



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Board of Health **Meeting Date:** December 15, 2022

Staff Contact: Nicki Aaker, Health and Human Services Director

Agenda Title: For Discussion Only: Discussion and presentation regarding the regionalization of public health in Nevada. (Nicki Aaker, naaker@carson.org and Taylor Allison, Public Health Coordinator, Nevada Association of Counties)

Staff Summary: This presentation will focus on the State of Nevada's overarching vision for public health and the potential benefits of regionalization, and will provide an overview of a newly developed health district, the Central Nevada Health District, comprised of Churchill, Pershing, Eureka and Mineral counties.

Agenda Action: Other / Presentation **Time Requested:** 15 minutes

Proposed Motion

N/A

Board's Strategic Goal

Quality of Life

Previous Action

N/A

Background/Issues & Analysis

With the ultimate goal for Nevadans to live the longest and healthiest lives possible, Nevada's overarching vision for public health is (1) local, regionalized public health authorities; (2) sustainable funding for essential public health services across all public health authorities; (3) standardized and accredited public health authorities that are accountable and constantly improving; (4) a robust public health pipeline to support the diverse public health workforce needs; and (5) using a health equity and diversity lens across public health programs and systems.

Currently, there are two health districts in Nevada, the Southern Nevada Health District and the Washoe County Health District. According to Nevada Revised Statute ("NRS") 439.370, in counties with a population less than 700,000, a health district may be created with the approval of the Nevada Board of Health by affirmative vote of (1) the board of county commissioners of two or more adjacent counties; (2) the governing bodies of two or more cities or towns within any county; or (3) the board of county commissioners and the governing body or bodies of any incorporated city or cities, town or towns, in such county. Such a health district will have a health department consisting of a district health officer and a district board of health.

The Central Nevada Health District ("District") received approval on December 2, 2022 from the Nevada Board of Health to become a Nevada health district. This District plans to be operational July 1, 2023. The organizational plan is very similar to Carson City Health and Human Services with a contracted health officer and administrator overseeing the operations.

In conjunction with the creation of this District, there may be proposed legislation in the next legislative session to amend NRS 439.370(1), which provides that "The boards of county commissioners of two or more adjacent counties..." may create a health district, to remove the requirement that the counties be adjacent. Eureka County will be part of the District and is not adjacent to the other three counties so other agreements had to be developed.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

NRS 439.370

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

N/A

Attachments:

[11-7-22 Lyon County Board of Health Presentation.pdf](#)

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____

1) _____

2) _____

Aye/Nay

(Vote Recorded By)

Steve Sisolak
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

State of Nevada
Department of Health and
Human Services

Public Health Jurisdictions and Services

Division of Public and Behavioral Health



9/20/22

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Overarching Vision for Public Health in Nevada

- **Local, regionalized** public health authorities
- **Sustainable funding** for essential public health services across all public health authorities
- **Standardized and accredited** public health authorities that are accountable and constantly improving
- A **robust public health pipeline** to support the diverse public health workforce needs (including Academic Health Departments)
- Using a **health equity and diversity** lens across public health programs and systems

Nevadans to live the longest and healthiest lives possible.



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10 Essential Public Health Services

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets
2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health



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Public Health Governance

State and Local Health Department Governance Classification Map

Legend

- Centralized
- Largely Centralized
- Decentralized
- Largely Decentralized
- Mixed
- Shared
- Largely Shared

As of September 2020



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Public Health in Nevada

- Many sections, but as it relates to governance:
 - NRS 439: Public Health and Safety
 - Health Districts and District Health Officers
 - County Boards of Health and County Health Officers
 - City Boards of Health and Health Officers
 - Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
 - Board of Nevada
 - Chief Medical Officer
 - Assessments
 - County may submit a proposal to have the county carry out the services of DPBH and the Chief Medical Officer.
 - Governor approval and IFC approval.
 - A county that receives approval pursuant to subsection 3 to carry out the services that would otherwise be provided by the Division or the Chief Medical Officer pursuant to this chapter and chapters 441A, 444, 446 and 583 of NRS and the regulations adopted pursuant to those chapters shall carry out those services in the manner set forth in those chapters and regulations.



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Local Governance (County)

- Each County is required to have a Board of Health.
- Each County must appoint a County Health Officer, or the Chief Medical Officer will appoint one.
- The Board must oversee all sanitary conditions of the county and adopt such regulations as may be necessary for the prevention, suppression and control of any contagious or infectious disease dangerous to the public health, which regulations take effect immediately upon approval by the State Board of Health.
- The Board may do other activities such as abate nuisances, establish an isolation hospital or quarantine location, monitor and treat persons with a communicable disease, etc.



