

Highlights from the Office of the District Health Officer

Accreditation, Quality Improvement and Community Health Improvement Plan continue to progress

Public Health Accreditation

The Accreditation team continues to make progress gathering the needed documents. One-on-one meetings have been conducted with every team member to determine progress and estimated date of submission of any remaining documents. We now have about 139 of the required documents gathered, and 84 documents uploaded into the online submission system out of the required 213 documents.

Quality Improvement

The QI team continues to meet every other month to support implementation of Quality Improvement Projects. A rapid QI form has been developed and the QI plan has been updated to reflect the new form which is intended to capture the success of small QI projects. A revised QI survey is being developed by the QI team to gather more actionable data on QI knowledge and barriers to success across the Health District. A QI newsletter was developed and distributed across the Health District to increase QI knowledge and celebrate recent QI successes.

Community Health Improvement Plan

The 2018-2020 CHIP has been completed and approved by the District Board of Health at the June meeting. The plan will be presented to the public at a special event scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Thursday, August 2, in the Commission Chambers. As part of the CHIP, TMHC is organizing a Family Health Festival that will be held at Miguel Ribera Park on July 25, 2018.

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2008-17 Air Quality Trends Report illustrates the significance of ozone advance initiatives

The recently-released Air Quality Trends Report (2008 - 2017) summarizes the monitoring data collected in 2017 and provides the 10-year trend for each pollutant.

The report identified a reduction in ozone during the economic recession between 2008 and 2011. The recession also slowed pollution generating activities such as construction, manufacturing, and vehicle miles traveled. Starting in 2012, the region began to experience a cautiously optimistic economic recovery. By 2017, the rate of economic recovery approached record-setting levels with comparisons to the growth experience in the early 1980's. Existing businesses are thriving with expansions, and new businesses are moving to the area every month.

Since 2014, the ozone design values for Washoe County have reached the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), which means Washoe County barely qualifies for an attainment designation. With economic forecasts

estimating that up to 189,000 people will move to the area in the near future, the challenge to continue to meet the ozone NAAQS is clearly the greatest challenge for the AQMD.

Knowing these facts, AQMD staff continues to promote Ozone Advance Program initiatives whenever possible. These voluntary control strategies and initiatives are only effective in reducing indirect sources of emissions if they are actually implemented. In order to achieve emission reductions, staff will continue to provide comments on development projects, both commercial and residential. Short-term community development investments in strategies that can have long-term results include: constructing ENERGY STAR buildings to reduce fuel consumption; providing safe routes to school and work to reduce vehicle miles traveled; and reducing heat islands.

New AQMD Spanish Springs monitoring station

The newest addition to Washoe County's Air Quality monitoring network is located inside Lazy 5 Park in Spanish Springs. It has been collecting ozone and particulate matter data since January 1, 2017; but, installation of a telescoping 30-foot meteorological tower was just recently completed in May 2018. The delay was due primarily to additional engineering to ensure the tower met wind loading code requirements. Collection of wind speed, wind direction, and ambient temperature data began this summer. Data from the AQM monitoring network are updated hourly and available at AirNow. EPA provided one-time funding through the Section 103 grant program to build this monitoring station



CCHS's Tobacco Prevention campaign



Let's work toward a **smoke-free Nevada**. Where students pass pencils, not cigarettes. And our neighbors share recipes, not secondhand smoke. A community where people get together for lunch breaks instead of smoke breaks. And where our parks are littered with flowers, not cigarette butts. As a community, let's work toward clean breezes that lift our kites and fresh air that fills our lungs.

Together, we can create a smoke-free Nevada.

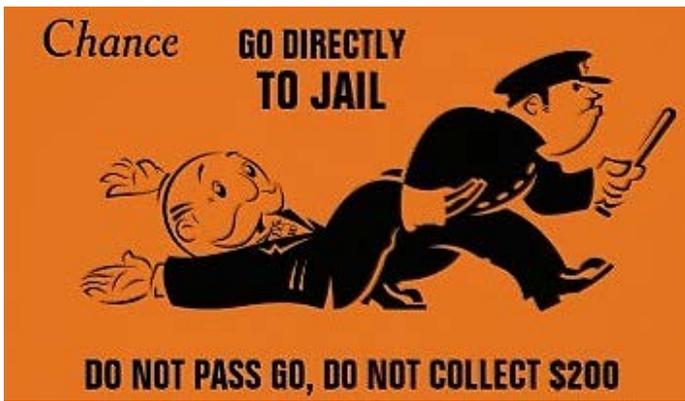
**WASHOE COUNTY
HEALTH DISTRICT**
ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE

The tobacco media campaign that began in April continues to run on TV, radio and social media with advertisements in both English and Spanish.

The advertising agency monthly report for April indicated that there were over 2,757,125 total impressions on the various media platforms. And this exposure to our messaging has definitely roused some interesting responses through social media – everything from, “Go back to California,” to, “I’m so disgusted with people that want to make you smell their nasty cigarette smoke.”

Regardless of the comments, stimulating conversation and a community dialogue about the effects of smoking and secondhand smoke personally and for others is the purpose of the campaign.

