

**SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH
RESOLUTION NO. 01-12**

WHEREAS, Nevada teens have the second highest pregnancy rate in the U.S. at 90 pregnancies per 1,000 females age 15-19 years and have sexually transmitted infection rates up to five times higher than the adult population representing over 32% of all newly acquired sexually transmitted infections; and

WHEREAS, problems associated with teen births and sexually transmitted diseases cost Nevada taxpayers over 112 million dollars per year and represent a significant burden on public services such as schools, medical care, juvenile justice, social service programs and child welfare systems; and

WHEREAS, teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection rates are not just the product of individual characteristics, but are substantially influenced by social determinants, including but not limited to: poverty; educational attainment; unemployment; and a lack of community engagement and social resources;

WHEREAS, teen pregnancy affects disparate populations disproportionately; communities of color and economically disadvantaged are especially affected by a lack of resources and the negative effects of unplanned teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease, including HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, a study estimating the cost-effectiveness of one teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection prevention program found that for every dollar invested in the program, \$2.65 in total medical and social costs were saved;

WHEREAS, reducing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections is important to our community; and that young people can make healthy, safe, and responsible choices when they are given knowledge, skills, and access to services;

WHEREAS, the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) Board of Health recognizes community concerns to improve adolescent health and provide supportive environments which demonstrate that we as a community value our youth and their place in our society; and

WHEREAS, the SNHD Board of Health values and encourages the development of public health strategies based on science and evidence, focused on prevention, centered on the community and guided by the principles of social justice.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the SNHD Board urge Southern Nevadans to focus attention on broad based community-wide efforts to reduce teen pregnancy, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the SNHD Board of Health supports:

- State efforts to organize a summit focused on the issues of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS among Nevada adolescents

