



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 a proposed acceptance of the report of the Carson City Department of Health and Human Services ("CCHHS") Director, Nicki Aaker. (Nicki Aaker, naaker@carson.org)

Staff Summary: The CCHHS Director's report will concern: (1) an update on Title X funding; (2) an overview of CCHHS workforce challenges; (3) an update on relevant bills proposed during the 2023 Nevada legislative session; (4) an introduction of the Community Management Information System to be used for Carson City's Street Outreach program; and (4) requests for assistance for: (a) Title X funding, (b) workforce challenges, (c) continued support for Assembly Bill No. 118, (d) continued support for Carson City's Housing Plan, and (e) the Community Health Improvement Fund.

Agenda Action: Formal Action / Motion **Time Requested:** 20 minutes

Proposed Motion

I move to accept the Director's report.

Board's Strategic Goal

Quality of Life

Previous Action

August 18, 2022 (Item 22D): Carson City's Housing Plan was approved by the Board of Health.

Background/Issues & Analysis

A report of the CCHHS Director 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:

[CCHHS – Director’s Report Presentation.pdf](#)

[Director's Report V3_NP edits.pdf](#)

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____ 1) _____
2) _____

Aye/Nay

(Vote Recorded By)



CCHHS – DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Nicki Aaker, Director; Carson City Health and Human Services

Carson City Board of Health

March 2, 2023



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HIGHLIGHTS & REQUESTS FOR BOARD OF HEALTH

- ✓ Access to Care - Title X (Family Planning) funding ends March 31, 2023 which is a loss of nearly \$300,000/year. A grant from Nevada’s Department of Health and Human Services will be coming to the Board of Supervisors to assist with the elimination of funding.
 - ASK – Continue to advocate for Title X funding for northern Nevada at the federal level and accept the Reproductive Grant from the State of Nevada.
- ✓ Workforce Challenges – CCHHS has three (3) very hard to fill positions vacant: 1) Public Health Nurse, 2) Epidemiologist, and 3) Public Health Preparedness Division Manager.
 - ASK – Reach out to your constituents and contacts to let them know we have these job opportunities. Please have them apply at carson.org.
- ✓ Legislative Session - Public Health Funding - SB118 is a public health funding bill. It passed out of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee with a ‘Do Pass’. The funding suggested in this bill is non-categorical which can be used for unfunded, urgent, emergency public health efforts, or priorities identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment.
 - ASK – Continue to support for SB118.

2

HIGHLIGHTS & REQUESTS FOR BOARD OF HEALTH

- ✓ Homelessness – Our community does not have a lot of data surrounding homeless. The Community Management Information System (CMIS) used throughout the state is releasing a module that can be used for Carson City’s street outreach program.
 - ASK - Continue to support the Carson City Housing Plan especially as we work to get a contractor for street outreach.
- ✓ Community Health Improvement Plan (“CHIP”) – Having completed the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), the next step is to convene a diverse and engaged stakeholder group to review the data and findings. As a collaborative group, a plan of action known as the CHIP will be developed to address these matters for improvement in our community.
 - ASK – Board of Health members assist in identifying and recruiting stakeholders to participate in this collaborative group (i.e., school district, hospital, community behavioral health clinics). Refer them to Nicki Aaker at naaker@carson.org with CHIP in the subject line.

3

HIGHLIGHTS BOARD OF HEALTH

- ✓ COVID-19 Response After Action Report (“AAR”) – A contractor was hired to conduct an AAR to review CCHHS’ response efforts. The report has been provided and CCHHS staff will work on improvements that can be addressed within the department. This fulfills one of CCHHS’ Strategic Plan goals.
- ✓ Within the Human Services Division, the Nevada Housing Division conducted a program and fiscal review of four housing programs and did not have any findings or concerns.

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QUESTIONS



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Carson City Health and Human Services Report
 Carson City Board of Health Meeting
 March 2, 2023

County Health Officer Name	Dr. Colleen Lyons
County	Carson City: some services provided in Douglas, Lyon, and Storey Counties

Report Highlights and Requests

- ✓ Access to Care - The Title X (Family Planning) funding ends March 31, 2023. This is a loss of nearly \$300,000/year. This grant has been received directly from the federal government since approximately 2010, and prior to that it was a subgrant from the State of Nevada. Nevada’s Department of Health and Human Services has approved through the State of Nevada’s Internal Finance Committee ARPA funding to continue the services that were unfunded. This grant, Comprehensive Reproductive Grant, will be coming forward to the Board of Supervisors once the Notice of Award is received.
 - Request to Board of Health (“BOH”) – Continue to advocate for Title X funding for northern Nevada at the federal level and accept the Comprehensive Reproductive Grant from the State of Nevada.

