



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Board of Health

Meeting Date: March 2, 2023

Staff Contact: Nicki Aaker, Director

Agenda Title: For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed acceptance of a report from the Carson City Health Officer. (Nicki Aaker; NAaker@carson.org)

Staff Summary: This item is to provide an update on: (1) the Health Officer's activities; (2) clinical oversight and policy input; (3) training and education; and (4) general information for the Carson City Board of Health. Direction is requested from the Board of Health regarding the Health Officer's report concerning activities the Health Officer is engaged in both internally and externally for the Carson City Department of Health and Human Services.

Agenda Action: Formal Action / Motion

Time Requested: 15 minutes

Proposed Motion

I move to accept the report as presented.

Board's Strategic Goal

Quality of Life

Previous Action

N/A

Background/Issues & Analysis

A Health Officer's report is presented at each Board of Health meeting.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

N/A

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted?

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Do not accept the report and/or provide alternative direction.

Attachments:

[Health Officer's Report - Activities_V2.pdf](#)

[Health Officer's Report.pdf](#)

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Aye/Nay

(Vote Recorded By)



Carson City Health Officer Report

10Feb2023

Carson City Board of Health Meeting 02Mar2023

Health Officer Activities (since 18Nov2022)

- Behavioral Health Task Force (BHTF) meetings: 1/5 re: state funding
- CCHHS Division Managers' meetings: 11/21, 12/12, 1/9
- CCHHS Division Mangers' luncheon: 1/12
- Attended CCHHS Holiday potluck: 12/21
- Nevada State Board of Health: 12/2
- Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) meetings: 11/23
- Quad-County Coalition meeting: 12/13, 1/10
Reviewed all Quad-County Public Health Preparedness (PHP) emails, attachments and numerous national and state support materials
- Attended Family Life Committee (FLC) of Carson City School District in support of resuming certified curriculum in the Carson high schools by CCHHS staff: 11/28
- Nevada County Health Officers' meeting: 12/12, 1/9
- Met with CCHHS Director: 12/12, 1/12
- Attended Title X (Family Planning) funding update: 1/9
- Attended Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) advocacy meeting: 1/20
- Average of 8 hours per month in review of CCHHS emails, CDC Covid Weekly; Tracker and Health Alert Network (HAN), Trust for America's Health, Public Health Communication Collaborative, Nevada Department of Public & Behavioral Health (DPBH) emails and technical bulletins, Nevada Hospital association weekly reports

Clinical Oversight and Policy Input

- Provided training to Public Health Nurses on Skills Day re: over the counter (OTC) and prescription medication use and protocols for Shelter Kit usage: 1/23

Training and Education

- Fit testing for N95 mask: 12/8
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) usage training: 1/23
- "Reaching Gen Z: Engaging young audiences in public health" – virtual: 12/12
- CDC State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial (STLT) COVID updates: 12/12
- "Exposing the profiteers behind Medicare REACH" - virtual by Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP.org): 1/26
- Enrolled in Nevada Community Health Worker Association virtual training: Jan - Mar
- Successfully completed 2-year recertification period for American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) board certification as of 31Dec2022

Carson City Health & Human Services

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General Information for the Carson City Board of Health from Dr. Lyons, Carson City Health Officer

Article: Public health agencies: learn from NASA about regaining the public's trust

By Dr. Judy Monroe - September 22, 2022

The amazing images of the [Cartwheel Galaxy](#) captured by the James Webb Space Telescope this summer, and before them the [spectacular images](#) from the Hubble telescope, have amazed and inspired many people worldwide, who now look to NASA as a trusted federal agency.

It hasn't always enjoyed such strong support. After the [Challenger disaster](#), in which the space shuttle with seven crew members aboard exploded after liftoff, NASA was beset by questions about its decision-making and faced a significant challenge with public perceptions. It learned painful lessons about a flawed management structure and poor communications.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health agencies [find themselves in a similar position](#) these days, having [lost the trust](#) of their stakeholders during the Covid-19 pandemic.

It took partnership, resources, scientific rigor, and imagination to create and launch the Webb and Hubble telescopes to give humanity an unprecedented view of the universe. Establishing a new era in public health will take these same elements to give the public health system the funding, tools, and workforce needed to protect Americans from unprecedented health threats.

Just as it took NASA years to transform itself into one of the most trusted federal agencies, it will take time for the public health system to earn back the trust it has lost. NASA embarked on that road by [moving](#) from being a hierarchical, closed system that develops its technologies internally to an open network organization that embraces innovation, agility, and collaboration. The U.S. public health system must follow that trajectory.

In August, CDC director Rochelle Walensky [announced plans](#) to restructure and reorganize the agency. Of course, much more work must be done across the entire public health spectrum to institute long-lasting change.

