



DATE: April 25, 2024

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

FROM: Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, District Health Officer *FL*

SUBJECT: District Health Officer Report

2024 Public Health Week

National Public Health Week is celebrated the first full week of April each year. The Southern Nevada Health District observes the occurrence by highlighting the contributions of public health and highlighting issues that are important to protecting the community's health and well-being as well as recognizing the contributions of its employees.

As part of this year's celebration, the Health District hosted a State of Public Health and Legislative Advocacy event. The event featured policymakers, community partners and staff members. Health District staff members provided a comprehensive presentation about Congenital Syphilis that provided an overview of the issue, challenges the community is facing, resources and services that are provided, and program and policy recommendations. Health District staff members and partners also participated in a presentation and panel discussion about the Overdose Burden in Clark County.

The panelists discussed their insights and perspectives on the increase in the use of and contribution of fentanyl to overdose and deaths; the COVID-19 pandemic's role in exacerbating the trends; the availability of resources in the community; harm reduction strategies and more.

The State of Public Health is available to view on the Health District website [here](#), and the presentation is available [here](#).

Public Health Heroes

During Public Health Week, the Health District presents Public Health Hero Awards to individuals or organizations whose efforts positively impact the health and well-being of the community. This year's recipients are:

Dr. Andria Peterson with the EMPOWERED Program at Roseman University. Dr. Peterson is recognized for outstanding contributions to improving the health and well-being of pregnant and postpartum individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) through her leadership as the Executive Director of the EMPOWERED Program. Dr. Peterson has fostered collaborations with state, local and grassroots stakeholders to create a network of support, as well as facilitated access to comprehensive services for pregnant and postpartum individuals and their babies. Her involvement in policy development has helped implement training programs for health care providers in identifying and treating individuals with SUD. Dr. Peterson's role as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at

Roseman University also ensures the training of future health care professionals in the management of SUD and related complications.

Jennifer Budzinski/Sheri McPartlin at Clark County School District, Health Services. In 2023, Health District staff conducted five investigations related to active tuberculosis disease exposures in the Clark County School District. After the first three investigations, the Health District developed intervention tools in the form of a voluntary risk questionnaire and guidance for testing and treatment. CCSD Health Services collaborated to disseminate the TB risk questionnaire to new hires for the 2023-2024 school year. Soon after, another exposure was discovered, and CCSD stepped up and assisted with the coordination and implementation of a large-scale testing event. At this event, approximately 250 individuals were tested. The fifth exposure was discovered during the planning phase of that event and approximately 550 individuals were identified as needing testing. CCSD staff again stepped up to help Health District staff navigate, plan and execute large-scale testing. CCSD Health Services provided staff, facilities and support. The collaboration between CCSD and the Health District has developed into a close working relationship.

Kimberly Krumland, Stephen Johnston and the Safety Department Staff at Clark County School District, Risk Management Department. Director Kimberly Krumland and Safety Coordinator Stephen Johnston of the CCSD Risk Management are responsible for ensuring that the 300,000+ students enrolled in the CCSD attend schools that meet or exceed the Health and Safety requirements of the Nevada Administrative Code.

As leaders, they supervise a department consisting of fifteen staff members who work tirelessly to eliminate or mitigate life-changing or life-ending hazards on school campuses throughout the Valley. These hazards include playgrounds with equipment that has potential strangulation, laceration, or puncturing hazards as well as schools with sanitary water issues, sewage spills and chemical storage hazards in custodial closets and science laboratories. The Safety Department works in conjunction with the Health District to identify infestations of rodents, mosquitos, or other vectors and to remove these infestations thus ensuring that children and school staff are not exposed to infectious diseases. In addition, Ms. Krumland and Mr. Johnston assist the Health District in responding to communicable disease outbreaks in an efficient manner by disseminating the knowledge, tools, and resources to respond to said outbreaks and facilitate the cleaning and sanitizing of affected areas.

Public Health Heroes are nominated by Health District staff members for their efforts in supporting one or more of the 10 Essential Public Health Services:

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and communities needs and assets.
2. Investigate and diagnose and address health problems and hazards affecting the population.
3. Communicated effectively to inform and educate people and health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it.
4. Strengthen, support and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health.
5. Create, champion and implement policies, plans and laws that impact health.
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health.
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy.
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce.

9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research and continuous quality improvement.
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

National Minority Health Month

April is National Minority Health Month, and this year's theme is "Be the Source for Better Health," with a focus on improving the health of racial and ethnic minority communities and reducing health disparities. In connection with this observance, the Health District is calling attention to a pair of programs that support minority health while striving to decrease health inequities.

Nurse-Family Partnership

The Health District's Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), a network partner of the national NFP, is an evidence-based community health program that helps pregnant, first-time mothers improve their lives and create better futures for themselves and their children.

