

# MEMORANDUM



**Date:** January 21, 2021  
**To:** Southern Nevada District Board of Health  
**From:** Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH, *District Health Officer*  
**Subject:** **District Health Officer and Division Accomplishments – 2021**

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## Executive Summary

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In summary, COVID-19 mitigation efforts took a considerable toll in our organization and employees' capacity to address critical public health needs of our community. All SNHD divisions actively participated in COVID-19 response and mitigation efforts, while continue to meet their deliverables.

Within the Administration Division, the Finance Department completed two budget augmentations and received zero audit findings for the 2021 audit. The number of awarded grants went from 55 to 77 resulted in an increase in workload by 40%. Due to the growth in services provided by the Health District, Facilities coordinated and oversaw remodeling/expansion at the SNPHL, East Las Vegas, Main Facility and Mesquite locations. Over the course of the year, the Human Resources Department finalized and implemented a Remote Work Plan and Return to Work Program, along with successfully negotiating 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreements with SEIU. The Information Technology developed and/or implemented applications for COVID-19 Vaccinations (Registration, Check-in and Distribution Management) prior to the implementation of the MTX/Salesforce Vaccine Management System, COVID-19 Testing for Long Term Care facilities, Accela Civil Platform for Environmental Health, and an appointment system for Food Handler Cards and Vital Records. The Legal Department continues to provide services to the entire Health District, with the most significant in Contracts Administration. The Office of Communications responded to more than 500 media inquiries, issued over 113 media releases, and developed a dedicated COVID-19 section on the website and a standalone website for the Southern Nevada Community Health Center.

Within the Community Health Division, the Office of Public Health Informatics maintained the COVID-19 Dashboard, Map, lab testing and Emergency Department admission trend analysis, along with automating COVID-19 contact tracing efforts and patient notification. The Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, launched a self-monitoring blood pressure program, assisted UNLV with the passage of a tobacco-free campus policy, and trained nearly 2,000 healthcare providers on how to conduct Brief Tobacco Use Interventions (Ask, Advise, Assist). The main focus of the Office of Public Health Preparedness was working with community partners to support every aspect of COVID-19 response in the community. The Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory (SNPHL) performed a total of 218,542 COVID-19 tests and detected 19,768 positive samples, and therefore increased staffing to operate at a higher surge capacity. With the increase in activities, the SNPHL passed CLIA, FSAP and Nevada State inspections.

Within the Disease Surveillance and Control Division, staff was able to secure new funding (STDSP, NDOCCD, ELC3, and COVID-19 Health Disparities). Staff developed new community partnerships, specifically with Signs of Hope (formerly Rape Crisis Center) to train staff on harm reduction and drug related stigma. The Southern Nevada Health District Community Health Assessment (CHA) was published, and a local syringe services program was launched. A new branch was created called Acute Disease Control which includes the COVID-19 response program, which included contact tracers, CCSD support development of COVID-19 Dashboard (cases, testing, vaccine) and CCSD school dashboard. The Acute Disease Control branch also developed a long-term relationship with CSN for testing and vaccine and expanded community testing with the use of mobile and kiosk testing programs.

Within the Environmental Health Division, staff in the Consumer Health area participated in Zone and County Multi-Agency Response Team (CMART) meetings and the National Environmental Health

Association (NEHA) Body Art Committee. The area of Food Operations had staff conduct first-time inspections for several new and major facilities (Allegiant Stadium, Virgin Hotel and Resorts World) and completed the Restaurant Risk Factor Study. Staff worked with the CDC on a multi-state outbreak of non-viral hepatitis associated with alkaline drinking water. Also, staff coordinated with the Las Vegas Fire Department to form the Food Truck Task Force to inform, support and secure compliance with mobile vending. The area of Solid Waste & Compliance worked with the Southern Nevada Water Authority to improve coordination with new Las Vegas Valley Water District service rules impacting Individual Sewage Disposal Systems and started water testing for Clark County residents who test positive for Legionnaires' disease.

Within the Primary and Preventive Care Division, the Residency Program had 46 students, residents, and fellows that rotated through the Health District. The Sexual Health Clinic had 10,247 patient visits, saw an increase in the number of clients initiating HIV PrEP, and established a new partnership with All Saints Episcopal Church. The Community Health Center (FQHC) had 7,874 patient visits and continued to provide services through Mobile Clinics in rural areas. The FQHC established a COVID-19 vaccination clinic and administered 33,853 doses and continued COVID-19 testing. The Immunization Program, within Clinical Services, administered a total of 94,429 vaccinations to 57,944 clients.

## Health District Significant Accomplishments

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- Successful Implementation of the COVID-19 surveillance and mitigation activities in Clark County such as
  - COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign
  - Community-based COVID-19 testing
  - Surveillance and Contact Tracing
  - Guidance and technical support to CCSD, resort industry, and other local partners
- Delivery of expanded COVID-19 services at Southern Nevada Community Health Center main location
  - COVID-19 Isolation facility (October 2020 – March 2021)
  - COVID-19 mass vaccination site (April 2021 – current)
  - COVID-19 mass testing site
- Negotiated successful 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreements with SEIU
- Publication of the Southern Nevada Health District Community Health Assessment (CHA)
- Submitted application and supportive documentation for SNHD Public Health Accreditation
- No audit findings for the June 3, 2021, Financial audit
- Created a billing team that includes a Revenue Cycle Manager, and 4 biller/coders
- Secured agreement with City of Las Vegas for new clinical facility at Bonanza Road
- Build-out new health center facility at East Las Vegas Location (Fremont)
- Assisted UNLV with the passage of a tobacco-free campus policy effective Fall 2022
- Completed the Restaurant Risk Factor Study and submitted the final report to the FDA
- Initiated well water testing in rural Clark County
- Employee Appreciation Day

## Administration Division

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### Finance Department

#### FINANCE:

- We have completed 2 budget Augmentations in FY21 as opposed to zero in FY20, and are in compliance with the Department of Taxation leading to no Findings.
- Audited Financial Statements were also delivered on time for FY20 and FY21.
- Bank Recs and Treasury reports submitted timely to the county.
- We had zero audit findings for the June 30, 2021 audit. This is the first time since 2016 that had no audit findings and second time in the last 10 years with no audit findings.
- Has processed 3.5% more invoices (252 more) year over from 8,147 to 8,399 in accounts payable.
- Grants have increased from approximately 55 to 77 awarded grants, year over year, increasing the workloads of our Grant Team and Accountants by 40%.
- Despite the increase in workload the team has managed to successfully produce grant deliverables in a timely fashion.
- The payroll team has managed to process payroll and other deliverables despite the 100% increase in personnel, and changeover in finance and HR.
- In addition to staffing changes in the payroll specialist role, as well as challenges presented by software limitations.
- Purchasing has seen an increase in Purchase Orders processed year over year of 6.5% from 1,501 to 1,603.
- In addition, due to Covid increased pressure to deliver emergency goods and services critical to the Response effort.

#### BILLING

- Claims from 2020 have been reviewed and clean-up of the claims has been completed.
- Fee Schedule Update completed
- Standard Operating Procedures have been developed for Vaccine for billing and testing.
- Building, Submitting, and Posting of Covid claims from 12/29/20 - 10/31/21
- Standard Operating Procedures have been developed for Credentialing Providers
- Beginning the Process for Billing labs from SNPHL
- Expanded the Billing team to include a Revenue Cycle Manager, and 4 biller/coders
- Developed a plan to bring billing back in-house with SNHD staff/

#### FACILITIES

- Coordinated and oversaw the remodel at 700 Martin Luther King (SNPHL)
- Coordinated the chiller repair and installation at 700 Martin Luther King (SNPHL)
- Coordinated the East Las Vegas Fremont build-out
- Oversaw build-out of COVID-19 Clinics at 280 S Decatur Blvd
- Coordinated and oversaw the East Las Vegas move to 2950 East Bonanza Road
- Secured location and coordinated the COVID-19 team move to 2240 Civic Center
- Commenced work on the 280 S Decatur Behavioral Health Clinic build-out
- Secured new warehouse space
- Coordinated the water heater repair at 280 S Decatur

- Secured location and coordinated the move at the Mesquite location
- Upgraded the AV equipment in the Lake Mead and Petroglyph Canyon conference rooms
- Reworked the NCS facility to COVID-19 shot clinic
- Reworked the modular furniture in the Finance Department
- Installed modular furniture in the Clark County Detention Center

## Human Resources Department

### COVID-19 SUPPORT

- Provided ongoing ICS Logistic Support by responding and fulfilling requests for volunteers.
- Finalized the SNHD Long Term Remote Work Plan.
- Implemented the SNHD Return to Work Program and conducted training for leaders throughout the organization.
- Collaborated with SNHD and Union leadership to implement a successful SNHD Employee Mask and Testing Plan.
- Achieved an 82% rate of fully vaccinated employees at SNHD.

### EMPLOYEE/LABOR RELATIONS & RECRUITMENT

- Negotiated successful 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreements with SEIU General and Supervisor Units.
- Implemented a COVID Compensation Time Program for FLSA Exempt employees to recognize their dedication and extra efforts in COVID response.
- Executed successful hiring processes for 114 new SNHD staff members.
- Implemented the I.D.E.A.S. program to conduct a comprehensive recruitment and selection process improvement with a focus on utilizing technology and effective recruitment strategy.

### BENEFITS/HRIS/EMPLOYEE RECORDS

- Develop automated vaccination status and testing reporting capability for accurate statistics for SNHD employees.
- Launched a Classification & Compensation Review Process with Pontifex Consulting.
- Designed and delivered FMLA/ADA Basics training for SNHD Leadership.
- Navigated and managed Open Enrollment Processes for SNHD staff.
- Implemented DynaFile for transferring all Employee Personnel Files from paper to an electronic format.
- Launched reconfiguration of NEOGOV applicant tracking system.

### PERCEPTION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- Fully staffed the Human Resources Team selecting five (5) accomplished staff members over a three (3) months period.
- Held “HR Halloween Open House” for SNHD District employees to introduce HR staff and increase employee engagement with the HR Team.
- Initiated recruitment strategy meetings and other collaboration and communication strategies to meet department needs and forge more HR collaboration across the organization.
- Held and HR Team Building Retreat to develop trust and collaboration among the HR Team.

