



**DATE:** April 28, 2016

**TO:** Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Joseph Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc, Chief Health Officer

**SUBJECT:** Chief Health Officer Report

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### **Goodsprings Lead Testing**

The Southern Nevada Health District offered blood lead level testing to community members in Goodsprings, Nevada on March 30, 2016 after it was discovered that the water system that serves both the school and community center contained concentrations of lead above the threshold action level set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Seven students and four adults were tested and none were found to have blood lead levels at or above the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommended reference range. This testing was performed out of an abundance of caution, and there is no indication at this time of a significant exposure in the community. A significant exposure would indicate higher levels in the blood and the need for more confirmatory testing. If anyone was found to have elevated blood lead levels, follow up testing would have been performed by the Health District, along with appropriate referrals to a medical provider. Additionally, the Health District staff would conduct environmental assessments on the personal residence of any person found to have had an elevated blood lead level to help further determine the source of the exposure. Oftentimes, the sources are imported candies, lead paint used in pre-1978 homes, or ceramic pottery. It is recommended that all children get screened at least once for elevated blood lead levels.

### **Accreditation Update**

The Community Health Assessment is currently being formatted for review. Once this stage is complete, Health District staff and community partners will begin the final review of the document. The Community Health Improvement Plan partner subcommittee is in the process of finalizing a system that will be used to track performance measures related to accreditation activities, including the Health District's Strategic Plan.

The Health District is preparing for the launch of the Performance Management System. A small training for Environmental Health supervisors was held on April 1. Feedback from this training will assist staff in developing improved training for the system's district-wide roll-out. Quality Improvement is an essential piece of the accreditation process and helps to fulfill Public Health Accreditation Board requirements.

The Health District recently received a donation of \$10,000 from Dignity Health to support further development of the Healthy Southern Nevada website. Planned activities include building the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan into the website. Dignity Health has committed to making this donation an annual gift for ongoing development of this community resource. The website can be accessed at: [www.healthysouthernnevada.org](http://www.healthysouthernnevada.org)

### **County Health Rankings**

The Health District hosted a briefing of the 2016 *Nevada Health Rankings* on March 16, 2016. The rankings measure the health of nearly all counties in the nation and rank them within states. The *Rankings* are released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. The local-level data provided by the *Rankings* allows each county to see how it compares on more than 30 factors that influence health. These factors include education, housing, jobs, smoking, access to health care, and more.

According to the 2016 *Health Rankings*, Clark County ranked as the sixth healthiest county in Nevada. The five healthiest counties are Douglas County, followed by Pershing County, Lincoln County, Elko County, and Washoe County. The five counties ranked as least healthy in Nevada are Mineral County, Nye County, Esmeralda County, Lyon County, and White Pine County.

The second hour of this meeting was held jointly by videoconference with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Washoe County Health District, Carson City Department of Health and Human Services, and many rural counties throughout Nevada, including Esmeralda, Nye, and Lincoln. For this part of the workshop, we focused on rural public health needs, with a presentation by Churchill County on their development of the Board of Health and assessment.

The *County Health Rankings* website and reports provided at the *Nevada Health Rankings* briefing are available on the Nevada Public Health Association [website](#).

### **Community Meetings**

- Met with CCSD/Clark County/Goodsprings Elementary School staff regarding possible exposure to lead contaminated tap water
- Attended Homeland Security Working Group Meeting #2
- Met with Dr. Bowers, local retired physician to discuss school based health centers
- Provided media interviews as required
- Met with City of North Las Vegas staff to discuss SNHD services location in North Las Vegas
- Participated in NACCHO Nomination Committee meeting
- Met with Touro University staff regarding future collaboration
- Participated in Bio unit (FOA - Regional Ebola Treatment Center for Region 9) teleconference
- Met with Greg Lovato, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and other Asbestos researchers to discuss a potential grant application and research program
- Presented at Legislative Committee on Health Care
- Met with Dan Olsen from the State's HIV program

- Participated in planning on presentation to Legislative Committee on Health Care
- Participated in NACCHO Finance Committee meeting
- Participated in Clark County Medical Society Board of Trustees meeting
- Facilitated 2016 Nevada County Health Rankings – Southern Nevada
- Participated in NV Chronic Disease Director Call
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Association Conference Call
- Met with Commissioner Susan Brager regarding matters related to SNHD
- Conducted an All Hands Meeting regarding budget and workforce needs assessment
- Presented on TB Cluster Associated with Perinatal Transmission of Presumptive *Mycobacterium bovis* & Update on Zika at the Western Veterinary Conference
- Presented on Operation Rabbit's Foot at the Western Veterinary Conference
- Met with staff regarding First Person/clinical space in North Las Vegas
- Met with staff regarding Trauma Registry and Level III trauma
- Attended AHEC Council Meeting at PBS
- Participated in UNLV School of Community Health Conference