Nationally, NFP has supported thousands of families facing socioeconomic barriers across 41 states, including Nevada and many tribal communities. The program is free and voluntary. Participants get their own personal nurse who provides education, resources, and significant support during regularly scheduled home visits from pregnancy until the child is 2 years old. In Clark County, the program has supported 1,543 families during 13,843 in-person visits since its inception in 2008.

Every day, hundreds of children are born in the United States to mothers facing economic inequity. In some cases, mothers also face additional challenges like relationships, homelessness, substance use and intimate partner violence.

The first 1,000 days of a child's development, combined with the partnership that is built between the new mother and the NFP nurse, create positive changes that can have a lasting impact on brain development, school readiness, preventing child abuse and neglect, uplifting families and breaking the cycle of poverty.

In 2023, the Health District's Nurse-Family Partnership exceeded national NFP rates in several health outcomes:

- 8% of babies had low birth weight, compared to the national NFP rate of 13.2%.
- 100% of babies were current with their immunizations at 6 months, compared to the national NFP rate of 92.2%.
- 100% of babies were current with their immunizations at two years, compared to the national NFP rate of 90.2%.

Healthy Start

Another Health District program that supports the goals of National Minority Health Month is Healthy Start, a free and voluntary home-visiting program that aims to improve health outcomes for women during and after pregnancy, and for their children. Enrollment for families began in February 2024, with a focus on African American women who are pregnant or of childbearing age. However, the program is open to all races and ethnicities. Participants receive education, resources and support from community

health workers and community health nurses, with a goal of reducing racial/ethnic differences in the rates of infant death and adverse perinatal outcomes.

Participants are encouraged to stay in Healthy Start until their child is 18 months old. The families and partners of women who enroll in the program are also welcome to participate in-home visits.

For additional information about National Minority Health Month, visit [National Minority Health Month \(nih.gov\)](#). To learn more about the Nurse-Family Partnership, go to [Southern Nevada Health District Nurse-Family Partnership \(youtube.com\)](#) or [Nurse-Family Partnership – Southern Nevada Health District](#). For more information about Healthy Start, call (702) 759-1677.

Influenza Season

Influenza surveillance in Clark County includes data collected from local acute care hospitals and other health care providers. In Clark County, as of March 2, 2024, there have been 1,299 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 81 deaths reported. Seventy-nine percent of deaths were in persons 65 years of age or older. The percentage of emergency department visits and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) held steady at 3.4% between week 12 and week 13. Influenza A has been the dominant type circulating. Of the patients reported through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), 3% were due to respiratory illness that included ILI. This percentage was above the national baseline of 2.9%. Among 55 states and jurisdictions, the respiratory illness activity level in the state of Nevada is minimal.

Flu surveillance in Clark County for the 2023-2024 influenza season begins October 1 and runs through May 18. The weekly Influenza Surveillance Snapshot and Influenza Report by Age Group is available on the Health District's website.

Community Meetings

Week ending 03/31:

Monthly:

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Councilwoman Gallo, Bobbette Bond, Councilman Seebeck, Mayor Hardy, Councilman Black
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Finance Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada District Board of Health meeting

Annually:

- Attended the City of North Las Vegas 2024 State of the City

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a meeting in preparation for the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Week ending 03/24:

Monthly:

- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Finance and Audit Committee meeting
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Community Health Center Governing Board meeting
- Participated in the Clark County Medical Society (CCMS) Board of Trustees meeting

- Participated in the individual Southern Nevada District Board of Health Agenda Review meeting with Commissioner Kirkpatrick and Commissioner Segerblom

Annually:

- Attended the Southern Nevada County Health Rankings and Roadmaps meeting

Bi-annually (every two years):

- Attended the Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center Board of Governors Bi-Annual meeting

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended two meetings in preparation for the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Week ending 03/17:

Quarterly:

- Participated in the County Health Officers meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the “Preview of the 2024 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Annual Data Release” webinar
- Attended the “Just Play it Cool: Community Health Center Resources to Address Heat and Climate Change” webinar facilitated by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)
- Attended the “Breathe PA 2024 TB Conference” webinar facilitated by Rutgers
- Attended the “Briefing on Health Center Funding” webinar facilitated by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a meeting with Vinson Guthreau and Amy Hyne-Sutherland of the Nevada Association of Counties regarding SB118

Week ending 03/10:

Monthly:

- Participated in the Electronic Health Information Advisory Group Inaugural meeting

Media/Interviews/Panelist/Presenter/Events:

- Presented at the Clark County Board of Commissioners meeting on the Southern Nevada Health District programs and services

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the Immunize Nevada Special Community meeting on RSV
- Attended the “Stakeholder Briefing on State of the Union Announcements and Accomplishments” webinar facilitated by the Department of Health and Human Services

Ad-hoc Meetings:

- Attended a meeting with Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator, DHHS

Week ending 03/03:

Quarterly:

- Participated in the State Board of Health meeting

Professional Development/Conferences:

- Attended the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) Winter Meeting