## Information Technology Department

### APPLICATIONS

- Developed Covid Vaccinations Registration, Check-in and Vaccine Distribution Management application, which included a web registration and mobile application used for Check-in and Vaccine recording. This was used until the MTX/ Salesforce application was in production.
  - Used in-house, at PODs and by North Las Vegas, Clark County and City of Henderson vaccine events.
- Coordinated implementation of the MTX / Salesforce Vaccine Management System for Southern Nevada. Collaborated with the State of Nevada IT and local jurisdictions for implementation. SNHD was the first to go-live in the state. Rolled out the system in 3 weeks after selection.
- Provided training for staff and supported staff, volunteers, and the public at Vaccine Events.
- Developed a Covid Testing Application for Long Term Care Facilities and various other facilities including Clark County Detention Center, and Clark County School District. This application provided for real-time accessioning into the SNPHL Orchard Lab System and ended the use of paper vaccine forms.
- Setup the FQHC to use the MTX system and integrated that system with eClinicalWorks.
- Created utilities/tools for SNPHL to help automate transferring specimens to other labs.
- Enhanced Covid Specimen labels to include a barcode for faster processing of labs.
- Made many enhancements to Electronic Timecards System to speed up the application and make it easier and more robust for the Finance team.
- Contracted and began implementation of Accela Civic Platform to replace the existing Envision Connect system in Environmental Health. Implementation is still on schedule halfway through.
- Developed an appointment system for Food Handler cards and Vital Records to allow them to reopen safely and provide a better customer experience.
- Resolved workflow and security issues in OneSolution needed due to staff moves and changes in organization structure.
- Upgraded eClinicalWorks (eCW) to newest version.
- Added other modules to eCW for FQHC such as Population Health, Portal enhancements, Kiosks, Surveys.
- Assisted Finance with W2 generations, 1099 tax forms, recurring calculations, budget preparation due to changes in Budget Analysts.
- Made updates to many internal applications for improved customer experiences and efficiencies.
- Updated mobile applications for OCDPHP to satisfy grant deliverables. (Neon To Nature, Walk around NV)

### OPERATIONS

- Completed 4 site moves for staff (in and out of The Center, Mesquite, and Clark County Detention)
- Doubled VDI deployment to over 600 from just 300 the year prior
- Provided IT assistance to over 50 distinct mobile outreach and Covid-19 events, including the long running Megs-PODs at Cashman and LVCC.
- Deployed a new IT Infrastructure monitoring solution to improve system uptime and stability.
- Deployed Google Cloud Platform to SNPHL to enable their work on the Terra platform in analyzing samples at scale using cloud resources

- Modernized Audio / Video capabilities in two conference rooms, Lake Mead and Petroglyph Canyon. This allows voice controls and a better Webex environment.
- Onboarded a total of 492 contact tracers (CSAA-452, UNLV-15, SNHD-25. These include onboarding due to turnover)
- Configured and deployed over 400 iPads and 100 Chromebooks as part of the Vaccine PODs.
- Completed over 10,000 work orders.

#### STAFF

- Jason Frame – CIO – Received Government Technology Innovation Leadership award.
- Jason Frame also received the Top Tech Exec for Government from Cox Business and Vegas Inc. Magazine for the work of the IT team during the pandemic.
- Added new IT Operations Supervisor, Jason Agudo, to improve IT service delivery to all SNHD staff.
- Onboarded multiple grant funded positions in IT to support ongoing Covid and grant related activities.

## Office of Communications

#### MEDIA ACTIVITIES

- Between January 1, 2021, and October 31, 2021, the Office of Communications logged more than 490 media inquiries (national and local). These include traditional newspapers, digital news services, television and radio outlets.
- Health District staff participated in more than 100 interviews and more than a dozen media availabilities hosted via WebEx. The media availabilities were held weekly at the beginning of the year and led by Dr. Leguen. Participants varied by topic and included Board of Health Chair Scott Black, Vice-Chair Marilyn Kirkpatrick and subject matter experts.
- News conferences and media events were held in conjunction with Clark County, the City of North Las Vegas, Clark County School District, our federal delegation, and other partners at Jerome Mack Middle School, Cashman Center, Las Vegas Convention Center, Texas Station, Canarelli Middle School, and Desert Pines High School.
- The majority of the inquiries and media interviews were COVID-19 related and ranged from initial vaccine rollouts and appointments, vaccine eligibility, vaccine demographics, vaccine boosters and additional shots, vaccine clinics, contact tracing in schools, increasing case counts/surges, variants, breakthrough cases and reports, testing sites, large events, mask mandates, outreach efforts, travel and holiday recommendations, potential places of exposures, and wastewater surveillance. Many of these resulted in media interviews with staff members as well as written responses to requesting outlets.
- Non-COVID-19 media requests included the acute non-viral hepatitis illness outbreak, flu vaccine, fentanyl overdose deaths, heat-related illnesses, a pop-up produce market, HIV, Linkage 2 Care, and West Nile virus.
- The Office of Communications distributed 113 news releases, which included regular COVID-19 updates and statements, and the announcement of the acute non-viral hepatitis outbreak linked to Real Water Brand Alkaline Water.

#### DIGITAL PLATFORMS

- The Health District has had a limited advertising budget and optimizes its social media platforms, e-newsletters, and websites to provide information to the public.
  - The Office of Communications developed and launched a dedicated COVID-19 section of the Health District website to make the content, resources and communications materials it developed more accessible to the public, and to prepare for the availability of vaccines. From January until October of this year, 1,763,886 unique users have visited the site 4,949,502 times.
  - In June 2021, a standalone website was launched for the Southern Nevada Community Health Center to promote its services and brand. From January until October, the website (snchc.org) has been visited by 16,333 unique visitors a total of 23,772 times.
- The Health District’s Facebook followers grew 37 percent from 8,780 followers to 12,044 followers. Twitter followers grew 25 percent, from 8,050 to 10,102, and Instagram followers grew 33 percent, from 2,684 to 3,563.
- Social media campaigns to promote COVID-19 vaccine and testing locations resulted in: 147,258 reach, 2,716 link clicks, and 314 event responses.
- The Health District’s publicly distributed e-newsletter, *The Public Health Perspective*, has a subscriber-based circulation of more than 10,000. Newsletter topics distributed have included, vaccine availability for children, third dose availability, holiday safety, back-to-school and flu vaccine information.

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- From January to October 2021, Office of Communications outreach staff distributed more than 34,000 flyers promoting COVID-19 vaccine and testing distribution sites, COVID-19 preventive measures and resources, back-to-school information, Southern Nevada Community Health Center information, and community partner information and resources.
- Flyers were distributed at libraries, Latino markets, community partners, YMCA, community centers, Clark County School District, day care centers, the Latin Chamber of Commerce, Health District pop-up clinics, public health centers, partner events, and health fairs.
- Flyers were also distributed electronically to community partners, including Puentes, the Latin Chamber of Commerce, Health Plan of Nevada, United Way and others. Combined, these agencies have thousands in their networks who receive the information provided to them.
- Staff responded to more than 4,000 inquires via the [snhdpublicinformation@snhd.org](mailto:snhdpublicinformation@snhd.org) email address. The topics range from requests for information and questions about Health District programs and services, COVID testing, COVID vaccine, vaccine eligibility, vaccine roll out, mask mandate, vaccine clinic requests, presentation requests, and interview requests.
- Office of Communications staff participated in community outreach activities including the Latino Network of Southern Nevada, Health Plan of Nevada Community Outreach, Esta en tus Manos Taskforce, Junta Comunitaria del Sector Social United Way, and a number of health fairs. These activities are an opportunity to strengthen our collaborations and increase our knowledge of programs and services for referral purposes. They are also an opportunity to promote Health District programs and services, including current COVID-19 response efforts.



## Legal Department

### LEGAL DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM METRICS

#### a) Public Record Requests

The Legal Department manages the Public Records Program and oversees Health District compliance with the Nevada’s public records law consistent with NRS Chapter 239.

Public Record Requests for 1/1/21-10/1/21: 1454  
This represents a 16% increase over the same time period the prior year

#### b) Records Information Management

Responsibilities include facilitating and maintaining the correct records management policies and procedures and integration of the records management program into the Health District’s operational systems. Created new training for new employees, program liaisons, and division directors. Working with programs to update retention schedules.

#### c) Contracts

Started the implementation process of a contracts management database, which will not only aid contract staff in drafting contracts, but more importantly act as a central database for the submitting of contract requests, obtaining the necessary approval, including Finance linking to funding code, provide a place to look up status, obtain signatures, and be a repository for the completed contract.

The increase of volume that contracts administration has seen is concentrated in the areas of expedited requests and the dollar value of the contracts. The dollar amount of the contracts has quadrupled in comparison to the same time the prior year.

Contract Administration Metrics Calendar Year 2021 through October 1, 2021	Requests Received	# of requests received with expectations of expedited completion	% of expedited requests received	Requests Processed
January 1, 2021-January 31, 2021	21	13	62%	27
February 1, 2021-February 28, 2021	23	11	48%	22
March 1, 2021-March 30, 2021	23	12	52%	22
April 1, 2021-April 30, 2021	24	19	79%	31
May 1, 2021-May 31, 2021	21	21	100%	24
June 1, 2021-June 30, 2021	23	14	61%	19
July 1, 2021-July 31, 2021	39	30	77%	30
August 1, 2021-August 31, 2021	44	35	80%	33
September 1, 2021-September 30, 2021	24	16	67%	25
October 1, 2021	3	3	100%	6
Totals, CY2021 January 1 through October 1 (Average expedited requests received per month in the case of % of expedited requests)	245	174	71%	239

d) Southern Nevada Community Health Center

Updated the Community Health Center bylaws. Engaged a FTCA consultant to assist in implementing required programs to prepare the Community Health Center to apply for FTCA coverage and realize the savings of not paying for malpractice insurance for those who exclusively practice in Community Health Center clinical programs.

e) Compliance Program

Facilitated a District wide HIPAA risk assessment and assisted programs address areas that were in need of improvement based upon the assessments.

On July 1, 2021, the Code of Conduct was uploaded into Policy Hub, a District wide policy database and was the first document to be published to the employees for review and signature.

f) Policy Committee

In spring of 2021, the Policy Committee prepped for the Policy Hub roll out, which is a database for maintaining, updating, publishing, and documenting signatures acceptance of policies. Policy Hub went live on July 1, 2021 and has since had all of the active District wide policies uploaded and distributed to staff. Next step in further utilization is for the divisions to use it to store and track their division specific policies.

## Community Health Division

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### Vital Records/Passport Services

#### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Registration and Issuance January 2021-September 2021
  - Registered 18,595 births, issued 35,817 birth certificates
  - Registered 18,334 deaths and issued 76,695 death certificates
  - Witnessed 300 Declaration of Paternity documents
2. Completed Projects
  - In March 2021, with the support of IT, we successfully launched a scheduling system to process Declaration of Paternity documents. Time slots are always full however only about 50% of the appointments show so we recently started doing reminder calls.
  - Online and phone messaging continuously reviewed and updated to provide the community with current processes and requirements for ordering records.
  - In April 2021, we rolled our pickup option back out to customers. This allows them to order and pay online but come in to pick up to avoid waiting for records by mail.
3. COVID-19 2019 Deaths
  - Worked closely with physicians and hospitals to correctly certify, handle and report COVID-19 deaths.
  - Worked with funeral homes to enter deaths in a timely manner, reduce duplicate entries of deaths, correcting personal information on deaths when matching with medical records.
  - Worked closely with OEDS to monitor, report and register COVID-19 reported deaths.
4. Worked with the Nevada Funeral Board during closure of a local funeral home(s).
  - Locating records in system and documenting dates records were started, signed and filed.
  - Identifying deaths that were not reported in EDRS system.
  - Issued new burial permits and processed affidavit of corrections for decedents transferred to another funeral home due to closure.
  - Monitor EDRS to ensure new records were not completed by this funeral home.
  - Currently working on the shutdown of another Clark County funeral home.
5. Projects
  - Work with the state Vital Records office to select a new Birth/Death registry vendor and assist in building the new system. Upgrade to current system or new vendor. In order to go with a new vendor, which would include integration with the Coroner and hospitals, the state is starting conversations about cost sharing from the counties.
6. Passports
  - Passports took a pretty good hit in FY 20-21 due to COVID-19 temporary/partial office closures but has rebounded nicely with a 106% increase from this time last year.
    - **January 2021-September 2021- Processed 4,806 passport applications**
    - January 2020-September 2020- Processed 2,330 passport applications
    - January 2019-September 2019-Processed 6,200 passport applications
      - In March 2021, with the support of IT we successfully launched a scheduling system for passports appointments.
      - Passport photos are still on hold; however, we are finding that we can do more appointments if we aren't doing photos. We will continue to monitor this.