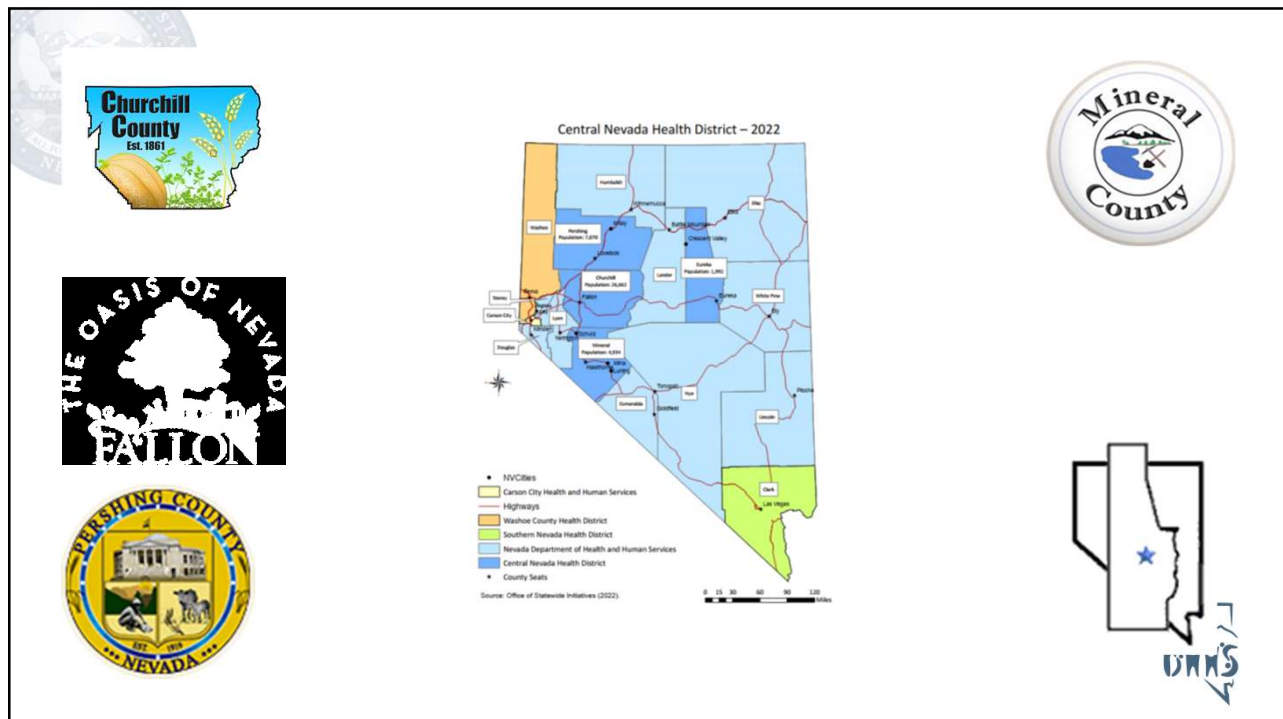
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Pathways for Consideration

- Offering Services Locally (removing assessments)
 - Request approval from the Governor
 - If approved, present to the Legislative Interim Finance Committee.
 - If approved, after 6 months (or more), the assessments will no longer occur, and the jurisdiction will provide the required services locally or can contract for those services with another entity (ex: CCHHS).
- Regionalization
 - Scale challenges (ex: if a single county chooses to offer services locally, there will be very little staffing due to funding challenges).
 - Dissolve County Boards of Health and the County Health Officer.
 - Develop District Board of Health and a District Health Officer who will oversee matters in the region. The Board of Health will be two members from each county, and a licensed physician.
 - Develop regional regulations.
 - Slightly greater duties (ex: protect and promote public health generally in the geographic area).



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Challenges to Creating a Health District In Nevada

- **Currently 2 types in Nevada**
 - Counties whose population is less than 700,000
 - Counties whose population is 700,000 or more (affects Clark County only)
- **NRS 439.369**
 - By affirmative vote of:
 - 2 or more **adjacent** governing bodies, 2 or more cities or towns within any county, or,
 - The board of county commissioners and governing body or bodies of any incorporated city or cities, town or towns, in such county, AND
 - Approval of the state BOH there may be created a health district with a health department consisting of a district health officer and a district BOH



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Central Nevada Health District Creation and Goal

- Ensuring the health of the largest number of people means resources must be used to their best advantage.
- Creating a health district maximizes the use of everyone's assets.
- Highlights of a health district include:
 - Improve capacity of existing agencies to address a wider scope of public health problems including communicable disease control
 - Increase community input in the development and delivery of public health services
 - Improve public health preparedness and response through enhanced coordination of services in the area
 - Develop additional services provided by larger health departments in Nevada



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Contact Information

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