Two organizations which have embraced the campaign's goals were recently awarded the Health District's Extra Mile Award (EMA). **FacesNV Nightclub** and the **Truckee Meadows Park Foundation** both have gone above and beyond the requirements of the Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act making the conscious decision to go smoke-free when the law does not require them to.



CCHS Family Planning goes to jail

CCHS staff continue to work with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to implement a program for female inmates which provides reproductive health counseling, birth control methods, and referrals. In addition to counseling and referrals, staff will also tape an educational video to be shown to the females. The females will then have the opportunity to sign up for additional counseling and a birth control method. It is currently planned that Family Planning Program staff will be onsite to provide these services one to two times per month.

THE MURAL – The art of Chronic Disease prevention

"Using art and education to involve neighborhood residents in a larger conversation about preventive health and chronic diseases is powerful," said Washoe County Board of Health Chair Kitty Jung. These comments were made at the official unveiling of a quarter-mile-long healthy living-themed mural on a retaining wall on East 10th Street in Reno. The mural highlights smoke-free housing, healthy eating and physical activity.



Artist Eric T. Burke transforms the quarter-mile-long retaining wall into a living portrait of the individuals that live here since they are our community's future.

Research suggests art can help define a neighborhood's image, shape community, entice business, and inspire creativity, according to project coordinator Lona Bogale from the Community and Clinical Health Services Chronic Disease Prevention Program. Bogale, works with local businesses, housing professionals, and community partners to encourage smoke-free initiatives, increase access to healthy foods, and create opportunities for physical activity.

News coverage and a time lapse video of the project can be viewed by clicking these links:

[Reno Gazette Journal story by Marcella Corona.](#)

[Time-lapse video recorded and produced by Fidel Salas from the Washoe County Manager's Office.](#)

Food Safety Outreach addresses risk factors



The new *When Do I Date Mark* magnet

Environmental Health Services staff held an internal art contest to develop outreach materials to address food preparation and related behaviors which were identified in the **2017 Foodborne Illness Risk Factor Study** as needing improvement. The winning designs were sent to a local graphic design company to develop the outreach materials. A new magnet and informational brochure will help educate food establishment operators on requirement to date mark certain foods. Funding for the project was provided by an FDA Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards grant. Implementation of a targeted intervention strategy designed to address the occurrence of risk factors identified in the Risk Factor Study meets the criteria of Standard 9 - Program Assessment.

Hotel/Motel inspections

Alex Woodley, Reno Code Enforcement Services Manager, recently presented the Reno City Council with the proposed recommendations for the Motel Inspection Program. This was the same presentation that was given to the District Board of Health on February 22.

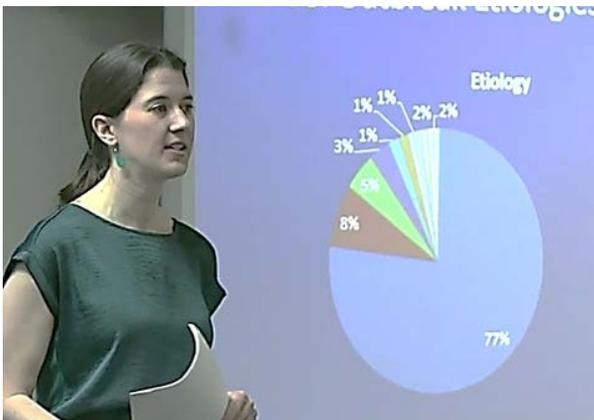
The ordinance recommendations are as follows:

- inspection of every unit and the exterior;
- crime prevention through environmental design review from the motel inspection team;
- owners and property managers to attend crime free training;
- weekly clean linens;
- on-site manger available 24 hours;
- \$50.00 license fee per unit;
- citations not issued for initial failure of inspections; and,
- allow hybrid rentals for nightly and extended stays.

Epidemiology duo represent Washoe County Health District at CTSE conference

Two epidemiology abstracts were accepted by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and presented at the 2018 Annual CSTE conference on June 13 in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Kerry Chalkley, MPH, made an oral presentation entitled "Two Cases of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome in Washoe County, Nevada, 2017".



Kerry Chalkley, MPH, at a recent Washoe County School District training

Heather Holmstadt, RN, made a poster presentation entitled "Viral Meningitis Outbreak in Washoe County, Nevada, 2017".



Heather Holmstadt, RN, at a recent Washoe County School District training

According to Dr. Randall Todd, Director of the Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness, the CSTE's review process is very strict. This is the first time for the intermediate level of epidemiologists in WCHD to submit abstracts and get accepted.

The conference connects more than 1,500 public health epidemiologists from across the country and included workshops, plenary sessions with leaders in the field of public health, oral breakout sessions, roundtable discussions, poster presentations and networking opportunities.

CRC tests crisis response

On June 21 the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program conducted a radiological exercise in conjunction with the City of Reno Preparedness Expo.



CRC Chief Steve Shipman holds a briefing at the Decon Tent

The exercise included setting up a community reception center (CRC) for population screening and treatment following a radiological exposure incident in the Sacramento area. The CRC exercise involved multiple agencies and organizations in our community. It tested our ability to use the Incident Command System – including a Joint Information Center (JIC), the Strategic National Stockpile, emergency responders, and volunteers – including the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).