## Health Cards, Business Group

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Resumed full operations of Health Cards April 2021.
  - a. Clients seen by appointment to stay compliant with COVID-19 guidelines and capacity limits.
  - b. All clients – first time, renewing and those needing duplicates.

### NON-COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Offsite Health Cards sessions done at the Riverside Resort/Casino in Laughlin in response to Ashlyn Bilbray's suggestion. The sessions will help us develop workflows to do similar sessions "in the field" as needed in the future.
2. Worked with Environmental Health "Regulatory Support Office" (RSO), formerly the Training office, to develop a formal process for schools and establishments to submit their food safety course and test for review. If approved, the entity can send their clients with a certificate of completion to obtain their Health Card without testing and no need for an appointment.
3. Quarterly participation with Environmental Health's Food Safety Partnership meetings with industry professionals. This has helped communicate information to clients regarding Health Cards.

### COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Due to COVID-19 surge late 2020, suspended Health Cards operations and re-assigned staff to COVID-19 support roles.
  - a. Call Center – Provided support for scheduling testing, providing results, scheduling vaccinations, and responding to inquiries from businesses and establishments.
  - b. Contact Tracing to support OEDS/EPI.
2. Took over door screening functions and participating in OPS briefings, Tactics and Weekly Planning meetings.

### UPCOMING/ONGOING PROJECTS

1. Proposal for on-line testing and remote issuance of Health Cards for renewing clients using facial recognition software to validate clients' food safety testing. Working with Lake Cumberland District Health Department (Kentucky) and DevDuo to provide a demo to applicable leadership staff members.

## Office of Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Received 3,861 electronic applications for initial/renewal of certification or licensure as an EMS provider.
- Issued ~2,300 certifications or licenses for EMS providers. This is approximately half of our volume as recertification cycles every two years.
- Proctored and processed 81 certification examinations. Most providers use the National Registry for certification which we use as reciprocity. However, we have instituted our own testing to allow for a second pathway.
- Proctored 950 licensure examinations.
- Proctored 24 psychomotor examinations. Each candidate completes multiple scenarios based on level of training. These exams often take eight or more hours to complete.

- Processed 23 ambulance service permits.
- Processed 15 training center permits.
- Completed 23 annual agency audits.
- Maintained three trauma centers in the trauma system.
- Held 19 publicly noticed meetings.
- Held 10 closed peer review meetings.
- Inspected 419 emergency response vehicles including ambulances, fire trucks, and air ambulances.
- Maintained numerous MOUs and Interlocal agreements.
- Working closely with the Air Force to allow civilian patients to be seen via EMS at Mike O'Callaghan Military Medical Center. This will allow an additional resource in an underserved area.
- Integrating Mike O'Callaghan Military Medical Center into the trauma system as appropriate.
- Developing Trauma regulations.
- Published yearly Trauma Report.
- Combined disparate volunteer permittees under one CCFD rural service umbrella.
- Secured EMS/hospital data for most of the services and hospitals in Clark County.

#### COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Engaged in numerous stakeholder meetings.
- Amended response based on withdrawn emergency authorizations.
- Maintained office hours to serve the public and maintain standards for certification and licensure.
- Dedicated staff to ICS throughout the event with staff maintaining office job duties.

### Office of Public Health Informatics (OPHI) Accomplishments

#### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Applied and received multiple grant awards to support Informatics Office activities, and received ELC base, C2 (data modernization), and multiple COVID-19 related ELC grants.
- Expand informatics team and hired 5 new PHISs to enhance informatics capacity for COVID-19 response.
- Provide support for Office of Disease Surveillance (ODS), Office of Epidemiology, Office of EMS/Trauma System, Environmental Health (EH), Clinic Services with various data requests, data exports, and report generation.
- Enhanced Trisano and EMSA system to meet the needs of surging COVID-19 surveillance activities.
- Maintain and update COVID-19 dashboard, COVID-19 maps, lab testing and ED admission trend analysis and other urgent data requests.
- Continue to work on the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory (SNPHL) Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) system to interoperate with other internal and external systems. Informatics is also assisting with the changes that need to be made to the LIMS to accommodate new instruments and testing offered by the Clinical Laboratory.
- Maintain and enhance an application for Collect 2 Protect project (Online Testing Kit).
- Develop an application for the linkage to action project for HIV patient referral and outreach.
- Develop and enhance the Syringe Vending Machine (SVM) application.
- Work with IT to implement and maintain the Electronic Health Record (EHR) system for COVID-19 test ordering and COVID-19 vaccination.

- Continue to support Clark County Coroner’s Office (CCCO) to upgrade its Coroner and Medical Examiner (CME) information system, data requests and reports.
- Continue working on EpiTrax migration from Trisano and assist the state to migrate state NBS to EpiTrax. The whole state will use a single state-wide system (EpiTrax) next year. Completed COVID-19, HIV & TB custom logic migration for EpiTrax.

#### NON-COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continue to provide prompt informatics support for SNHD internal programs and external partners such as the State and UNLV.
- Provide informatics supports for SNHD Clinical Services grants (5 new and 3 existing grants).
- Produced reports for FHQC and Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) programs.
- Continue to enhance the iCircle web application for OEDS, and transmission of STD, HIV and Hepatitis testing data to CDC, and enhance a QA process between iCircle with eCW data.
- Upgrade SNHPL LIMS to latest version including HL7 2.5.1 interface and security. Work with the CDC and APHL for Public Health Laboratory Interoperability Project.
- Update EMSA logics and Trisano for all reportable conditions based on CDC requirement.

#### COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Processed 3.5 million ELRs and performed daily ELRs data QA.
- Update EMSA logic for COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing.
- Maintain applications to automate COVID-19 contacts upload for contact tracing and testing referral and produce COVID-19 DECIPHER report.
- Work with IT to automate COVID-19 patient notification application and perform QA for contact tracing and identification.
- Work with IT to maintain and enhance COVID-19 lab results portal to include NSPHL overflow test results.
- Enhance NSPHL infrastructure and overflow process to meet testing surge. Onboard NSPHL, Medasource and MDX labs as NSPHL overflow labs for COVID-19 testing.
- Work with IT to develop COVID-19 interface between instruments, COVID-19 POD app and Orchard, COVID-19 testing and reporting needed for NSPHL.
- COVID-19 testing and vaccination reports by linking eCW with WebIZ and Orchard.

#### UPCOMING/ONGOING PROJECTS

- Continue working on EpiTrax migration from Trisano and assist the state to migrate state NBS to EpiTrax.
- Continue working with Clark County IT and assist CCCO to upgrade its CME system.
- Working with NV HIE to improve eCR reporting.
- Working with UNLV geocoding for COVID-19 response.
- Continue to work with local healthcare providers and CDC to onboard eCR for all reportable conditions.

## Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Sponsored the development of a reduced-fare bike share pass for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients in partnership with the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada.
- Implemented pop up produce markets at the Bonneville Transit Center where transit riders and the surrounding community could purchase fresh produce with their SNAP benefits.
- Launched a self-monitoring blood pressure program in partnership with the YMCA.
- Completed 2 community blood pressure courses at the Martin Luther King Jr. Senior Center.
- Conducted 2 'Shop Talk' events in partnership with barber and beauty salons participating in the BSHOP/BeSHOP programs reaching over 900 people.
- Expansion of outreach and communication activities to include participation in over 100 community events, multiple social marketing campaigns on a variety of topics airing on multiple media platforms, blogs in English and Spanish, social media platforms in English and Spanish and websites in English and Spanish.
- Provided 7 Diabetes Self-Management and Education classes for 29 people with diabetes, prediabetes, and diabetes caretakers. Classes were taught in English and Spanish as well as virtually and in person settings.
- Staff assisted UNLV with the passage of a tobacco-free campus policy effective Fall 2022. The policy eliminates the use of combustible tobacco products and electronic vapor products on the main campus and leased properties.
- The multi-unit online housing directory contains 63,488 smoke-free units. Technical assistance, signage, and cessation materials are provided to property management to support smoke-free policy adoption. An English and Spanish comprehensive media campaign ran from May through July.
- Staff worked to increase call volume to the Nevada Tobacco Quitline (State's 1-800-QUIT-NOW telephonic tobacco cessation service provider) among African Americans and Hispanics through media and outreach events. To date, 979 African American Hispanic callers from Clark County have contacted the Quitline for tobacco cessation.
- Staff and community partners trained nearly 2,000 healthcare providers on how to conduct Brief Tobacco Use Interventions (Ask, Advise, Assist).
- Project partners have disseminated information about tobacco and secondhand smoke at 103 community events and meetings to date.
- Staff hosted and participated in several signature community events focused on reaching priority populations with a tobacco prevention and cessation message including Las Vegas Lights soccer games, Fiestas Patrias/Mexican Independence Day, Ohana Outings (Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander), GayPride, Jazz in the Park series, and the Juneteenth festival.
- Seventy-four (74) worksites implemented new or expanded tobacco policies, including minimum distance, e-cigarette restrictions, and tobacco-free campus elements. Project staff provided technical assistance, including an explanation of Nevada tobacco law and suggested enforcement strategies.
- Staff and community partners have conducted nearly 300 tobacco retailer assessments and provided technical assistance to tobacco retailers.

## NON-COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### *Physical Activity:*

- Expanded bicycle parking facilities in North Las Vegas at Hartke Park and a Recreation Center.
- Supported a Health Study on the Regional Transportation Plan to identify opportunities to incorporate health considerations into the development of future plans.
- Expanded and sponsored physical activity programs for over 300 youth in priority zip codes.
- Sponsored the development of a reduced-fare bike share pass for SNAP recipients in partnership with the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada.
- Partnered with the U.S. Health & Human Services to implement a second Move Your Way initiative. Over 6 Move Your Way events were held reaching over 3,000 people from our priority population with opportunities for physical activity and connections to physical activity and Move Your Way resources. SNHD Move Your Way efforts were highlighted in a NACCHO Success Story published in fall 2021.

### *Nutrition:*

- Finalized a policy at SNHD to provide a \$50 discount to farmers markets that accept SNAP benefits and waive plan review fees for new markets proposing to open in a REACH priority zip code.
- Implemented pop up produce markets at the Bonneville Transit Center where transit riders and the surrounding community could purchase fresh produce with their SNAP benefits. The markets generated over 157 transactions and nearly \$900 in sales. Nearly half of total sales were WIC, SNAP/EBT or Double Up Food Buck transactions.
- Supported expansion of breastfeeding support programs serving women of color including the Melanin Milk Circle and the Cassandra Project and several community events during World Breastfeeding Month including activities for Native Breastfeeding Week, Black Breastfeeding Week and a 'Latch On' resource fair.
- Implemented the Supporting Wellness at Pantries (SWAP) program in 3 faith-based food pantries serving our priority populations. On average these pantries serve over 6,000 people per month in need of food assistance.

