

CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS
SEPTEMBER 2017 through JANUARY 2019

DISTRICT SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Implemented primary care as the model of care at SNHD
- Completed overhaul of Records Information Management system district-wide
- Implemented Passport application in Vital Records office
- Audit results much improved compared to last year
- Increased training opportunities significantly
- Successfully completed requirements for Academic Health District, one of only five west of the Rocky Mountains
- Instituted the 90-90-90 plan for HIV/AIDS intervention and treatment
- Completed the three-month trial for rural health outreach and submitted a fully annualized budget to DPBH for continuing

ADMINISTRATION

- Completed Retention Information Management (RIM) schedules and policies
- Re-furnished and re-deployed lab trailer for clinical use
- Completed laboratory renovations and security upgrade
- Completed new roof installation at 280 S Decatur building
- Successfully completed Wage and Salary bargaining agreement negotiations
- Successfully completed departmental review of Finance Department
- Successfully completed departmental review of IT Department
- Successfully completed departmental review of PIO Department
- Successfully re-organized Finance Department
- Implemented new Food Handler Safety Card testing program
- Successfully completed Hazard Vulnerability Assessment
- Successfully implemented Employee Recognition Program
- Successfully implemented District credit card system (P-cards)
- FY2018 Audit--Successfully mitigated multiple Material Weaknesses from previous Audit with no repeated findings
- Audit Engagement Improvement--Reestablished ongoing business partnership with Audit team
- Successfully completed Year End Close and audit field work significantly ahead of schedule over previous year (4-6 weeks)
- Built Health Cards testing area in all facilities
- Remodel secure area in OEDS to accommodate three new hires
- Located and repaired sewer gas leaks in Red Rock and outside Finance
- Oversaw the insulation of all walls in Administration and HR offices
- Installed dedicated power to Decatur lab for new equipment
- Remodeled area in OEDS for residency program
- Remodeled area in Vital Records for new Passport program
- Completed 100% of scheduled preventive maintenance

Legal

Public Records:

- Processed 1,669 public record requests, an 11% increase from the prior year with only 1-missed deadline

Education:

- Assistant General Counsel attended an invitation-only three-day CDC training for public health lawyers in Atlanta; all expenses were paid by the CDC

Advice, Counsel, and/or Recommendations:

- to management regarding employee labor and employee disciplinary matters;
- regarding RIM policies, processes, and moving forward activities;
- to leadership regarding strategic short and long-term decisions and planning
- to the Board chair regarding HD union, program, and HD operational matters

Litigation:

- Oversaw outside counsel and actively participated in litigation involving several current and former HD employees including participation in discovery, reviewing motions, and strategy development. Ultimately, the court dismissed the claim

Policies/Policy Committee:

- Participated as a member to update and draft operational policies/procedures
- Drafted (and followed through to sign-off) the Difficult Customer Policy to empower staff by providing them the tools to deal with irate customers
- Updated the RIM Disposition and Destruction policy
- Drafted the RIM Record Retrieval policy

Union:

- Participated to a successful conclusion in union contract negotiations regarding wages

Health District Operations

- Drafted the Compliance Specialist job description for the newly created compliance position (sought and received input from HR and Finance)

Contract Management:

- Drafted the Contract Administrator job description for the newly created contract management position
- Created a Legal Department Contract Management Handbook to ensure a quality plan for efficiently managing the Health District's contracts
- Effected an efficient transition of the contract program from Finance to Legal

