

August 2018

From the Office of the District Health Officer

Family Health Festival and the CHIP Roll-Out highlight recent activities

Family Health Festival at Miguel Ribera Park

Another Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities Family Health Festival was held on Wednesday, July 25, at Miguel Ribera Park. Services offered included: food stamps/SNAP and WIC registration; health screenings & immunizations; job application & resume help; family planning; HIV testing; bus passes; health insurance enrollment information; school supplies; Food Bank distribution; and, more.



Health District staff Stephanie Chen and Rayona Dixon welcome people to the FHF.



Free books are distributed to children at the FHF

Community Health Improvement Plan in the News

The 2018-2020 CHIP was presented to the general public at a special event Thursday, August 2, in the Commission Chambers. Over 100 participants including local media attended the briefing which highlighted the plan's major components and a roadmap for success over the next three years.

Newscasts of the event and the complete CHIP can be found on the [Health District website](#).

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Air Resource Advisor Training takes AQMD staffer into major fire responses

AQMD Senior Air Quality Specialist Julie Hunter recently completed a 40-hour classroom training from the U.S. Forest Service to work major wild fires as an Air Resource Advisor (ARA). As soon as Julie completed training, she was deployed to major fires in New Mexico, Colorado and California. Now fully trained Julie provides critical support for the protection of public health during wildfires.



Be Smoke Smart – Especially this year!

The worst ozone levels in a decade have settled into the Truckee Meadows as a result of the devastating wildfires in and surrounding our community. Depending on weather conditions, smoke from fires anywhere between the Canadian and Mexican borders can impact air quality in Washoe County.



Air pollution concentrations change rapidly during wildfire season. Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentrations can worsen and reach harmful levels in just a few hours. AQM developed the **Keep it Clean, Be Smoke Smart** campaign to provide current wildfire and smoke information for the community. **Be Smoke Smart** is a great resource to answer basic questions about wildfires such as: "Where is the fire? Where is the smoke going to be? What is the current air quality? What should I do to protect myself?" AQM partners with the National Weather Service and local media to educate the public on how to make good decisions when wildfire smoke affects Northern Nevada.

Chronic Disease Prevention Program (CDPP) promotes three campaigns this summer

In addition to the *Let's Create A Smoke-Free Nevada* initiative mentioned in last month's **Healthy Outlook**, the Chronic Disease Prevention Program continues to promote the **W.O.W!** (We Order Well) healthy eating advertising campaign using radio, television, and social media components. CDPP also launched a month-long billboard effort regarding secondhand marijuana smoke.

The *Mind your secondhand marijuana smoke. Others Might* campaign garnered nearly 950,000 impressions over four weeks.



We Order Well gives you additional menu choices.



Farmers Market serves WIC clients and others at 9th Street county complex

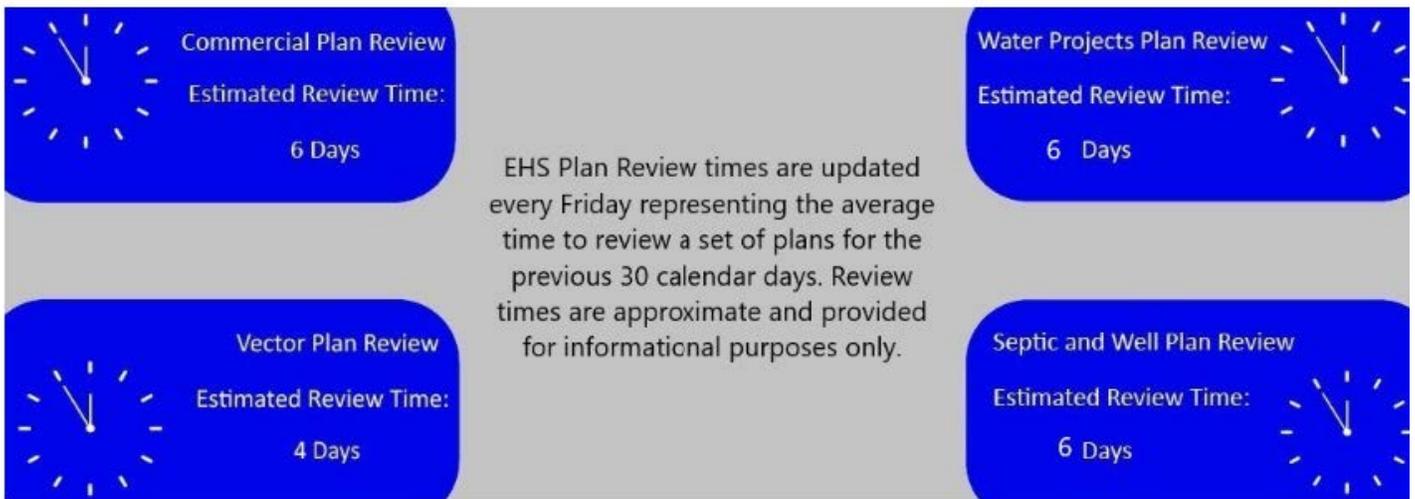
The WIC Farmers Market has been a great success this summer, serving WIC clients and others that want to shop. Starting in July the