### *Heart Disease:*

- Blood pressure screening activities resumed in 10 barbershops that are part of the Barbershop Health Outreach Project (BSHOP) and 3 salons that are part of the Beauty Shop Health Outreach Project (BeSHOP).
- Two 'Shop Talk' events were held; one in person to discuss the importance of blood pressure management and another virtual event to discuss the importance of COVID-19 vaccine especially for those who have underlying chronic conditions such as hypertension. Twenty-five people attended the in-person Shop Talk and 902 people attended the virtual event.
- Chronic Disease Prevention Program staff have leveraged their existing relationship with the BSHOP and BeSHOP owners to incorporate education about the COVID-19 and flu vaccines and to provide pop up vaccine clinics at BSHOP and BeSHOP sites.
- Partnered with the YMCA to offer the Healthy Hearts Ambassador Self-Monitoring Blood Pressure Program. Twenty-five people registered for the 16-week program (class max) and 20 people completed the course. Of those who completed the course, 70% recorded a drop in their blood pressure and 35% lowered their blood pressure to within the normal range from pre to post.



- Staff taught two community blood pressure courses at the Martin Luther King Jr. Senior Center. The ‘With Every Heartbeat is Life’ curriculum was developed specifically for the African American community. In total, 23 people registered for the courses (class max) and 19 completed the courses. Participants in the first class reduced their blood pressure by an average of 28 points for the systolic measure and 12 points for the diastolic measure. Participants in the second course reduced their blood pressure by an average of 11 points for the systolic measure and 3 points for the diastolic measure.

#### *Diabetes:*

- Trained 3 new facilitators in the Conversation Maps Diabetes Self-Management & Education (DSME) curriculum.
- Expanded DSME class host sites to include a place of faith serving the African American community.
- Provided 7 DSME classes serving 29 people with diabetes, prediabetes, or diabetes caretakers. Courses were taught in English and Spanish. Conducted follow up with DSME class participants at 1 and 6-months post class. At a 6-month follow up a DSME class participant reported that they had lost 50 pounds using the healthy eating and physical activity instruction they received in the class.
- Staff was trained to facilitate a virtual DSME class using the Maps curriculum. We launched our first virtual DSME class in fall 2021.

#### *Obesity:*

- Continued facilitation of the Partners for a Healthy Nevada obesity prevention coalition and participation in the state Early Childhood Education Obesity workgroup.
- Commemorated Childhood Obesity Awareness Month in September through coordinated paid and social media efforts, distributing a social media toolkit to partners and coalition members and participation in the Healthy Kids festival.

#### *Tobacco:*

- Staff implemented a teen-focused virtual electronic vaping prevention training program. The training used influential teens in a popular social media format (Tik Tok style) to dispel the myths and provide truths around vaping. The total number of youths trained was 7,636. A total of 7,636 youth completed the training exceeding the goal of 500.
- Staff has identified teen social media influencers who were trained as message ambassadors for our youth vaping prevention movement called BreakDown. The teens use their personal social media networks and influence to amplify their vape-free lifestyle to combat the influx of pro-vape imagery and promotion on social media.
- TCP staff worked with Washoe County Health District on a statewide initiative that involves creating a series of tobacco retailer educational postcards sent to tobacco retail stores in to raise awareness of the Tobacco 21 law. The campaign began in April 2021 and ran through June 2021 and consisted of radio, online and social ads as well as targeted e-blasts to retailers.
- The SNHD TCP partnered with 4 African American churches to implement the No Menthol May project which educated faith leaders and parishioners to not use menthol products for each Sunday in May. SNHD staff distributed cessation information to service attendees. Participating churches created a tobacco-free campus policy or a minimum distance policy as well.
- TCP staff developed the African American focused smoking/vaping prevention “Because We Matter” campaign consisting of paid media, a website, educational materials, and community events.

- TCP staff collaborated with statewide partners to finalize the content for the Attracting Addiction website and media campaign. The focus of this initiative is to educate the public on flavored tobacco products and how they are used to attract the younger generation.
- Staff worked with partners to develop and implement a survey instrument designed to assess attitudes about tobacco among the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and the LGBTQ+ community. The survey was disseminated from March-Mid April 2021. This is the first tobacco survey in Nevada focused on these two populations.
- Staff developed a 4-month long initiative to educate stakeholders including legislators on the youth vaping issue. The information was presented on mailers and social media sites. Staff participated on the Nevada Youth Vaping Awareness Day media event. A video documentary titled, 'Our Epidemic' about teen vaping in Nevada was also produced.
- Staff developed a website and launched a media campaign focused on youth cannabis prevention.

#### COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Received additional funding from the CDC to train influential messengers in the community, dispel myths, promote vaccine uptake, and increase accessibility to vaccines among our priority populations (African Americans and Hispanics).
- Conducted COVID-19 and Flu Vaccination Survey Reports/Needs Assessment with African Americans and Hispanics (REACH priority populations). Needs assessment findings will be used to target intervention and social marketing efforts.
- To date, 90 influential messengers have been trained by SNHD staff and contractors.
- Staff and contractors participated in 32 community events to distribute information and promote vaccination to nearly 3,000 people.
- Sponsored 51 pop up vaccine clinics in priority zip codes vaccinating 2,047 people for COVID-19 and 28 people for flu. Over 95% of people vaccinated at these events were from one of our priority populations.
- A targeted media campaign to promote vaccination among priority populations has reached over 200,000 members of our priority populations.
- Partnered with Minority Health Consultants and the Nevada Faith and Health Coalition to develop a pilot project that trains Community Health Workers (CHW) to support ongoing health needs including COVID-19 and Flu vaccination within places of faith that serve African Americans. ODCPHP will work with trained CHWs to assess the health needs of the place of faith, develop a plan to implement programs and activities to address priority health needs, provide ongoing technical assistance, and connect places of faith with other community resources.

#### UPCOMING/ONGOING PROJECTS

- Launching new Scopes of Work for new or renewal subgrants: PHHS (Diabetes), 1815 (Diabetes/Heart Disease), 1817 (Heart Disease), SNAPED (Physical Activity/Nutrition), REACH (Tobacco, Nutrition, Physical Activity), REACH supplement (COVID-19/Flu), Nevada Clinical Services (Tobacco), CDC Core (Tobacco), Youth Vaping Prevention (Tobacco), and Cannabis prevention.
- Develop and/or implement comprehensive media and social marketing campaigns, community outreach, social media, websites, and blogs.
- Staff continue to work toward expansion of electronic referral for Tobacco, Diabetes, and Hypertension.

- Staff continue to facilitate the Partners for a Healthy Nevada Coalition and participate in several local, state, and national committees and coalitions. Staff also participate in several SNHD internal committees. A complete listing is available upon request.
- Staff continue to participate in the SNHD Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan process.

## Office of Public Health Preparedness

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Fully executed Clark County and SNHD Interlocal Agreement for use of non-essential employees during emergencies
- OPHP staff invited to lead workshops for upcoming national level healthcare coalition and preparedness summit conferences
- Staff Resiliency, continued sustained operations responding to COVID19 threat to community

### NON-COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Redirected carryover and grant funding to support agency operational needs including off-site warehouse space, freeing up space for agency to expand laboratory capacity and clinical space.
- Continued managing inventory from 280 S. Decatur prepositioning of purchased supplies and equipment in trailers, warehouse, and 700 MLK. Always aware of storage footprint needed at SNHD.
- Continue to expend agency 6-week supply of N-95 Mask Inventory to ensure agency 24/7/365 response readiness including ensuring staff working in Isolation and Recovery Site and METS clinic have necessary respiratory protection. Leverage current grants to resupply stockpile.
- Leveraged grant funds to secure build out, upgrade of outdated, communication equipment. Updated communication equipment SNHD vehicles and mobile clinic that may be dual used during disasters or public health emergencies. Savings in general fund dollars.
- Provided a staff member to assist agency with Employee Health Nurse duties. Employee Nurse continued to update plans and ensuring respiratory fit testing program and PPE available including PAPRs are operational.
- Worked with other CH and SNHD programs to fund staff on grants for grant supported activities, saving district general fund dollars.
- Leveraged MRC Volunteer support to assist Health District pharmacy with putting antibiotic prophylaxis into unit of use bottles. Cases stored at Walnut Warehouse and is for first responder cache.
- Continued support of community partners through use of MRC Volunteers including distribution of Community Preparedness education materials.
- Planners continue to provide technical assistance to community partners and through liaison activities with Southern Nevada Counter-Terrorism Center.
- Partnerships and activities supporting community partners. Vegas Strong Resiliency Center, Information Sharing with other preparedness and healthcare system partners.
- Internal staff promoted within their program to vacant positions contributing to morale building.

### COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- With Declaration of Emergency for COVID-19 Pandemic, agency has activated ICS and emergency response plans, staff, and resources to support every aspect of COVID-19 response as SNHD is the lead agency for this emergency for past 22 months.
- Staff continue to go above and beyond daily and with each new phase of our response from COVID-19 testing to COVID-19 Vaccination distribution to prevent the spread of disease.
- Staff continue to support coordinated community-based test collection activities for targeted outreach and vulnerable population events. Assistance and integration with Community response partners to address new challenges to slow the spread of COVID-19 and assist both partner agencies and community in information sharing and resource coordination.
- Continue to work with SNHD programs to recoup federal FEMA Public Assistance funding that was expended in agency response using Non-Congregate Shelters to support patient surge, ensuring visitors, residents, and vulnerable populations have destination to serve out isolation and quarantine periods without continuing to spread disease.
- Continue to support grant deliverables for numerous COVID-19 grants including monitoring scopes of works and budgets to minimize the impact to agency general fund expenditures.
- Continue to support needs of agency and expanded personnel to ensure that PPE is available and that those providing services that require higher level of PPE protection are medically cleared, trained, and fit tested to wear N-95 respirator PPE.
- Secured additional contracts with staff and partner agencies to support the HPP grant and COVID-19 response activities.
- Conducted multiple training opportunities for Health District Staff in POD operations completing multiple drills and exercises to continue supporting COVID-19 vaccination operations while looking at opportunities to also increase seasonal influenza vaccination rates. Purchased PPE equipment for Community Partners as required by federal grants including hospitals, ems, emergency management.
- Tripled the number of MRC volunteers registered and are actively deploying volunteers at direction of CHO to provide support to COVID-19 operations and agency needs.
- Supported Southern Nevada Healthcare Preparedness Coalition with staff and resources from HPP funding sources. Work benefits entire southern Nevada Healthcare system including multiple activations of the Medical Surge Area Command and Medical Surge Support Team to address COVID-19 surge in hospitals and ICUs.
- Secured and completed multiple trainings for SNHD staff and community partners including train the trainer courses for COVID-19 testing and now COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Increased participation of community healthcare system partners in Southern Nevada Healthcare Preparedness Coalition. Information sharing and coordination during COVID-19 response and medical surge coordination
- Increased, pro-active information sharing with local, state, tribal, and federal partners through activated Multi-Agency Coordination Center, Medical Surge Area Command, Medical Surge Support Team, Regional Policy Group, Resiliency and recovery working groups, State Disaster Identification Coordinating Council, and others to share best practices and coordinate uniform and consistent messaging according to agency Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan, and other agency policies that allow us to function during a pandemic with many staff working remotely.