Human Resources

- Active engagement with SNHD employees to update their Adult Immunization status. 307 employees have been vaccinated by Employee Health Nurse administering 624 vaccines. New employees are encouraged and assisted to retrieve immunization records from outside the state. Employees are beginning to regularly notify Employee Health Nurse when vaccines received elsewhere to allow for District record to be updated.
- Working with IT to improve and streamline online training reminders for staff of required annual trainings. Working with HR Supervisor and Administrator to identify new training platforms and improve the type and quality of trainings offered to employees.
- Identified areas and arranged set up of private spaces with required appropriate disposal items (sharps containers and biohazard bags) for employees to administer prescription injectables such as Insulin.
- Providing training opportunities on management skills, leadership, anti-harassment, drug and alcohol, bullying etc.
- Submitted Customer Service Policy
- Workforce Development Policy.
- Requested Nevada Safety Consultation & Training Section (SCATS) to audit safety compliance with new SNHD facility, Public Health Lab and East Las Vegas Clinic
- Offering Risk Management Educational Grant to the Safety Committee for any safety/ risk management related training
- Decreased time-to-fill by 20%
- Estimated to recruit 108 positions this year compared to 62 (with no addition of staff and fewer staff assisting with overflow than in years past)
- Lowered the cost of drug testing with more screenings
- Decreased grievances by 69%. Closed 87% of cases from 2016 and prior.
- Developed cross training of every function in HR
- Procedure manuals developed for high-risk HR activities 32% increase in discipline while spurring fewer grievances

Clinical Services

- The SNHD Immunization Program received the Silver Syringe Award for Outstanding Adult Immunization on April 2018
- SNHD Immunization Program was selected as a Stamaril yellow fever vaccination site among 250 sites selected nationwide. To date, a total of 806 doses of Stamaril yellow fever vaccine have been administered
- A Hepatitis A Immunization Campaign was implemented on November 2017 in response to concerns triggered by recent outbreaks of Hepatitis A among homeless and illicit drug users in neighboring States. The District collaborated with Nevada Homeless Alliance, Aids Health Foundation, and other community partners to conduct monthly clinics for the homeless at the pop-up clinics and tunnels. In addition, team members participated in special clinics such as Project Homeless Connect and Mobile Health Collaborative. A total of 200 clients were serviced, and 476 vaccines administered through the Hepatitis A Campaign
- Through a State of Nevada grant, and in collaboration with rural community leaders, Clinical Services provided dental and immunization services to uninsured and insured children and adults in Pahrump, Tonopah, Ely, and Goldfield from April 2018 - June 2018. Dental services included screening, fluoride varnish, cleaning, sealants, and oral hygiene/nutrition education
- The Healthy Start Program held a two-day Early Childhood Education (ECE) Workshop, in collaboration with Clark County Public Library District, called Mind in the Making. The workshop had 36 attendees and representation from seven different organizations. Continuing education credits were offered for registered nurses, workforce service providers and ECE educators

The Family Planning Program organized Youth Access Day events in collaboration with the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. This project focuses on the youth population, and the importance of confidentiality and removing barriers to care. This intervention resulted in a 6.79% increase in teens attendance to Family Planning clinics, compared to the previous year

- The Sexual Health Clinic, in collaboration with the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance, began offering HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) services to clients to reduce the risk of sexual HIV transmission by over 90%, if medication is taken correctly
- Incorporation of Community Health Workers in HIV case management activities supported by a grant received from the University of Boston, and financial support from the State of NV HIV program office

Fiscal year 2017 represented the first full year of operation of the SNHD Pharmacy Services. These services were added to SNHD to expand the scope

of services available to SNHD Ryan White clients and provide support to other clinical programs at SNHD. During the year, Pharmacy Services has progressively increased the number of clients served and expanded support for SNHD departments to implement new initiatives