- ✓ Workforce Challenges – Within the past week, we were able to hire four (4) hard to fill positions: 1) Human Services Division Social Worker, 2) part-time front desk Office Specialist, 3) part-time Women, Infant, and Child (WIC) Specialist, and 4) a part-time Community Health Worker (CHW) to work for both the Adolescent Health and Preventive Health and Health Services programs. We still have three very hard to fill positions: 1) Public Health Nurse, 2) Epidemiologist, and 3) Public Health Preparedness Division Manager.
 - Request to BOH – Reach out to your constituents and contacts to let them know we have these job opportunities. Please have them apply at carson.org.

- ✓ Public Health Funding - Legislative session has started. There is one public health funding bill, SB118. This bill was introduced on February 16, 2023, in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and received a 'Do Pass'. In the 2019 Legislative Session, the Public Health Improvement Fund was created; however, it was not in the Governor's budget so was unfunded. Public health funding has been a focus of the Interim and Legislative sessions for six years. The funding suggested in this bill is non-categorical. This type of funding can be used for unfunded, urgent, emergency public health efforts, or priorities identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment. Nevada is tied with Wisconsin for last in state public health funding at \$72/person, the median is \$119/person. This bill is proposing \$5 per person per year be spent on public health. The return on investment for every \$1 spent on public health is \$5.60.
 - Request to BOH - Continue to support for SB118.

- ✓ Homelessness – Our community does not have a lot of data surrounding homeless. Every year the Point in Time Count is conducted in January. Professionals working with the homeless know the number counted during this event is much lower than the true homeless population. The Community Management Information System (CMIS) used throughout the state is releasing a module that can be used for a Carson City street outreach program. This information will assist in mapping homeless encampments and identify who is in the camps. This program will be able to follow individuals from camps to permanent housing (see page 14 for example).
 - Request to BOH - Continue to support the Carson City Housing Plan especially as we work to get a contractor for street outreach.

- ✓ Community Health Improvement Plan (“CHIP”) – Having completed the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), the next step is to convene a diverse and engaged stakeholder group to review the data and findings. Existing and new partners will need to be identified, along with the resources available to work on the priority areas, as well as identify gaps or overlap in resources and services. As a collaborative group, a plan of action known as the CHIP will be developed to address these matters for improvement in our community.
 - Request to BOH – Board of Health members assist in identifying and recruiting stakeholders to participate in this collaborative group (i.e., school district, hospital, community behavioral health clinics). Refer them to Nicki Aaker at naaker@carson.org with CHIP in the subject line.

- ✓ COVID-19 Response After Action Report (“AAR”) – A contractor was hired to conduct an AAR to review CCHHS' response efforts. The process involved surveys, conference calls, and individual calls to several of our partners and employees. CCHHS staff will work on improvements that were identified and can be addressed within the department. This fulfills one of CCHHS' Strategic Plan goals. Within the Human Services Division, the

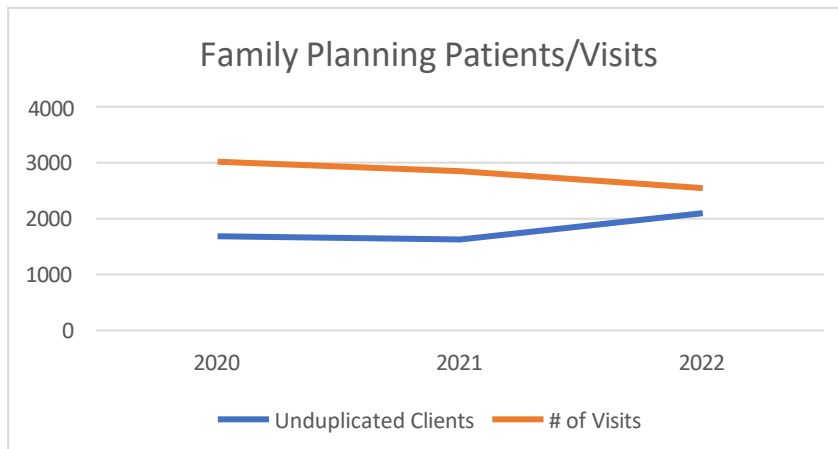
Nevada Housing Division conducted a program and fiscal review of four housing programs and did not have any findings or concerns.