- Supported Office of Communication by participating in media interviews to get critical information out to public regarding operations.
- Secured additional funding to support media campaigns to slow the spread of COVID-19 and educate public on practicing good safety during COVID-19.
- Greater coordination between OPHP and all programs supporting response to COVID-19, Vital Records, OEDS, Lab and with community partner fatality management operations, with OEDS for information sharing in partnership with OPHP staff and SNCTC, COVID-19 testing, Contact tracing and disease investigations. Responses to several real incident including COVID-19 coordination, communication, and response efforts for this long duration event and finding locations for travelers and visitors places to isolate for COVID-19.
- Greater support and information sharing through quarterly CH meetings, quality circle activities using new technologies that promote social distancing but helping to keep staff connected and informed. Daily communication across divisions for COVID-19 response activities.
- Integration of CCSD with SNHD for COVID-19 response operations.
- Greater use of contractors and term employees to support sustained COVID-19 response.
- Open door policy in continuous effect and flexibility to allow staff to participate in activities related to job duties but that also build individual professional development skills. Many staff have had professional growth opportunities since the start of COVID-19 as staff take on leadership roles.
- Engage all staff with COVID-19 response activities and events to ensure team building and foster just in time problem solving during this real-world incident.

#### UPCOMING/ONGOING PROJECTS

- Support staff professional development that improves Health District workforce
- Fill vacancies due to loss of staff due to attrition and retirements
- Presentations and workshops at conferences of national significance
- Support PHAB Accreditation
- ICS activation sustainment, reintegration of testing and vaccination branches and continued response to COVID19 threat
- Carryover funds scopes of work and budgets in process of being completed to continue to support COVID-19 response and previous year deliverables.
- Work with community partners to renew interlocal agreement with City of Henderson for use of Alternate Department Operations Center location for SNHD

## Health Equity

#### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Applied and received grant award from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to build, leverage and expand the infrastructure support for CPVID-19 and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved.

#### NON-COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Recruited and hired 3 Health Educators to complete the Health Equity Program.

### COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Help established two permanent bi-weekly COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites in partnership with Nevada Partners and the Las Vegas Culinary Academy.
- Established partnership with the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine to expand their community clinic and CARES program.
- Carried out a request for proposal and established partnership with ten community-based organizations to help mitigate COVID-19 health disparities among populations that are at higher risk and underserved.

### UPCOMING/ONGOING PROJECTS

- Develop and establish an annual Health Equity training and Health Equity training series to be used internally at SNHD.

## Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Laboratory performed a total number of 218,542 COVID-19 test and detected 19,768 positive samples from January to December 31, 2021. The major group submitters of the COVID-19 samples are long-term care facilities, SNHD outreach, Decatur clinic, CCSD and CCDC.
- Resolved the issue of COVID-19 overflow samples with MDX reference laboratory. MDX Labs can come to pick up the overflow samples from SNPHL.
- Surge capacity - an increased staff roster and new organization chart allow SNPHL to operate at a higher surge capacity than ever before. Cross-training of staff helps to ensure staff members are available to fill in needed resource gaps in many areas of the lab dependent upon public health testing needs. Equipment leveraged and purchased for specific tasks can (and has been) utilized to increase testing capacity and surge demands across departments at SNPHL.
- Passed CLIA, FSAP and Nevada state inspections by ensuring all documents, maintenance and training are up to date in designated areas and provided that it remains dedicated to the highest quality standards even during the pandemic.
- 100% on Laboratory Response Network proficiency test – graded in order to obtain PHEP funds.
- Increase the test capacity by purchasing 2 new King Fisher Flex instruments for COVID-19 extraction process.
- Purchasing 2 new 7500 Fast DX PCR instrument (waiting for arrival) to increase the testing capacity.
- Brought online SARS-CoV-2 sequencing and analysis in the microbiology laboratory.
- Embracing innovation by using MALDI-TOF technology to Increase the speed of screening bacteria and reduce the turnaround-time for bacteria identification process.
- Joined CDC eGISP Part B Program – culture-independent testing of AMR genes from remnant NAATs with associated positive *N. gonorrhoeae* culture.
- Received a total of \$3,520,054.50 from several ELC grants to support whole genome sequencing laboratory including purchasing high throughput sequencing instruments, liquid handler station, reagents, etc. See the list of grant support below for the COVID-19 WGS project.

Pending for Grant Processing	Cost	Type of Grants
NextSeq 2000 + OQ/PQ/Service Contract	\$401,999.50	ELC enhancing detection expansion
Liquid Handler (i.e., Hamilton)	\$25,000.00	ELC AMD (in the final stage of adjustment)
Sequencing Reagents	\$200,000.00	ELC AMD (in the final stage of adjustment)

Currently Funded	Cost	Type of Grants
BGI Liquid Handler Upgrade	\$28,000.00	ELC enhancing detection
Sequencing Reagents (COVID-19)	\$2,798,000.00	ELC enhancing detection expansion
BaseSpace Credits	\$7,025.00	ELC enhancing detection expansion
Bioinformatics Equipment/System/Tools Upgrade	\$60,000.00	ELC enhancing detection expansion

TOTAL \$3,520,054.50

NON-COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Warehouse/cage space - organization and removal of old outdated supplies, equipment, and general storage from other SNHD departments has allowed the warehouse space to not only serve as a logistics supply area to support testing capacity, but also makes the space ready for future planned construction and build-out projects.
- BSL3 - TRF equipment upgraded to most recent available versions for LRN testing. Outdated compact extractor replaced with Magnapure 24. Equipment which was long out of use was cleared from the BSL3 to make room for existing testing.
- MALDI-TOF - the addition of a Bruker MALDI-TOF instrument in Microbiology allows the department to easily screen and identify organisms, reducing tech time and eliminating the need to keep a variety of costly reagents on hand for organism ID. The instrument is also a helpful tool in ruling in or ruling out where organism identification is uncertain with other methods.
- Respiratory panel - Molecular department switched to screening surveillance samples with Biofire Respiratory panel 2.1. This quickly identifies SARS-COV-2 and other respiratory viruses, replacing the previous cumbersome and intensive manual Respiratory PCR panel, and freeing Molecular techs to work on other important testing projects including COVID-19.
- Validated the new extraction and PCR instruments for COVID-19 testing and installed two liquid handlers to assist in reducing manual processing of samples. Staff trained on instruments and utilized in COVID-19 extraction/PCR process.
- Supported Public Health outbreaks investigations including COVID-19 variant of concern, Botulism cases, and Norovirus and participated in public Health Investigation including Bacillus, Brucella, Burkholderia rule-outs, Legionella, AFM, Candida auris.
- Smartvue network expansion - the addition of temperature-controlled equipment, particularly on the first floor of SNPHL, meant the need for the expansion of the automated monitoring and alarm system. The Smartvue sensor and receiver count more than doubled, and the network continues to provide valuable information about the status of all monitored equipment within SNPHL.

- The laboratory has been approved by CDC GISP/eGISP program to participate in the molecular surveillance program for 2021-2022.
- Validated sequencing-based typing of Shiga Toxin-producing E. coli.
- The total number of the reportable disease tests from January 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021 are as follows:

2021		Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Total
Campylobacter	Campy ID	7	6	13	4	14	19	10	7	2	82
	Campy Screen	9	7	21	9	19	25	15	10	4	119
Neisseria species	Gonorrhoeae Culture	42	59	82	55	40	49	47	68	65	507
	Gram Stain/WBC	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	5	0	12
	Neisseria ID	2	1	9	1	1	6	2	2	2	26
	Haemophilus ID	1	0	4	0	0	3	3	6	1	18
Unknown ID	Bacterial ID	5	0	5	3	0	9	5	37	14	78
	WGS (PulseNet)	15	26	27	25	45	62	27	36	51	314
Salmonella	Salmonella Screen	8	17	22	10	24	19	13	16	14	143
	Salmonella Serotype	8	13	21	10	18	20	11	15	9	125
Shigella	Shigella Screen	1	8	7	8	7	12	7	3	3	56
	Shigella Serotype	0	5	2	5	4	6	3	2	3	30
STEC	STEC Screen	0	1	1	2	3	17	8	4	3	39
	STEC Serotype	0	1	1	1	1	16	2	0	1	23
Unknown	Stool Culture	0	5	0	11	0	5	0	5	5	31
Vibrio	Vibrio ID	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	5	0	10
	Vibrio Screen	0	0	3	0	0	5	3	8	1	20
	Yersinia Culture/ID	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	1	0	9

- Installed and validated the Diasorin Liaison XL Analyzer. The list of testing included are QuantiFERON TB Gold Plus, HCV Ab, HBsAg, HBsAb, HAV Ab, HAV IgM, HBC IgM and SARS-CoV-2 Trimerics IgG etc. This analyzer updates 2 of our outdated instruments for these assays.
- In the Clinical Laboratory, we validated the Hepatitis assay from the Ortho Vitros ECiQ to the Liaison XL and validated QuantiFeron TB assay onto the Liaison XL. The laboratory also acquired more clients for STD testing.

