

## Quarterly Report to the Nevada State Board of Health

**Reporting Period: April – June 2025**

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### Executive Summary

This quarterly report summarizes the key activities, accomplishments, performance metrics, challenges, and significant events of Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) for the period from April to June 2025. The report is organized by division and highlights cross-divisional collaboration, interagency coordination, and major public health impacts. The information herein is based on District Board of Health meetings and associated staff reports for the reporting period.

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## 1. Administration & Strategic Planning

### Key Activities & Accomplishments

- **Strategic Plan Implementation:** NNPH continued the implementation of its revised FY24-26 Strategic Plan, with a focus on fostering a culture of innovation and continuous improvement. Over 75% of actionable outcomes are on target or in progress, indicating strong alignment with organizational goals and a likely achievement of targets for the year.
- **Performance Management:** The performance management system is actively used to track progress toward defined goals, supporting accountability and staff development. The on-time rate for performance evaluations has improved significantly.
- **Community Health Improvement Plan:** The second year of the 2022-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan was finalized, with 82% of activities accomplished in collaboration with local stakeholders. Focus areas included mental health, social determinants of health, access to care, and preventive health behaviors.

### Notable Trends & Metrics

- **Strategic Outcomes:** Over 75% of strategic plan outcomes are on target or in progress.
- **Quality Improvement:** The Quality Improvement plan was launched to address public health needs more effectively and efficiently.

## Challenges

- **Staffing Limitations:** Staffing shortages continue to be a significant barrier to meeting some targets.
  - **Federal Funding Uncertainty:** Anticipated delays and uncertainty related to federal budget and policy changes may impact future operations.
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## 2. Environmental Health Division

### Key Activities & Accomplishments

- **Food Safety & Permitting:** The division organized its first-ever community resource fair for individuals interested in food permitting, guiding applications, business licensing, and regulatory compliance. The event was well-attended and supported local food entrepreneurs.
- **Temporary Food Event Season:** The division managed inspections for major community events, including the rib cook-off, with inspections starting as early as 5:30 AM and extending past midnight to ensure food safety.
- **Waste Management:** Continued partnership with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) resulted in the removal of over 30,000 pounds of trash and 75,000 pounds of green waste from the community. The division also supported the Great Sun Valley Cleanup.
- **Safe Drinking Water:** Assisted the EPA in a PFAS sampling program and completed the first phase of the new Lead and Copper rule revision, including inventories of all lead lines in public water systems.

### Notable Trends & Metrics

- **Community Engagement:** High attendance at the food business resource fair and successful support for temporary food events.
- **Environmental Impact:** Significant waste reduction and progress in water safety initiatives.

## Challenges

- **Workforce Development:** All inspectors are currently trainees but are progressing well.
- **Complex Regulatory Environment:** Ongoing need for training and adaptation to new federal and state regulations.

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## 3. Epidemiology & Disease Surveillance

### Key Activities & Accomplishments

- **Program Expansion:** The epidemiology program expanded its educational outreach in schools and to public health nurses.
- **COVID-19 & Infectious Disease Monitoring:** A slight uptick in COVID-19 cases was noted, but levels remain stable and not of concern.
- **School Absenteeism Data Tool:** Updated and distributed the tool to support outbreak detection in schools.
- **Syphilis Community Taskforce:** Convened a taskforce with healthcare providers and stakeholders to address syphilis, including congenital syphilis, and developed an action plan.

### Notable Trends & Metrics

- **COVID-19:** Slight increase in cases, but no alarming trends.
- **Outbreak Detection:** Enhanced surveillance and reporting tools for school and community outbreaks.

## Challenges

- **Public Health Workforce:** Need for ongoing training in resilience, communication, and systems thinking.
  - **Misinformation:** Addressing the politicization of public health and combating misinformation.
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## 4. Community & Clinical Services

### Key Activities & Accomplishments

- **Back-to-School Immunizations:** Two Saturday events and daily clinics resulted in approximately 450 students receiving vaccinations, totaling around 1,000 vaccinations administered. This ensured that students were ready to return to school on time.
- **Vital Statistics:** Completed 52,406 services and requests in vital statistics.
- **Tuberculosis (TB) Program:** Developed and implemented a new TB LTBI Prioritization Tool to identify clients for clinic services and referrals.
- **Fetal Infant Mortality Review:** Obtained a grant to promote the Count the Kicks Program to obstetric providers, supporting maternal and infant health.