Community Health

- On July 12-13th, 2018, SNHD Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance (OEDS), in collaboration with EH, hosted the first ever Legionella Summit held at the Southpoint Hotel and Casino. This summit provided attendees the opportunity to learn from leading experts in epidemiology and environmental health. Over 170 people attended this summit, including epidemiologists, environmental health specialists, public health professionals, facility managers, industry professionals, and infection control personnel.
- Conducted 36 overdose/naloxone trainings to 31 agencies and to 691 people throughout Clark, Nye, and Lincoln County. Through the trainings, 2,500 doses of naloxone have been distributed
- Established collaboration with CDC to work on formalizing the syringe vending machine project in collaboration with Trac-B/Impact Exchange, including vending efforts in neighboring rural communities
- OEDS developed and published on SNHD website, a TB Screening Questionnaire in conjunction with the Office of Informatics. This screening tool can be utilized by the public to assess and identify at-risk travelers and recommend the screening and follow-up for students, teachers, and those who work in public settings
- In response to the rise in Early Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis, OEDS began working with the NDPBH and other jurisdictions to develop a statewide education campaign that targets high morbidity and unconventional providers (e.g. substance abuse)
- *Transmission of Francisella tularensis, the Causative Agent of Tularemia, by Solid Organ Transplantation* was submitted to the New England Journal of Medicine. OEDS staff Christian Murua and Ying Zhang coauthored
- *Age and Periodontal Health – Immunological View* was submitted to Current Oral Health Reports. OEDS staff Ying Zhang coauthored with Drs. Ebersole and Nguyen at UNLV School of Dental Medicine
- An article published in the American Journal of Public Health in 2017 titled, *'Tobacco Policies and Alcohol Sponsorship at Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Festivals: Time for Intervention'* reviewed the 100 most populous cities to determine the level of tobacco and alcohol -related policies at Pride events. The research found that of all the cities included in the study, only the Las Vegas and San

Francisco Pride events received positive ratings in 3 categories: Written Policy Online, Tobacco-Free Policy, and Smoke-Free Policy

- During the summer of 2018, the UNLV Student Senate voted to support a tobacco-free campus resolution and move the resolution to the UNLV Policy Committee
- SNHD was selected as one of only two locations in the country to work directly with the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and their contractors on a pilot project to support the updated Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans and a consumer-focused implementation toolkit being developed by HHS
- In September 2018, the Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (OCDPHP) was awarded the highly competitive CDC Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant for ~ \$800,000/year for 5 years
- The Office of Informatics received ~ \$500,000 additional funding to enhance our SNHD Informatics Systems, Antibiograms, and Influenza surveillance
- SNHD's Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) response to 1 October MCI October 1, 2017 supporting Multi-Agency Coordination Center, Emergency Support Function 8-Health and Medical, Medical Surge Area Command, Joint Information Center, Family Assistance Center, Clark County Call Center serving over 4,500 people in a month following 1 October MCI
- SNHD's support of the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center with staff serving on the Steering Committee and Responder working group for behavioral health services planning post-1 Oct
- The Office of Vital Records collaborated with the Coroner's Office for the 1 October Mass Fatality incident by providing support services to victims' families (including death certificates)
- The Office of Public Health Preparedness received the NACCHO Health Security Award for Health District collaborative work with the Southern Nevada Counter-Terrorism Center
- The Office of Vital Records effectively planned the implementation and opening of Passport Services, a new program within SNHD. This program created new job opportunities, will provide additional revenue and enhance services to our community
- The Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory (SNPHL) new clinical laboratory renovation is nearly completed with several new instruments and tests brought in-house (including HIV-1 RNA Viral load, complete Hepatitis Panel, Mycobacteria genitalium, Fifth generation HIV screen and Total IgG and IgM Syphilis)

- The SNPHL successfully and rapidly responded to a local limited outbreak of *F. tularensis*, which became the first documented outbreak in the recipients of post-mortem solid organ recipients. This outbreak also called for the coordination and shipment of several animal carcasses to the CDC in Colorado through the SNPHL
- The SNPHL recently played a significant role in assisting the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance with a case of *C. botulinum* in a local infant
- The SNPHL completed its first season of mosquito arbovirus (vector) testing. This testing required essentially building a laboratory department from scratch, and in its first season, the SNPHL tested hundreds of mosquito pools resulting in the identification of 2 positive locations for West Nile Virus
- The Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems (EMSTS) worked with the Regional Trauma Advisory Board to develop an objective assessment tool to determine the need for additional trauma center services in Southern Nevada