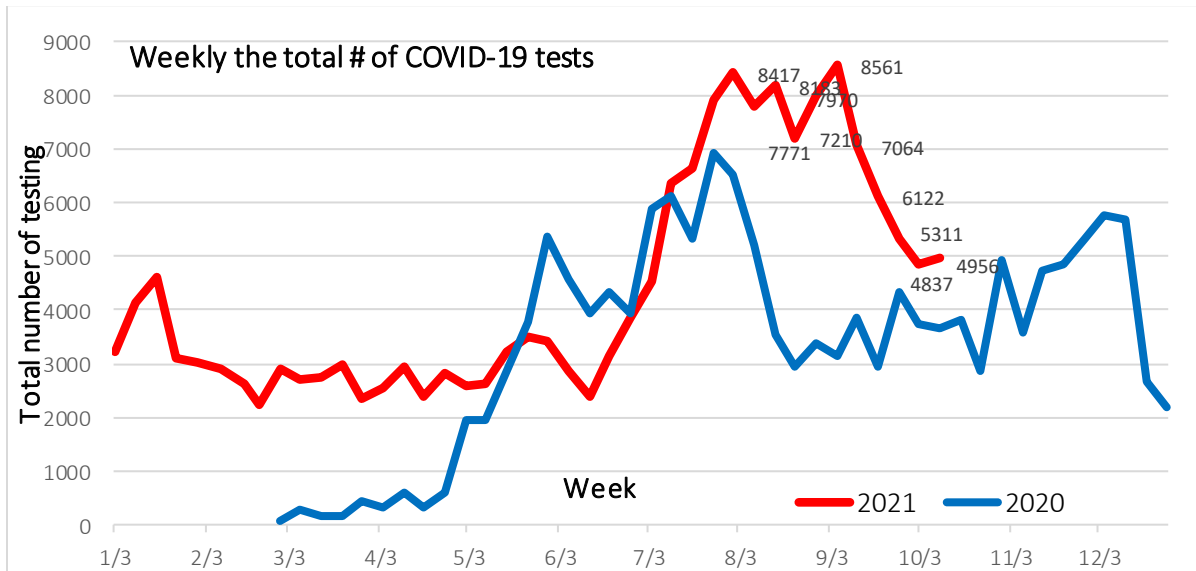


- The total number of clinic samples tested from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 are listed in the following table:

Test Name	Total # of Tests in 2021	Total # of Tests in 2020
GC Cultures	727	539
NAAT NG/CT	12600	9917
Syphilis	6151	4515
RPR/RPR Titers	1069/1412	91/1100
Hepatitis Total	4333	3335
HIV/Differentiated	4199/99	3227/86
HIV RNA	380	308

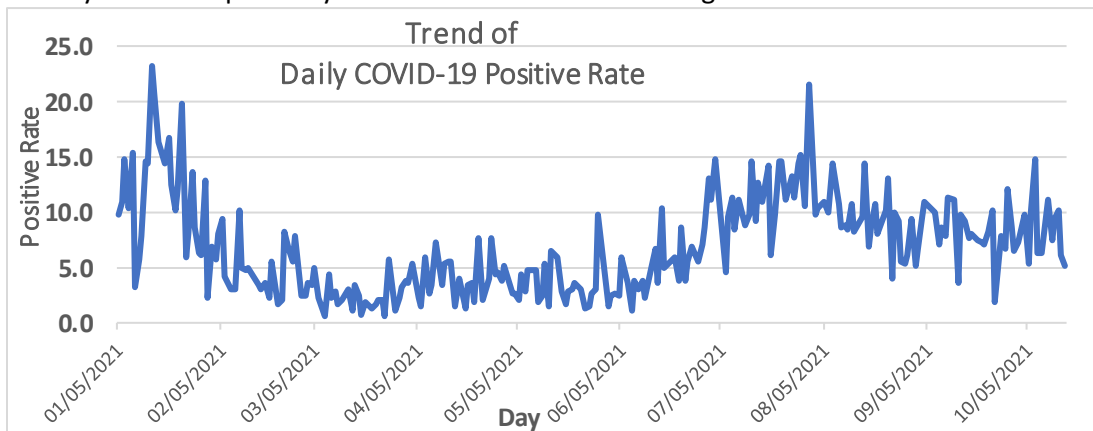
**COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- New and expanded instrumentation - utilizing the Eppendorf 5073 and 5075, COVID-19 testing staff have increased the efficiency and accuracy of COVID-19 testing, while decreasing the TAT and improving throughput. The use of the Quantstudio 7 for 384 tests/run drastically saves reagent cost and waste, while sparing the older 7500 Fast DX instruments from higher daily run burdens. The addition of 2 Kingfisher Flex extraction instruments improves sample extraction TAT and supports the use of the Eppendorf 5073 and Quantstudio 7.
- Testing numbers - SNPHL shattered the previous one-day testing record, and currently maintains an average baseline testing number that is significantly higher than in 2020 (approximately doubled from 4,000 to 8,000/week).

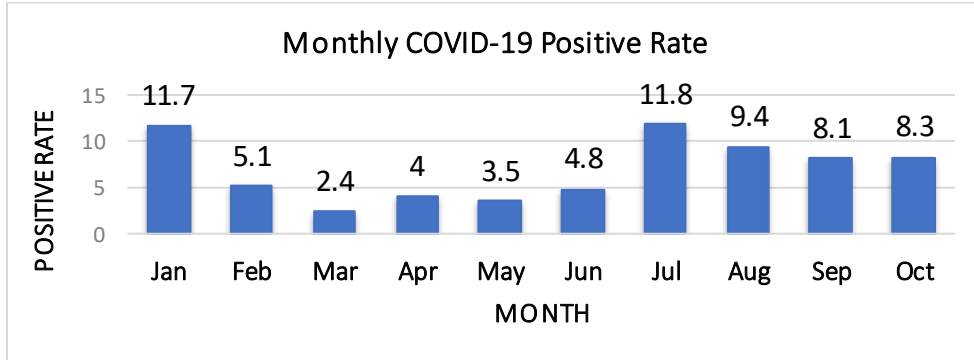


- Redirect ELC grant to purchase two 7500DX Fast Real-Time PCR instruments, EPMotion liquid handler station, NextSeq whole Genome Sequencer, and Mini-Q water purification system to increase our COVID-19 test capacity.
- Submitted 4,105 COVID-19 positive samples to NSPHL to statewide whole genome sequencing project.
- We received a total of 3.5 million in ELC funding to support our COVID-19 WGS project. That fund supports the purchase the reagents, instruments, software, and bioinformatic tools etc.

- Upgraded the panther instrument for COVID-19 testing by adding the Plus Unit which can allow us to continuously load COVID-19 samples without interrupting instrument operation when the biowaste tank is full and can increase the total capacity of COVID-19 testing volume.
- Support CCSD COVID-19 testing project by testing BinaxNow positive samples since August 2021.
- National Guard continues to support our laboratory for data entry and upload of the demographic information for COVID-19 testing.
- Converted conference room to Central Accessioning area to improve workflow at the lab-bench level allowing non-licensed personnel to manage incoming specimens and accessioning. This fixed the tremendous bottleneck and safety concerns when all accessioning was done inside the laboratory processing areas.
- Created a COVID-19 dedicated section by hiring a Supervisor and staff that grew from 4 employees to 24 employees in a limited amount of time.
- Total lab staff has increased from 24 to 40 employees with 3 pending job offers and 2 positions under recruitment by CDC.
- The administrative section was restructured to better manage grants, purchasing, and HR functions within the facility.
- Collaborated with IT to develop the Outsourcing App which allows manifest creation to send overflow specimens to other laboratories to conduct testing and automatically send test results to the District portal for patient notification and access.
- In the clinical laboratory, we validated a new Analyzer for SARS-CoV-2 Antibody testing and installed an upgrade to increase sample capacity on our Hologic Panther.
- Successfully maintained COVID-19 collection kit inventory for all clients all year and maintained excellent partnership with DEM/FEMA for COVID-19 support.
- The weekly COVID-19 positivity rate from the COVID-19 testing in SNPHL:



- The monthly average of positive rate from the COVID-19 testing in SNPHL.



#### UPCOMING/ONGOING PROJECTS

- Increasing COVID-19 sequencing capacity - additional instrumentation, techniques, and staff to increase weekly capacity of SNPHL COVID-19 WGS testing program.
- Other public health testing projects - many other services have been proposed, including Legionella testing, enhanced STI testing, Norovirus sequencing, BT rapid testing with the Biofire Warrior panel, CRO testing, Metagenomic WGS, Lead testing, and General Laboratory testing for SNHD clinics.
- Physical security upgrades - due to increases in foot traffic around the building and more specimen and supply deliveries to the laboratory, improvements to the physical security have been proposed.
- Change the office layout by increasing the number of offices on the first floor from 2 to 4. The Molecular Supervisor, Clinic Supervisor, LIMS, and Lab Administrative Coordinator will each have their own office. The starting date for renovation has been postponed to February 2022.
- Validating HIV and Treponema assays for back up on new Diasorin Liaison XL analyzer.
- Initiate Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement for current test menu.
- Warehouse storage transfer in preparation for the construction of the new Clinical Laboratory. Relocate the WGS lab instruments and other equipment from 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to the first floor into the space of the current Clinical Laboratory.
- Initiate use of Inventree software for inventory and supplies to improve the efficiency of stock storage and trace the real-time information of the laboratory supplies.

## Disease Surveillance and Control Division

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Over the past six months a new Division was created at SNHD, called the Division of Disease Surveillance & Control (DSC). As a result, a few notable changes have occurred. The Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance (OEDS) became the Office of Disease Surveillance (ODS) and the Office of Epidemiology (OOE). Further, under a new director a new branch was created within the Division called Acute Disease Control which includes the COVID-19 response program. This report shall provide accomplishments for the performance period in ODS, OOE, and the COVID-19 response program.

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### 1. *Secured New Funding*

- STD Supplement (STDSP) - this is an enhancement to the current STD PS19-1902: STD Prevention and Control for Health Departments (STD PCHD) project. The goals include: Expanding and enhancing frontline public health staff, conducting DIS workforce training and skills building, building organizational capacity for outbreak response, evaluating and improving recruitment, training, and outbreak response efforts.
- Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOCCD) - this project provides funding to improve Infectious Disease control within Nevada Department of corrections facilities that are in Clark County.
- HRSA-077 Subrecipient - in collaboration with Yale University, Southern Nevada received funding to improve our HCV treatment cascade and subsequent partnership with linkage to treatment services.
- Additional funding through Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC3) - funds to expand COVID-19 activities in Clark County.
- COVID-19 Health Disparities - this project supports activities to reduce COVID-19 related health disparities. Funding for DSC program activities include: Strategy 1: Expand existing and/or develop new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19 related disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved. Strategy 2: Increase/improve data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness, and death to guide the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 2. *New Partnerships*

- Collaboration with Signs of Hope (formerly Rape Crisis Center) to train staff on harm reduction and drug related stigma and Naloxone training and distribution. Signs of Hope also provides training to district staff on sexual violence and human trafficking.
- Expanded The Center's capacity to offer linkage to care and peer support services for those experiencing substance use and those vulnerable to overdose.
- Collaboration with NV Department of Corrections (NDOC) to expand investigation teams to address increased morbidity in the High Desert and Florence McClure prisons.
- Collaboration with University Medical Center (UMC) Quick Cares, Rescue Agency and Nevada Area Educational Training Center as part of the Ending the HIV Epidemic Grant.
- Collaboration with Commando, Vector Media and Brain Trust in an effort to help promote Collect2Protect (at home testing for HIV and STIs), PrEP/PEP services and condom distribution in a statewide effort.