### Notable Trends & Metrics

- **Immunization Coverage:** High volume of back-to-school vaccinations.
- **Service Delivery:** Over 52,000 vital statistics services provided.

### Challenges

- **Access to Care:** Ongoing efforts to improve access to preventive and clinical services, especially for vulnerable populations.

## 5. Public Health Preparedness

### Key Activities & Accomplishments

- **Training & Exercises:** Conducted a full-scale mass casualty incident exercise in collaboration with regional partners, as well as chemical and CHEMPACK full-scale exercises and an alternate care site tabletop exercise.
- **Interagency Coordination:** Strong collaboration with hospitals, emergency management, and other regional partners to enhance preparedness and response capabilities.

## Notable Trends & Metrics

- **Preparedness Drills:** Multiple large-scale exercises completed successfully.
- **Regional Partnerships:** Enhanced coordination with local and regional agencies.

## Challenges

- **Sustaining Preparedness:** Need for continued investment in training and resources to maintain readiness.

## 6. Air Quality Management

### Key Activities & Accomplishments

- **Wildfire Smoke & Air Quality:** The Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) continued its partnership with the California Nevada Adaptation Program (CNAP) and the Desert Research Institute's Heat & Wildfire Smoke Research Project to address the health impacts of wildfire smoke and heat, particularly for residents without air conditioning.
- **Community Outreach:** AQMD staff worked closely with CNAP researchers to inform and protect vulnerable populations during hazardous air pollution events.

## Notable Trends & Metrics

- **Wildfire Smoke Events:** In 2021, over 70 days of wildfire smoke impacts were recorded in Washoe County, with more than 30 days exceeding National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

## Challenges

- **Climate & Air Quality:** Ongoing air quality challenges due to wildfire smoke, vehicle emissions, and particulate matter, exacerbated by regional topography and weather patterns.

## 7. Cross-Divisional Collaboration & Interagency Coordination

- **Strategic Planning:** The development and implementation of the strategic plan involved collaboration across all divisions and with external partners.
  - **Community Health Improvement:** Achieving 82% of Community Health Improvement Plan activities required extensive collaboration with local stakeholders.
  - **Preparedness Exercises:** Full-scale exercises and preparedness activities were conducted in partnership with hospitals, emergency management, and other agencies.
  - **Air Quality Initiatives:** AQMD's work with CNAP and DRI exemplifies effective interagency coordination to address complex environmental health challenges.
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## 8. Major Public Health Impacts

- **Immunization Coverage:** Ensured timely back-to-school immunizations for hundreds of students.
  - **Food Safety:** Maintained high safety standards at major community events through rigorous inspections.
  - **Environmental Health:** Significant waste reduction and progress in water safety initiatives.
  - **Preparedness:** Enhanced regional readiness for mass casualty and chemical incidents.
  - **Air Quality:** Advanced research and community protection efforts related to wildfire smoke and heat.
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## 9. Challenges & Lessons Learned

- **Staffing Shortages:** Continued workforce limitations impact the ability to meet all targets.
- **Funding Uncertainty:** Federal budget and policy changes present ongoing challenges.
- **Public Health Misinformation:** The need to address misinformation and politicization of public health remains critical.
- **Workforce Development:** Emphasis on training, resilience, and systems thinking is essential for future success.

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## 10. Upcoming Priorities (Next Quarter)

- **Strategic Plan Completion:** Continue progress toward full implementation of the strategic plan and performance management system.
- **Workforce Development:** Address staffing shortages and invest in training and professional development.
- **Preparedness:** Sustain and expand preparedness activities and interagency coordination.
- **Air Quality:** Continue collaboration with CNAP and DRI to protect residents from wildfire smoke and heat impacts.
- **Community Engagement:** Expand outreach and education efforts, particularly in immunizations, food safety, and environmental health.

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## Conclusion

During the second quarter of 2025, Northern Nevada Public Health made significant progress in advancing public health priorities through cross-divisional collaboration, interagency coordination, and community engagement. Despite ongoing challenges related to staffing and funding, the organization remains committed to its mission of enhancing and protecting the community's quality of life and expanding equitable opportunities for improved health. We look forward to building on these achievements in the coming quarter.