

Healthy Outlook

current public health issues, services, and resources

October 2018

From the Office of the District Health Officer

Health Officer works to establish Public Health Fund through State Legislature

State Funding for Public Health

On September 24, 2018 the Legislative Committee on Health Care approved a Bill Draft Request (BDR) for consideration during the 2019 Legislative Session to increase State funding for public health. The BDR would appropriate \$5 per capita to a Public Health Improvement Fund to build public health infrastructure and capacity. The funds would be required to be used to improve public health and be allocated based on population to public health agencies operating under Chapter 439 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS that includes Health Districts). The BDR would require public health agencies to conduct community needs assessments, evaluate and rank needs to prioritize them for funding, and allocate the funds to support those needs and priorities. The BDR is a result of the combined efforts of the Washoe County and Southern Nevada Health Districts, Carson City Health and Human Services, the State Division of Public and Behavioral Health, and the Nevada Public Health Association.

Air Quality Monitoring News

Air Quality Management (AQM) received written notification in August that the City of Reno has decided to exercise its option to terminate the Interlocal Agreement for the Downtown Reno monitoring site (Reno 3). Monitoring staff has been working to find a new downtown Reno

In this issue:

- Nevada Public Health Fund
- Air Quality Monitoring News
- Family Field Day at Yori Park
- EHS Special Events Tsunami
- Talking Trash
- Unusual Fatalities Investigated
- Inter Hospital Coordinating Council

location since the news was received last spring that a housing development is planned for the current site. After reviewing several sites and conferring with EPA Region 9, a new location at Libby Booth Elementary School was selected and received preliminary approval. Staff is preparing site plans, determining building and electrical



AQMD Branch Chief Dan Inouye discusses wildfire impacts with KOLO reporter Valentina Bonaparte at Reno 3.

requirements, and pursuing final approval of the site from EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. The monitoring network has evolved over the years and currently consists of seven (7) sites. AQM does not own the property at any of the sites but instead relies on agreements with property owners to utilize space for the

monitoring shelters. An Interlocal Agreement with Washoe County was recently updated to include sites located in Incline Village, Lemmon Valley, and Spanish Springs. AQM also has agreements with the City of Reno (Downtown Reno), the U.S. Postal Service (Sparks), NV Energy (South Reno), the Washoe County School District (Toll Road), and the Nevada Department of Transportation (Plumb-Kietzke). With the expansion to Spanish Springs, AQM received approval from EPA to discontinue monitoring at the Plumb-Kietzke site on December 31, 2017.

AirNow Makeover

After months of development meetings with a broad cross section of stakeholders, the updated AirNow website went live on September 12. The updated version improves air quality terminology, has interactive maps, and health-related tips. AirNow is just a click away from the AQM website, OurCleanAir.com.



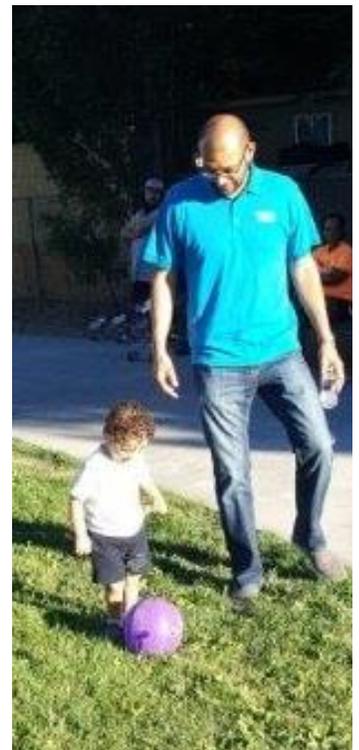
Chronic Disease Prevention Family Field Day

The Chronic Disease Prevention Program (CDPP) in collaboration with the City of Reno Parks and Recreation organized a Family Field Day at Yori Park to increase park use and promote physical activity and good nutrition. Ten community partners were on hand to share resources and conduct activities on active living and healthy eating. Approximately 200 residents from the surrounding neighborhood attended, making this first time effort a successful event for the community.