State WIC office began calling WIC clients informing them of the program and how to use vouchers to participate. They also provide staff for issuing Farmers Market vouchers to WIC clients from WCHD and Community Health Alliance in our lobby during the market hours.

Minton Family Farms has also partnered with the Chronic Disease Prevention Program encouraging a tobacco and vape free market area.

Water Projects/Engineering Frequently Asked Questions



New Dashboard updates readers on average time for plan reviews

The uptick in economic development in Washoe County, particularly in commercial, residential, and water project applications has the Health District looking at various ways to address concerns regarding plan review times. Accordingly, the Health District reports that it has made significant improvements to expedite plan reviews, and is now providing monthly reports on its website. A screenshot of the dashboard is shown above.

Environmental Health Services (EHS) Director Chad Westom said that to provide accountability, the Health District is now posting average plan review times weekly. According to Westom, every Friday the [EHS webpage](#), will post updated average plan review times for commercial, water, septic, well, and vector plan reviews for the previous 30 calendar days. Additionally, there is a link to, Water Projects and Engineering Frequently Asked Questions. It is hoped that the new features will help everyone understand the EHS plan review process and the amount of time anticipated for plan approval.

Bats and Rabies draw attention for pet owners to stay current on vaccinations

Twelve bats were recently submitted to the State Animal Diseases Laboratory for rabies testing. Fortunately, all tested negative for rabies. The

testing should remind us that this is the time of year that we begin to see positive results in bats.

As a high risk mammal, approximately 10-12% of all bats tested end up positive for rabies.

Should your pet show up with a dead bat at your doorstep or if you suspect that unidentifiable carcass by the pet bowls is a bat, call Washoe County Health District's Vector Borne Disease Program at (775) 785-4599. Vector staff will help with identification and testing if needed.

It is important for pet owners to know that even though their dogs and cats may be current with their rabies shots, if those pets interact with bats, they are subject to a 10-day quarantine. Unvaccinated dogs and cats are quarantined in a facility for six months to observe for signs of rabies or are euthanized.

Washoe County Regional Animal Services offers rabies vaccinations. For more information contact Washoe County Regional Animal Services at (775) 353-8900.



Public Health Emergency Response Coordinators (PHERCs) on the move

On June 12 and 13, Washoe County Health District Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator Andrea Esp participated in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) **emPOWER Futures Workshop** in Washington D.C. The WCHD PHERC was one of only two local staff nationwide who were invited to participate and was one of only 21 participants overall. The purpose of the workshop was to share varied perspectives with ASPR for the opportunity to innovate and improve the **HHS emPOWER Program**, developing best practices nationwide.



Washoe County Health District PHERC Andrea Esp setting up the Mobile Medical Tent at the recent Community Reception Center radiologic response exercise in downtown Reno.

On June 14, Healthcare PHERC Brittany Dayton participated in the Reno Air Races tabletop exercise with several community partners. The purpose of the exercise was to evaluate the response time and coordination of first responders during a mass casualty event.



Washoe County Health District PHERC Brittany Dayton interviews with reporters during a recent emergency preparedness drill in Reno.

The Washoe County Health District was a key player in responding to the 2011 National Championship Air Race Disaster which killed a veteran pilot, 10 spectators, and injured more than 60 others. The Health District coordinated the Family Assistance Center and received positive reviews from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

WASHOE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE

About Washoe County Health District: The Washoe County District Board of Health, through the Washoe County Health District, has jurisdiction over all public health matters in Washoe County, Nevada. Its mission is to protect and enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Washoe County through health promotion, disease prevention, public health emergency preparedness, and environmental services. The Board of Health is composed of seven members, including two representatives each from Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County, and a physician licensed to practice medicine in Nevada.