Environmental Health

- The EH Division, in conjunction with the Food Handler card program, Public Information Office, and IT program returned the training of Clark County food handlers to SNHD. The EH division developed a comprehensive training guide and skills assessment test for this program. As part of the project launch, SNHD met with the Nevada Restaurant Association and industry partners to successfully implement this new process
- The Food Operations program, in conjunction with PIO, has developed a series of videos that is available to the public that explains and demonstrates food safety procedures and protocols in an easy-to-understand manner. Topics include proper hand washing techniques, thermometer calibration, sanitizer set-up, and temporary food establishment procedures
- The Environmental Health division was well represented at both the state of Nevada (Environmental Health Association) and national (National Environmental Health Association) annual educational conference, presenting on a variety of EH topics. SNHD was represented by 3 speakers at NEHA, 4 speakers at NvEHA and 2 speakers presented at the FDA Pacific Region Seminar in Boise, ID
- The EH division continued progress in meeting Standard 2 by having an initial standardization of field staff after assignment to the Food Program, continued with Standard 6 by assisting with preparation for Training Intervention for the Administrative Process, continued with Standard 9 by completing a Risk Factor Study in retail grocery stores, and met Standard 5 (Foodborne Illness and Food Defense Preparedness & Response)

- SNHD was selected to take part in the NACCHO Mentorship Program for the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards, Cohort 7. The SNHD was paired with, and mentored, the following health districts:
 - First District Health Unit, North Dakota
 - Seattle and King County, Washington
 - North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Food and Lodging

- As part of Cohort 7, three SNHD staff attended an end of program face-to-face meeting in Washington D.C. with approximately 25 other local health districts at the end of July 2018

- In response to the regulated communities request, the Food Operations section developed a grading card for Annual Itinerant permits. The vetting process included public workshops with industry and rollout of the card began in January 2018

The EH division, planned, coordinated, and implemented a public exposition that highlighted the various functions that the EH division fulfills. The event was well attended, and every program of the division was represented at the event. Approximately 500 people attended the 2nd Annual EH Expo.

- SNHD Supervision served as Council members for the Conference for Food Protection at the 2018 Biennial Conference. Regulatory, academia and industry members review national food safety issues and provide proposals to the FDA for consideration
- As part of an AFDO small grant, food operations staff held three educational outreach training workshops at SNHD in 2018 for the four types of non-traditional vendors (farmer's markets, annual itinerants, mobile vendors, and cottage food operators)
- Food operations staff worked with Westgate Resort Hotel and Casino, SNHD OEDS, SNHD lab and SNHD PIO to mitigate a Norovirus outbreak of close to 400 ill individuals
- The EH division continued to host Leadership Las Vegas students (26), participate in the Las Vegas Science and Technology Festival, provide training for the CCSD Summer ZOOM program, and host a Summer Business Institute Intern in addition to many other small outreach events
- EH is working on a joint CDC project looking at restaurant workers' food safety beliefs and practices. The goal of the study is to determine the relationship between food worker training and control of foodborne illness risk factors through interviews and surveys of food workers and management at randomly selected facilities
- Aquatic Health staff worked with other SNHD staff and the regulated community to present and approve the 2018 SNHD Aquatic Facility Regulations in April 2018.

Aquatic Health is currently conducting implementation, including industry training, staff training, and inspection document updates to prepare for enforcement activities which will begin July 1, 2019

- Provided variance approval to release five (5) homeowners from state mandate for a nitrogen removal septic system requirement due to inadequate/unavailable service provider that would cause financial hardship to the homeowners
- Conducted the first annual Legionella conference
- Collaborated with CDC's Division of Vector Borne Diseases on the manuscript titled "Bloodmeal Host Selection of the Southern House Mosquito (Diptera: Culicidae) in Las Vegas, NV
- Developed a Mosquito Control threshold document to guide mosquito control adulticide activities and revised the Mosquito Borne Disease Interlocal Agreement for General, Specific and Emergency Assistance
- Developed a "Fee for Service" for adulticide application supporting outside jurisdictional agencies
- Solid Waste & Compliance prepared and forwarded Control and Operational Plan (CONOPS) to OPHP for EBOLA (class A) hazardous waste cleanup events
- SDW program began identifying unpermitted domestic water systems in Clark County utilizing an undergraduate intern from UNLV, spring semester 2018, which surfaced a possible public health concern on nitrate levels Sunrise Mountain region of the valley
- SWPR and Subdivision program streamlined the plan review process by implementing online plan submissions and reviews shorting the permit processing time nearly fifty percent and completed the digitization of all paper historical files