- Worked with SNHD EH program to build and develop a foodborne illness complaint module within the soon to be rolled out EH electronic system Accela, which will allow for enhancements and improvements to the ODS and OOE existing database and communications with EH in the future.
- Expanded Southern Nevada representation on NACCHO's Academy of Science Nevada Workgroup UMCSN Epic and IT teams in a new partnership with Epidemiology to establish variables and EHR processing for improved EHE deliverables.
- WGS and Wastewater Surveillance - in conjunction with SNPDL, NSPDL and SNHD Informatics, our programs worked to increase the amount of WGS conducted in Southern Nevada, enhance reporting of results, and identify opportunities to develop additional COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

### 3. *Project Accomplishments*

- Review, approval, and publication to community on the Southern Nevada Health District Community Health Assessment (CHA).
- The Health Education Team provided 33 trainings to 478 trainees to date. This team has also conducted 20 academic presentations/posters.
- Hosted the 2nd Annual Southern Nevada Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit (SNSMOPS) through ODTA efforts with 125 virtual attendees.
- Worked with the state's Resiliency Project to refer clients and contacts impacted by COVID-19 to the Resiliency Ambassadors. This effort required technical assistance with informatics to develop variables within Trisano to capture whether a person was interested in being contacted by an RA.
- Created a Harm Reduction 201 training to address stigma and policy around substance use. This training is delivered to internal staff and community partners.
- Official launch of the Linkage to Action Mobile unit. A press release and unit tour were made available January 21, 2021.
- Worked closely with elected officials and key stakeholders to provide context and input around SB 345 on the use of adulterant test strips, SB 211 on testing in emergency departments and quick cares as well as primary care, and AB 275 on HIV Modernization of existing NRS and NAC.
- Provided subject matter expertise for AB 345 language clarification for fentanyl test strips/drug testing and paraphernalia clarification for harm reduction supplies.
- Representation in the 'Naloxone in Schools Policy Brief' that led to the passage of the AB205 Naloxone in Schools presentation.
- ODS Senior Health Educator appointed to the SURG team, the Attorney General's Statewide Working Group on substance use.
- Collaboration with the Clark County Detention Center to provide fentanyl test strips in inmate property upon release.
- Fast Track Nevada campaign where elected official promoted the Collect2Protect at home HIV test kits, normalizing HIV testing and helping to reduce stigma. Elected officials included Attorney General Aaron Ford, Senator Horsford, County Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick, and SNHD board members. The final result was 72 clicks to the Collect 2 Protect site; Officials representing 5 jurisdictions; 7 photos; 4 videos; Video views ranged from 21 to 795.
- In February 2021, we were able to open Express Testing services 100% to the community.

- Marketing efforts this year included the ability to work with new partners with specific target populations via digital ads on dating and hook up apps, bus stop wraps and shelters, increase social media presence and geo-fencing.
- Developed and implemented an online public health vending sign up system for our local syringe services programs.
- Worked with non-traditional outreach sites that historically did not favor public health for HIV testing. Currently we are testing high risk populations on a continued basis in LGBTQ bars and bath houses with the MTU.
- In conjunction with the Primary & Preventive Care Division, hosted Health District After Dark in April around climate change and public health and in December, co-sponsored at UNLV Boyd School of Law on Sex(uality), Gender, and the Law about the new laws. HDAD is a semi-annual lecture series to highlight emerging public health topics, held after traditional work hours.
- Updated multiple disease investigation protocols to incorporate WGS findings from SNPHL as an early cluster identification mechanism and potential early outbreak identification for several enteric illnesses.
- Assisted in advancing health equity efforts at SNHD by representing the DSC division. The most notable contribution includes analyzing survey data on district-wide employee knowledge and views regarding health equity. This will help SNHD take recommended steps to improve not only health equity within district culture but also incorporate health equity into program services offered to the public.
- Implemented enhanced gonorrhea surveillance using systematic random sampling methodology to select 20% of gonorrhea cases for enhanced investigation. The purpose of enhanced surveillance is to gather other important demographic, clinical, and behavioral variables, such as race/ethnicity, HIV status, and gender of sex partners, which could help better describe the GC epidemic and inform prevention strategies. This allows the findings to be generalizable to all GC cases in Clark County.
- Developed a data entry tool for Trac B drug testing initiative (ODTA) and corresponding quality assurance procedure for annual reporting.
- Peer-reviewed publication: Yang, H., Pasalic, E., Rock, P., Davis, J., Nechuta, S., & Zhang, Y. (2021). Interrupted time series analysis to evaluate the performance of drug overdose morbidity indicators shows discontinuities across the ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM transition. *Injury Prevention*, 27(S1), i35-i41, doi: 10.1136/injuryprev-2019-043522
- MMWR Notes from the field (authors from our Division: Elizabeth Adelman and Zuwen Qiu-Schultz): Picker MA, Knoblock RJ, Hansen H, et al. Notes from the Field: First Case in the United States of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* Harboring Emerging Mosaic penA60 Allele, Conferring Reduced Susceptibility to Cefixime and Ceftriaxone. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020; 69:1876–1877. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6949a5>
- OOE has conducted several trainings to college and high school students (5+) about our role in Southern Nevada and general epidemiological principles.
- Processed 80 HIV/STD data requests in 2021.

#### UPCOMING/ONGOING PROJECTS

- Ongoing effort - started process to leverage COVID-19 automation technology for other disease notifications. Our first disease will be Chlamydia. This is an ongoing effort with ODS, Informatics and IT.

- Ongoing effort - implementation of EpiTrax as a statewide system. Staff have completed two rounds of testing and provided feedback to the statewide implementation team. Go live scheduled for 2022.
- Ongoing effort - creation of a new foodborne illness surveillance system.

#### PANDEMIC INITIAL RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

##### 1. *Contact Tracing - Staffing*

- a. Hired/trained DIIS & CT staff
  - Other SNHD employees (EPI Staff, Health Educators, DDCS, EH, Health Cards, Vital Records)
  - Others (NLV librarians, NVNG, medical volunteers, UNLV PH volunteers)
- b. State contracted AAA (July 2020)/UNLV (June 2020) for case investigations
  - Both contracts continued by SNHD (Jan 2021):  
UNLV ended Aug 2021; AAA-contracted to present

##### 2. *Contact Tracing - Contacts*

- DIIS called and checked in daily.
- Developed and deployed Symptom Monitoring App for contact check-ins (March 2020).
- State contracted Deloitte (July 2020-Dec 2020).
- Developed relationships, POCs, and protocols for large community partners (casinos, jails, sports teams, Amazon etc.).
- Collaborations with Environmental Health to assist with indicators for reopening and/or altering mitigation strategies.
- Per external request, Epi assisted with developing potential cluster investigation tools for targeted data collection.

##### 3. *Surveillance*

- Developed investigation protocols and changed as guidance from CDC developed.
- Staffed on-call line 24 hours a day/7 day a week.
- Changes to Trisano to include COVID-19 investigations, contacts, and traveler notifications.
- Server upgrades for Trisano and EMSA (April 2020).
- New fields incorporated and reported directly so that case investigation form no longer needed for each case.
- Mass notification system developed and deployed for cases and contacts, reduced need for calls and PUI letters to be done (May 2020).
- Automated notification and case questionnaire developed (May 2020).
- EPI responded to all data requests.
- Epi developed and continues to expand monthly BOH presentations.
- Created and managed all phone lines.
- Major presence in ICS structure and planning.
- Through a temporary mandate, Epi exchanged required information with OPHP for first responder safety.

#### 4. *Testing*

- Referred symptomatic contacts only.
- Testing done by one DIIS in field and then drive-thru style.
- CDC had to verify results/lab developed capacity and independence (Feb 2020 RT-PCR validated).
- Clinical Services began large scale testing sites.
- COVID-19 testing app developed to increase capacity with no paper reqs/accessioning needed (July 2020).

### BUILDING A DEDICATED COVID-19 TEAM

#### 1. *Contact Tracing*

- a. Hired Contact Tracers (July 2020), Supervisors (October 2020), and Manager (November 2020)
  - Training program developed
  - Trained for case investigations and fax processing
  - Assigned POCs to large partners and external contact tracing teams
  - Developed CT Leads
  - Developed teams to meet needs (Jails, CCSD, VOC, QA)
  - Have continued to update existing protocols and developed new ones as needed
- b. CCSD support provided in preparation for and after schools reopened
  - Developed in-house CT team dedicated to CCSD
  - EPI team member assigned to school-specific support and reports
  - Outsourced CT team for their schools
  - Trained CCSD contracted testing and contact tracing teams
  - Created a daily policy review program
  - Stationed CT team at CCSD COVID-19 HQ
  - Trained CCSD phone teams
  - Reviewed COVID-19 and mitigation standards with CCSD stakeholders including principles
  - Established a unified command
  - Responded with strike teams for testing and vax as needed.
  - Created a back to school and team sports guidance documents
  - Established an after-hours hotline for CCSD support

#### 2. *Surveillance*

- EPI/Informatics developed COVID-19 dashboard (cases, testing, vaccine) and SNHD school dashboard.
- Epi developed weekly zip code maps of cases and vaccine sites.
- EPI developed daily and weekly reports- test results and pos. rate by site, test results and pos. rate grouped by date and site, and total pos. rate grouped by date; trends report; COVID-19 by cities; Variants of concern; COVID-19 health disparity; Places of exposure; Vaccine snapshot.
- Epi/Informatics established daily data extractions and submissions to the State.
- Use of queues for prioritization.
- WGS grid and protocol developed to monitor VOCs and VOIs in Southern Nevada.
- ELR updated so that VOC was not entered manually.
- Backend matched vaccine data with case data for improved breakthrough case reporting.



- Expanding Trisano capacity due to user burden.
- Expanding Data Warehouse capacity due to extreme lag from massive data influx.
- Two EPI representatives assigned to the IMT.
- Major presence in ICS structure and planning.
- Support outside projects as needed (Dr. Oh, RA, Stan Fulton testing site).
- Developed process for reporting of at-home tests.
- Senior Epi assigned to the daily review of COVID-19 related deaths.
- Hired 2 COVID-19 focused Epidemiologists.
- Conducted presentations or internal reports on demand (internal and external).
- Continued changes to data variables in Trisano per new reporting requirements.
- Evaluation of targeted tools for response (e.g., the symptom monitoring app).
- Ongoing effort- survey development. Built survey in Alchemer (forthcoming) to assess long-term COVID-19 symptoms throughout the community. This survey targets persons who have previously been investigated for COVID-19.

### 3. *Testing/Outreach*

- Testing transitioned from Clinical Services to CT team (November 2020).
- Secured Temp Lab space and supplies.
- Outreach leads developed.
- Classroom based training for each CT and OTJ sign off.
- Dedicated EPI team member for required daily reporting to CCDC regarding their testing and results.
- Various testing sites developed to reach community (large drive-thru, smaller targeted sites in “red” zip codes).
- CT team assisted with development of vaccine PODs and supported with staffing (January-July 2021).
- Assisting with testing in METS clinic (Jan 2021-present).
- Development of long-term relationship with CSN for testing and vaccine (June 2021).
- Implemented expanded community testing plan-Developed contracts for mobile and kiosk testing programs (Aug 2021).
- Assisted in training of CCSD testing providers and onboarding into COVID-19 testing app.
- Assisted with onboarding of MDX for lab overflow.

## Environmental Health Division

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### Consumer Health

#### AQUATIC HEALTH (AH) OPERATIONS:

- Staff are developing an administrative process for permit suspensions.
- Staff improved interagency communication by participation in Zone and County Multi-Agency Response Team (CMART) meetings.
- Staff maintained AH operations despite staff being reassigned to COVID-19 response activities.

#### AQUATIC HEALTH PLAN REVIEW:

- Staff conducted two Industry Outreach meetings to educate stakeholders on program requirements and changes.

#### FACILITIES PLAN REVIEW:

- New project submissions increased by 15%.
- Three Plan Review inspectors have been Playground Safety Inspector certified.
- Staff completely redesigned the Plan Review web pages.

#### SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

- Staff are working on Body Art regulation revisions that will combine Tattoo and Piercing regulations into a single document.
- Staff were invited to participate on the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Body Art Committee, which is responsible for the review of the Body Art Model Code.