Healthy messaging was created on the fence at Yori Park through the use of put-in cups. Park goers will now see "Eat Smart to Play Hard" on the fence as a reminder to consume healthy foods. Staff continues to provide education and

resources related to the benefits of smoke free parks. On August 8, the Reno City Council voted unanimously to adopt a smoke-free, vape-free policy for Reno's parks, joining the City of Sparks and Sun Valley in the regional smoke free parks efforts. An ordinance is anticipated with Washoe County this fall.

CDPP worked with partners to implement the community's second annual International Overdose Awareness Day celebration on August 30 at Wingfield Park in Reno. The event attracted over 45 participants, and addressed the problem of overdose impacting Washoe County.



District Board of Health (DBOH) member and Reno City Councilmember Oscar Delgado plays with his son, Dario, at Family Field Day.

Food takes center stage during Special Events Season

Summer is the busiest season for Environmental Health Services' Special Events program. August and September activities gave no relief for our hard-working inspectors. August kicked off with the Barracuda Championship, followed by Hot August Nights, then closed with the biggest food event of the year, the Best of the West Nugget Rib Cook-off.

Staff took several trips out to the Gerlach/Empire area to perform temporary food inspections associated with Burning Man-related events. A new large scale event, the Aloha Festival, was also added to the busy summer schedule. Planning of these large-scale events overlaps with the execution of others as these events occur one after the other over the course of the season. September extended the busy period in special events programming with the Great Reno Balloon

Race, the National Championship Air Races, and the Street Vibrations Fall Rally.

Burning desire for trash talk in the news

Reporters were inquiring about Burning Man waste news even before the annual Black Rock event was over, and the Health District had no problem citing (pun intended) several issues with the desert visitors.



One of many illegal dumping areas associated with the 2018 Burning Man Festival. This site was on the highway between Gerlach and Reno.

The following reports were detailed by EHS.

- An illegal transfer station operated for Burning Man at the north end of Winnemucca Lake drew over fifty (50) cubic yards of garbage at a small pullout located on public land. A Notice of Violation was sent to the responsible party.
- Lots of bags of garbage were noted on the roadway from Wadsworth to Empire.
- The Save Mart Supermarket on Keystone will likely not renew their temporary transfer station permit next year because staff was overwhelmed by aggressive Burning Man attendees trying to get rid of their garbage without paying for disposal.
- A citation was issued to a woman who had a dumpster on her property for more than 14 days.
- At the Health District's direction, the Sparks Police Department issued a citation to a man who was caught dumping contents from his trailer. It appears the man transferred waste into 55 gallon barrels and then took the waste into the desert at the end of Valerie Court. An observant citizen called the activity into Sparks Environmental Control who then contacted Sparks PD after license plate information was provided by the complainant.

Unusual illness with fatal outcome

The Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness Division's Communicable Disease (CD) Program recently investigated two very

unusual illnesses. One was a Carbapenemase Producing E. coli bacteremia in a male patient in his 70s who died due to the illness. Because the case had stayed in a long term care facility during the 12 months prior to his illness, a referral was made to the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health for additional investigation. The investigation is ongoing and the death certificate is still pending.

The CD Program is also investigating a fatal case of vibriosis in a male patient who was in his 70s. The case patient did not have a travel history, but was noted to have consumed raw oysters at a local restaurant. This individual also had many underlying chronic health conditions. The investigation is ongoing and the death certificate is pending.

News from the Inter-Hospital Coordinating Council (IHCC)

Areas for improvement recently identified during an Inter-Hospital Coordinating Council (IHCC) Redundant Communications Exercise on August 1 are being addressed. Renaming of the Operating Status and Capability Assessment Report (OSCAR) form was attended to in IHCC, as well as a potential workgroup to identify information helpful from Ambulatory Surgical Centers. These items will be voted on at the October IHCC meeting. WebEOC updates are currently being developed for the OSCAR form.

The IHCC began working on the Alternate Care Site Plan, which is a plan to bridge the gap between the Mutual Aid Evacuation Annex and the Federal Medical Stations. This is needed when one or more facilities have to be evacuated or a non-traditional facility is required to care for patients within the region. The plan is anticipated to be completed by November, voted on in December and put into place by January 1, 2019.

The IHCC community partners have received their Hazard Vulnerability Assessments and Gap Analysis surveys by now and are expected to return them by October 18. The surveys will be reviewed and added to the Preparedness and Response Guidelines for the local healthcare community. Updates were made to the survey, upon recommendation of healthcare members, to better represent their facilities.