS units in Health District vehicles supports this initiative.

Spanish Springs monitoring site
AQM coordinated with EPA to relocate the Galletti Way monitoring station to the Lazy 5 Regional Park in Spanish Springs providing current air quality data for a portion of the population not previously served. The Washoe County Board of County Commissioners and the District Board of Health also approved an Interlocal Agreement with Washoe County Parks to provide for future expansion of the monitoring network. The Spanish Springs monitoring site is the first new site to be established since the late 1990’s.
COMMUNITY AND CLINICAL HEALTH SERVICES
Steve Kutz, R.N., M.P.H., Division Director

Improved service delivery
Quality improvement projects in the Sexual Health and Immunization programs have improved availability of appointments for clients. This year CCHS provided 33,710 clinical services encounters both here and in the community.

Technology advancements
To meet the needs of our clients, the Division invested time and effort into vetting a more modern, robust Electronic Health Record (EHR) system. Patagonia Health was selected with implementation planned for early 2016.

Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) case investigations
Staff and management completed extensive case investigation training to better handle the county-wide increase in STD cases. Improved investigation uncovers more STD cases, assists Disease Investigation Specialists in finding core cases, and ultimately provides better prevention and control of STDs.

Public Health Associates (PHAs)
For the third year in a row, CCHS received two PHAs from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for two year rotations in our programs. To date, CCHS has hosted six PHAs.

Preventing tobacco use
Staff participated with statewide tobacco prevention partners during the 2015 legislative session to advocate for an increase in the state cigarette tax from $0.80 a pack to $1.80 a pack, and to restrict sales of e-cigarettes to minors. Tobacco prevention staff, and University of Nevada, Reno staff, partnered to bring several years of work to a successful end when UNR leadership declared that the campus was going tobacco free in August 2015.

Student health data
The Chronic Disease Prevention program successfully partnered with the Washoe County School District to analyze student Body Mass Index data and share the data with over 550 healthcare providers and 350 service providers. This baseline data will aid in evaluating need for future prevention programs, and in evaluating outcomes of ongoing efforts with this demographic.
New food regulations adopted
New regulations adopted by the District Board of Health meant a complete rewrite of our regulations, bringing the Health District into close alignment with the FDA Model Food Code and other health agencies in Nevada. The new regulations and a food safety public education campaign highlighted Food Program activities in 2015.

Increased vehicle usage efficiencies
As a result of the Quality Improvement initiative, EHS reviewed vehicle usage and decided to reduce the size of the fleet and use a motor pool where vehicles are checked out instead of being assigned to individual staff. In addition GPS units were placed in all of the assigned vehicles. These changes immediately began to reduce costs and increase operation efficiencies.

Generalized inspection workload
In order to manage multiple vacancies EHS spread out the inspections from vacant inspection areas amongst staff. This was successful, so now one half of each Environmentalist's workload is generalized. Each one now has equal numbers of inspections in different program areas instead of having a few staff assigned in each of the program areas. This will continue to maximize the ability to flexibly manage workload and provide an increased variety of workload to staff. This was initiated as a result of the Fundamental Review asking for a review of operations for efficiencies.

Regional Permitting Program being implemented
EHS has continued participation in the regional permitting software (Accela) implementation which will allow more efficient management of permits and complaints, easier access by the public to records, and the ability to apply and pay for permits online. The same program is being implemented regionally by Washoe County, Reno, Sparks, and the Health District.


EPIEMIOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

Randall Todd, DrPh, Division Director

Vital Records
The Vital Records Office had one of the busiest years on record. The Office registered 6,302 births and 4,710 deaths during the year in addition to issuing official copies of 7,315 birth certificates and 20,625 death certificates.

Communicable Disease
The Communicable Disease Program received reports for 5,689 cases with reportable conditions. These included some conditions which are managed by the Community and Clinical Health Services Division such as Tuberculosis, HIV, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases. There were 2,974 cases investigated by the Communicable Disease Program. In addition, some diseases such as Norovirus are not reportable as sporadic cases but do become reportable when they occur in outbreaks. In 2015 Communicable Disease staff investigated a large outbreak of Norovirus affecting public and private schools and daycare facilities. There were more than 2,000 cases identified during this outbreak. Staff also investigated an outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 with 28 cases, of whom 13 were hospitalized and 5 developed a serious complication known as Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS).

Public Health Preparedness
The Public Health Preparedness Program received over $750,000 in grant funds to increase preparedness for Ebola and emerging infectious pathogens. This provides for monitoring of individuals returning to the United States from countries with Ebola outbreaks and for hospital and healthcare training and exercises as well as infectious disease consultant costs. The Public Health Preparedness Program also developed a website for Point of Dispensing (POD) training. The Health District’s Private POD Partners assist in providing medication and/or vaccination to their staff and families during a public health emergency. The website provides these partners with education about CDC Category A (disease) agents and with tools and materials to operate their PODs.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
The EMS Oversight Program celebrated its first year of work in Washoe County. The Program produced the first annual data report on the EMS system for the signatories of the Interlocal Agreement which includes Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, Washoe County Health District, and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. The Program began working with community partners on several initiatives that will improve emergency medical services within Washoe County. These include the revision of the REMSA Franchise response zone map as well as the development of a 5-year strategic plan for EMS in Washoe County. Other accomplishments include the revision of the Mutual Aid Evacuation Annex and newly designed evacuation tags for the region.