### Food Operations - Inspections

- Staff opened and conducted first time inspections of several new, major facilities (Allegiant Stadium, Virgin Hotel, and Resorts World) where collaboration and problem solving was essential to balancing business needs and proper permitting.
- Staff hosted quarterly Food Safety Partnership (FSP) meetings remotely to maintain industry outreach, communication, and education.
- Staff started to transition software programs from Envision Connect to Accela.
- Staff assisted with the COVID response including ICS, contact tracing, POD activities, and ongoing guidance to industry on various mandates.
- Staff identified gaps in the invoicing process and was able to recover approximately \$350,000 in overdue fees.

### Food Operations – Regulatory Support

#### FOODBORNE ILLNESS COORDINATOR:

- Environmental Health and Office of Epidemiology Disease and Surveillance (OEDS) staff worked with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on a multistate outbreak of non-viral hepatitis associated with alkaline drinking water. Staff, with partner agencies, identified the source of the outbreak and stopped production of the water, halting the outbreak. To date, there are 22 identified cases resulting in one death and multiple hospitalizations.

- SNHD was awarded a 5-year cooperative agreement totaling \$962,935 from the CDC to use in research efforts to improve food safety.
- Staff co-authored a paper summarizing research into restaurant practices. The paper was published in Foodborne Pathogens and Disease and examined date-marking procedures and ways for restaurants to improve.
- Staff guest lectured at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Public Health and Rutgers University School of Public Health. Topics included risk-based inspections, environmental assessments for foodborne illness, and innovative research to improve food safety.

#### REGULATORY SUPPORT:

- Staff completed the Restaurant Risk Factor Study and submitted the final report to the FDA.
- The Food Operations Program met the FDA's Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards – Standard 2: Trained Regulatory Staff. By meeting this standard, staff demonstrated that the food inspectors have undergone a thorough training program and are following the Council for Food Protection's training manual.
- Staff applied for and was awarded an Association of Food and Drug Official (AFDO) grant for equipment in the amount of \$26,500.

#### SPECIALIZED FOODS:

- Staff coordinated with the Las Vegas Fire Department to form the Food Truck Task Force to inform, support, and secure compliance with regulations that are unique to mobile vending.
- On December 2, 2021, staff attended the free "Mobile Food Compliance and Safety Expo" at Cashman Convention Center. The Expo include presenters/vendors from several agencies, including 3<sup>rd</sup> party supplies for mobile vending. Vendors spoke to mobile vending permit holders, answering questions and giving regulatory guidance and demonstrations to our clients.
- Staff have organized opportunities for Board of Health members and other local politicians to shadow inspectors in the field, giving our elected officials a better understanding of some community problems.

## Solid Waste & Compliance

#### ILLEGAL DUMPING / RESTRICTED WASTE MANAGEMENT (RWM) PROGRAMS:

- Staff have conducted approximately 1,450 Illegal Dumping responses.
- Staff are participating in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) Place Network Investigation (PNI) program which is similar to CMART but also includes the City of Las Vegas.

#### INDIVIDUAL SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM (ISDS) PROGRAM:

- Staff completed Year 1 of a 5-year CDC grant project working to expand Environmental Health Capacity (EHC) where SNHD staff are working with UNLV to develop environmental health informatics capability.
- Staff conducted outreach and a water testing event in Sandy Valley as part of grant activities that included groundwater and Legionella sampling for residential properties.
- Staff is working with the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to improve coordination of new Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD) service rules impacting ISDS properties.

LEGIONELLA TESTING PROGRAM:

- Staff started residential water testing for Clark County residents who test positive for Legionnaires' disease or Pontiac fever. Nevada is one of only three states performing residential Legionella testing.
- Staff initiated well water testing in rural Clark County as part of the EHC grant.

MOSQUITO DISEASE:

- Staff provided Mosquito Program presentations for counterparts including Nellis AFB, Clark County Code Enforcement, and City of Henderson Parks and Recreation.
- Staff continued collaboration with the CDC on a multi-year Aedes aegypti project to determine baseline populations in a targeted community.
- Staff co-authored an article, "Mosquito distribution and West Nile virus surveillance results on the Nevada National Security Site in south-central Nevada" in the Western North American Naturalist.

PERMITTED DISPOSAL FACILITIES (PDF) PROGRAM:

- Staff assisted with planning the mercury collection event.

SAFE DRINKING WATER (SDW) PROGRAM:

- Staff worked to address SDW violations at Clark County School District (CCSD) Sandy Valley and Goodsprings schools due to the lack of a qualified water operator.

SUBDIVISION PLAN REVIEW:

- Staff approved approximately 12,000 new lots in Clark County. This is the largest subdivision workload since the development boom in 2007-2008.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) PROGRAM:

- Staff coordinated joint outreach training with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) to educate jurisdictional partners on UST regulations and requirements.

## Primary and Preventive Care Division

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### Residency Program and Academic Affairs

- Dr. Michael Zhang continued to participate in the Preventive Medicine Residency Program, transitioning from his first to his second, and final year of the program, on July 1st. During this time, he continued to complete coursework towards his MPH degree at the UNLV School of Public Health, conducted research, and engaged in practicum rotations. Most notably, he published original research in the Journal of Occupational Health.
- The residency program began efforts to recruit a new resident to start in July 2022, receiving over 40 applications for one open position.
- Forty-six (46) students, residents, and fellows rotated through SNHD for more than 18,000 hours of applied public health practice.
- In conjunction with the Disease Surveillance & Control Division, hosted Health District After Dark in April around climate change and public health and in December, co-sponsored at UNLV Boyd School of Law on Sex(uality), Gender, and the Law about the new laws. HDAD is a semi-annual lecture series to highlight emerging public health topics, held after traditional work hours.

### Sexual Health Clinic

- There was a total of 10,247 patient visits.
- There was an increase in the number of clients initiating HIV PrEP in part due to provider and staff trainings and a strong collaboration with PrEP Navigators and the pharmacy.
- There was a decrease in no-show rates after incorporating walk-ins to the schedule.
- Additional revenue was generated due to increased ability to bill third-party payers.
- A new partnership was established with All Saints Episcopal Church to offer sexual health services there.
- Plans are being developed to offer services at the new East Las Vegas location, once that opens in 2022.

### FQHC (Pharmacy, Ryan White, Family Planning, Family Health Center, Refugee Health, Behavioral Health, and COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing)

- There was a total of 7,874 patient visits.
- 1,065 completed patient satisfaction surveys were received, with ratings very favorable.
- The Pharmacy saw increases in several metrics from the year prior, including a 68% increase in client encounters, a 78% increase in prescriptions filled, and a 59% increase in clinic encounters by the Pharmacist.
- Two physicians, one APRN, and one LCSW joined the FQHC.
- Services continued to be provided through the Mobile Clinic, with 57 events offered including in several rural areas.
- Planning continued around creating additional space for expanded services, including for behavioral health and dental. And the services offered at the East Las Vegas location were transferred to a new temporary location, with plans to move those services into a new permanent location in April 2022.
- A new COVID-19 vaccination clinic was established in the former non-congregate shelter. From early May to December 31, 2021, 33,853 doses have been administered there.

- COVID-19 testing continued to be available to the public, with 36,452 tests conducted.
- A marketing campaign was launched to promote the FQHC. This campaign included a new website, billboard and bus/bus station ads, a YouTube video, and mailers sent to 70,00 households.
- Among efforts to enhance the delivery of care included the additional of a call center and the continued expansion of the use of telehealth.

## Clinical Services (Community Health Nursing, Immunization, and Tuberculosis Clinic)

- The TB Clinic provided treatment to 42 active cases of TB and to 210 clients with latent TB infection.
- The Immunization Program administered a total of 94,429 vaccinations to 57,944 clients at its four locations. The program adapted quickly to support the response to the pandemic, providing 32,572 COVID-19 vaccine doses at the main location, and despite the pandemic, continued its annual Back-to-School campaign.
- The Community Health Nursing Program, through its four separate initiatives, provided case management and other supportive services to at-risk pregnant women, infants, and young children. The Maternal and Child Health Program performed 110 home visits, the Nurse-Family Partnership enrolled 75 new clients and served a total of 216 families, the Embracing Healthy Baby Program, which seeks to decrease infant mortality predominately among African American children, enrolled 46 new clients and served a total of 107 families, and the Thrive by 0-3 Program, which is a collaboration with the Clark County Department of Family Services, enrolled 26 clients into its home visiting program.

## COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign

### THE VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

- The first doses of COVID-19 vaccine were delivered to SNHD in December 2020, then distributed from here to other partners. Initially, the available doses of vaccine were extremely limited, so they were prioritized for use to certain groups as informed by federal and state guidance. As more and more doses became available, eligibility expanded.
- A Type III Incident Management Team (IMT) was mobilized early-on to assist SNHD in distributing vaccine and establishing and operating large vaccination PODS (points-of-distribution). By June, as the PODS no longer became necessary, the IMT demobilized, and control was transitioned back to SNHD, and the vaccination campaign operated under a single Incident Command structure.
- In addition to SNHD, several partners, including hospitals, pharmacies, long-term care facilities, and others, administered vaccinations at both fixed and at 'pop-up' locations. Additionally, separate efforts were implemented to provide vaccine to the homebound and to homeless populations.
- The Southern Nevada Community Health Center received its own vaccine. And starting in early May, started administering it out of the former 'Non-congregate shelter' (NCS) (in addition to administering it at other fixed and 'pop-up' locations).

### VACCINATION DATA

- As of December 31, 2021, over 3.1M doses had been administered in Clark County and over 68% of the total population had initiated vaccination.

- Vaccination rates varied by age group, with rates directly proportional to age. Rates also varied by race/ethnicity, with rates highest among those identifying as Asian and Pacific Islanders, and lowest among African Americans. Efforts to address these disparities are ongoing.

## SNHD Goals for Future Period

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- Continue COVID-19 surveillance and mitigation activities
- Prepare the organization for post pandemic period
- Advocate the legislature and federal delegation for approval of sustainable public funding in NV
- Advocate for funding to build a new, larger Southern Nevada Public Health Lab (SNPHL)
  - Enhance SNPHL COVID-19 diagnostic capabilities
  - Increase ability of SNPHL to properly respond to new pandemic, bioterrorism, and public health threats
  - SNPHL to become an academic partner of UNLV and other local institutions
- Advocate for funding to expand SNCHC clinical area at Decatur Blvd
  - Enhanced Behavioral Health Services
  - Implementation of Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT)
  - Dental Health Services
  - Additional examination rooms for primary care, implementation of service to follow up on patients suffering long term effects from COVID
- Improve SNHD internal environment
  - Improve employee morale, measured through employee satisfaction surveys in early 2022, and last quarter of 2022
  - Improve hiring and retention practices
  - Institute the SNHD “Employee Appreciation Day”, annually, second week of December
  - Deploy a plan to address needs for specialized management/leadership training for all SNHD supervisors, managers, and directors
- To achieve Public Health Accreditation in 2022
- Complete transition of all FQHC billing transactions to the newly created SNHD billing unit
- Credential the SNPHL with CMS and managed care organizations
- Expand SNPHL clinical section capacity and testing equipment to support SNCHC as well as other clinical areas at SNHD