Division Reports

Clinical Services

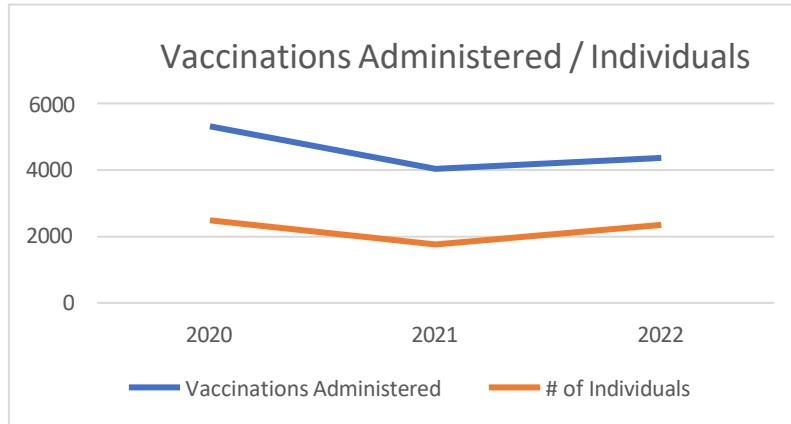
- The Clinical Services Division Manager, Katharyn Reece, is working with a new third-party billing company to bring them on board to bill for the CCHHS Clinic and the flu Point of Distribution (POD) events. This spring the goal is to review revenue cycles for optimization.
- Staff is preparing for the Title X (Family Planning) funding to end March 31, 2023. CCHHS has received this grant for upwards of thirteen years.
- Thank you to the State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services for working on a solution for the loss of the Title X (Family Planning) grant in northern Nevada. This solution goes through December 2026. As of April 1, 2023, CCHHS will no longer receive the designation of a Title X Clinic and there will be no Title X protections (i.e., teen confidentiality).
- Drs. Timothy McFarren and Sandra Koch continue to advocate for the clinic funding at the state and federal level.

Family Planning (Title X) Unduplicated Clients / Number of Visits		
2020 Total	2021 Total	2022 Total
1682/3016	1627/2846	2096/2544



This chart tells us that more patients are coming to CCHHS for services while the number of visits is decreasing. This may be due to CCHHS having an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) that can insert long lasting birth control implants which result in less visits to the clinic.

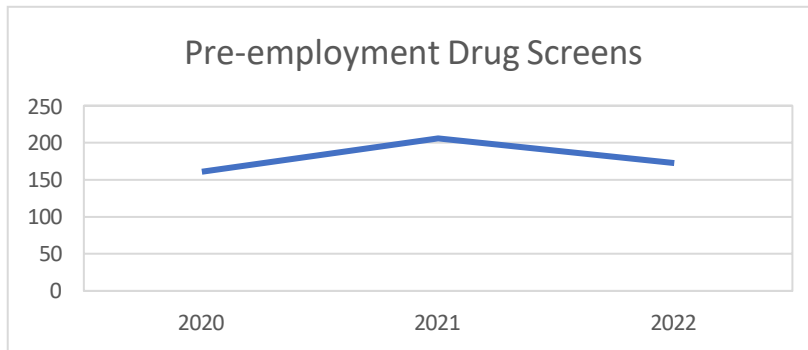
Vaccinations Administered / Number of Individuals		
2020	2021	2022
5,313 / 2,486	4,034/1,762	4,360/2,353



Carson City Employment Drug Screening

CCHHS is the department that administers the City’s drug screening for new employees.