Trust for America's Health recently [released a report](#) on America's public health system and concluded that "chronic underfunding has created a public health system that cannot address

the nation’s health security needs, its persistent health inequities, as well as emerging threats,” noting that this was “a contributing factor in the inadequate response to the Covid-19 pandemic.”

The [CDC Foundation](#), which I lead, in collaboration with the [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials](#), the [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#), the [Big Cities Health Coalition](#), and other public health partners, has issued a [series of reports](#) offering ways to build a resilient, well resourced, trusted public health system that helps assure everyone can attain their full potential for health and well-being. Public health needs a harmonized, strategic, and action-oriented approach to explore these opportunities.

Key tactics from these reports include:

- providing increased, multiyear, sustainable funding from all levels of government that supports the public health workforce by creating pipelines for staff and careers and establishing strategic workforce development plans that include hiring practices and salary incentive needs and enhancements;
- harnessing the power of today’s technology to collect and analyze data in a timely fashion to manage public health threats and conditions;
- recognizing that laws and [legal concepts like preemption](#) are affecting public health authority and weakening the field’s ability to address health and equity;
- creating clear communication about public health guidance to the broad population as well as more effective communication about the incredible value of public health contributions over time to the health, safety and security of us all.

Thirty-six years ago, NASA faced a crisis of trust. It took a [Presidential commission](#) before the agency launched a space shuttle nearly three years after the Challenger disaster. But unlike launching into space, which is an arbitrary goal, the next health crisis could happen at any time, whether it’s another Covid-19 variant, a new virus that has leapt from animals to humans, a worsening opioid crisis, or an increase in chronic diseases. The public health system must implement change now to protect Americans’ health and safety.

Investment in public health is paramount, but so are the underpinnings that make it work — growing the workforce, creating the legal authority to ensure the system has the tools needed to do its job, achieving health equity, updating and modernizing technology, and reimagining public-private partnerships. Americans need all sectors to come together to strengthen their public health infrastructure.

Judy Monroe is a physician and the president and CEO of the CDC Foundation, based in Atlanta, Georgia.

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Article Reference

Monroe, J. (2022, September 22). STAT – First Opinion - Public health agencies: Learn from NASA about regaining the public’s trust. {Post}. LinkedIn.

[https://cm.linkedin.com/posts/drjudymonroe_public-health-agencies-learn-from-nasa-about-activit y-6978818463196692480-kBxP](https://cm.linkedin.com/posts/drjudymonroe_public-health-agencies-learn-from-nasa-about-activit-y-6978818463196692480-kBxP)

December 8, 2022

Blog: <https://debeaumont.org/news/2022/new-poll-results-show-broad-public-support-for-public-health-departments/>

By [Mark Miller](#)

Over the past few years, public health departments across the country have been navigating a changing world—in disease, staffing, funding, public perception, and more. But as the world changes, health departments continue to play a critical role in their communities. And according to a poll released today, Americans value that role.

In a [recent Morning Consult poll](#) commissioned by the de Beaumont Foundation, **90 percent of U.S. adults said they view public health departments as an essential element of a healthy community, rating health departments above schools, fire departments, police departments, parks, businesses, and libraries.** According to the data, the health department services Americans most value include reaching out to people at greatest risk for having poor health outcomes, working with the broader healthcare system, improving other local community services, and ensuring environmental health.

About half of Americans said they are familiar with their local health departments and health officials—an increase from [a similar poll](#) on public health support conducted in 2018 by Public Opinion Strategies. However, among the adults who said they are familiar with their local public health official, fewer have a favorable view than they did a year ago (67% in Morning Consult’s 2021 survey and 61% in 2022), and Americans are more likely to say the health of their community has gotten worse over the past year (26% in 2021 and 32% in 2022).

deBeaumont Foundation is a trusted public health stakeholder

Mission – To advance policy, build partnerships, and strengthen public health to create communities where people can achieve their best possible health

Vision – A nation where every person in every community has the opportunity to achieve their best possible health.

CDC COVID-19 Data Review: Update on COVID-19–Related Mortality

Updated Nov. 16, 2022

Top Takeaway Messages:

1. There were signs of improvement –
 - COVID-19–related deaths substantially decreased in the United States in March 2022. During April–early November 2022, this initial decline was largely sustained and the overall number of COVID-19–related deaths remained relatively stable.
 - From January to April 2022, age-standardized COVID-19–related mortality rates decreased for all racial and ethnic groups.
 - The risk of in-hospital deaths for patients hospitalized with COVID-19 declined among all adult age groups. During March–August 2022, risk of in-hospital death was lower than during June 2021 – February 2022.
 - Use of outpatient COVID-19 treatments that decrease risk for hospitalization and death increased from January - July 2022.
2. Vaccines continued to be effective in reducing COVID-19–related mortality
COVID-19 vaccines continued to reduce the risk of dying among all age groups, including older adults, with the most protection observed among people who have received ≥ 2 booster doses.
3. Where and how COVID-19–related deaths occur appeared to be changing
 - Although the highest proportion of COVID-19–related deaths occurred in hospitals during January–September 2022, an increased proportion of COVID-19–related deaths were reported in other settings such as homes, long-term care facilities and hospice facilities than in prior years of the pandemic.
 - COVID-19 was listed as the underlying cause for most COVID-19–related deaths. However, during January–September 2022, COVID-19 was identified as a contributing cause of death rather than the underlying cause for a higher proportion of COVID-19–related deaths than in prior years of the pandemic.
4. Improvement is needed to decrease risk for COVID-19–related mortality
 - During April–September 2022, 2,000–4,500 COVID-19–related deaths were reported weekly and, a higher number of all-cause deaths occurred in the United States compared to what was expected based on previous years of data ([excess deaths](#)).
 - Adults aged ≥ 65 years continued to have the highest COVID-19–related mortality rates. Adults aged ≥ 85 years remained at particularly high risk of dying, with the proportion of COVID-19–related deaths accounted for by adults in this age group increasing during April–September 2022 from $\sim 28\%$ to $\sim 40\%$ of COVID-19–related deaths.

- Older adults, people with disabilities, and those with underlying medical conditions continued to account for the highest proportion of COVID-19–related in-hospital deaths.
- COVID-19–related deaths were rare among younger adults aged 18–49 years hospitalized during May–August 2022, but those that did occur were most often among unvaccinated persons.

NIHCM (National Institute for Health Care Management) NEWSLETTER - December 2022

Long COVID & Disability

Long COVID has **affected as many as 23 million Americans** since the beginning of the pandemic. Experts have referred to long COVID as ‘the next public health disaster’ and estimate the financial toll may have a \$3.7 trillion impact on the US economy. Last year, the **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** declared long COVID could be classified as a disability under federal law. However, there are gaps between **protections and accommodations** in the workplace and **barriers to disability benefits** for people with long COVID. Despite longstanding federal civil rights laws, disabled people **experience disparities** in health and health care.

As many as 4 million people are out of work due to long COVID in the US. Many have been **denied disability coverage** because they don’t have documentation from specialist physicians. Long-haulers’ disabilities range from fatigue to body-wracking tremors. Some are turning to **costly, unproven treatments** for relief.

Comment: Disparities persisted. Although racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19–related mortality have decreased over the course of the pandemic, disparities continued to exist in both COVID-19 treatment and mortality.

Measles outbreak in Columbus, Ohio. As of 12/21, 36% of the identified measles cases were hospitalized, with zero fatalities. Unvaccinated individuals represented 94% of the cases.

Nevada Hospital Association report excerpts:

On Jan. 11, 2023, HHS renewed the national **Public Health Emergency (PHE)** for COVID-19. The PHE is anticipated to be allowed to expire in April.

The US has seen 39 **mass shootings** in the first 24 days of the year. Seventy people (70) people have been killed and 167 wounded in mass shootings so far in 2023.

A Health Economics study (published Jan.19) found that when **recreational cannabis** is legal, codeine demand drops. Key findings included a 26% reduction in the pharmacy-based distribution of codeine and as much as a 37% reduction after recreational cannabis laws have been in effect for four years.

US FDA added (Jan. 1, 2023) **sesame** to the list of major food allergens defined by law. Now many food processing companies are being accused of adding sesame to foods in limited quantities to avoid the strict rules associated with keeping the seed isolated from other foods and equipment. Adding sesame to all foods processed at a particular plant and changing packaging labels is cheaper than modifying production lines. This reportedly is also becoming the practice at many chain restaurants.

A new report from the RAND Corporation finds that 25.8% of US armed forces personnel, including 15.4% of active- duty military, are **food insecure** (defined as not having access to sufficient food or adequate quality food to meet one's basic needs).

Governor Joe Lombardo has signed Executive Order 2023-004 directing all occupational boards to provide a recommended pathway for facilitating **licensure reciprocity**. Boards shall report back before April 1, 2023.

Cyber News:

Thirty-seven million T-Mobile customers had their personal information, including names, addresses, email, phone numbers, date of birth, and account numbers, stolen by hackers who exploited an API (application programming interface) used by the carrier.

LastPass, a virtual password vault, was reportedly hacked multiple times in the past few months. Now the company is facing litigation to disclose specifically all the types of private information that was compromised as clients assert their passwords entrusted to LastPass have been used to steal Bitcoin and access other financial accounts and medical records.

FEMA released the 2022 National Preparedness Report. According to the report, **cyber threats are the number one threat/hazard type likely to occur**.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission is expected to require companies to disclose details about cybersecurity and attacks, including specifying which board members have cybersecurity expertise. The rules are anticipated to focus on increasing board responsibilities.