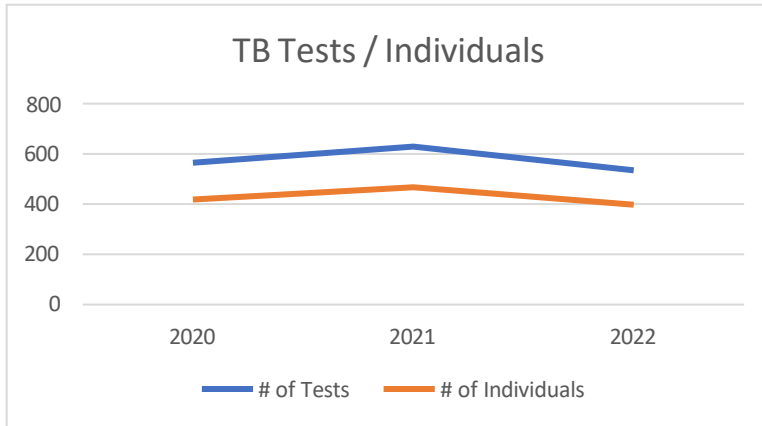
Carson City Pre-employment Drug Screens		
2020	2021	2022
161	206	194



Tuberculosis (TB) Screening

A TB test is a two-visit process. One visit to place the test and the second visit to assess the results. Some individuals are required to have two tests within 7 to 21 days of each other which requires 4 visits to complete both rounds of screening. TB testing includes services provided both at the clinic and an inpatient drug treatment center (Vitality).

Tuberculosis (TB) Screening / Number of Individuals		
2020	2021	2022
565/418	629/467	534/397



Budget

- General Funds – 11%
- Grants – 57%
- Revenue – 32%

Staff Training

- Supervisor Training for Manager
- Safety Considerations for Vaccine-related Events
- Nevada Consent Laws

Challenges

- Hiring a Bilingual Public Health Nurse has been a significant challenge with the position open for over 6 months. Staff shortages in general have created a challenge for availability to serve clients with same-day, next-day appointments as well. Posting has been changed to a Public Health Nurse deleting the bilingual requirement. If needed a translation service will be used.



Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP)

Adolescent Health Education Program

Outreach Events

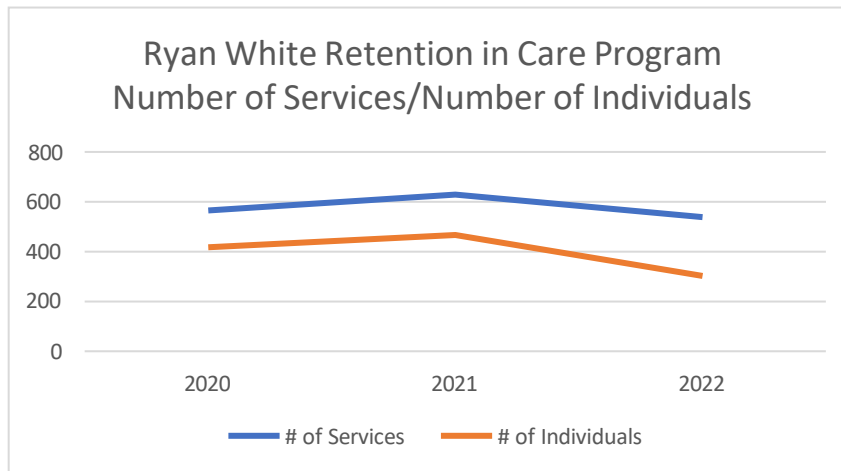
- Outreach continues to non-traditional partners with the goal of having more education programs.

- During COVID-19 and to the present, the program was not allowed back into the high school. Roni Galas has worked very hard with the Carson City School District’s Family Life Committee to get back into the high school so classes can be conducted. CCHHS has received word that the program will be allowed back in the high school, but dates for classes have not been scheduled.

Challenges

Recruitment of organizations other than schools to host classes continues.

Ryan White – Retention in Care Program



* Number of individuals and services declined in 2022 because state reports used to identify individuals that are out of medical care were not being received on a regular basis.

Tobacco Control and Prevention Program

Funding comes from four separate sources: 1) CDC Tobacco Prevention, 2) Health Disparities Grant through the Nevada Cancer Coalition, 3) Nevada Clinical Services formerly the Funds for Healthy Nevada, and 4) Nevada’s Youth Vaping Prevention Funds.

- Staff continue to participate in Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coalition as members, which will be important during the 2023 Legislative session. This coalition continues to work on policies related to addressing Youth Access via Tobacco Retailers, the Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act, and Tobacco Prevention and Control Funding.
- Suzie Ledezma-Rubio, Program Coordinator, continues to be a member of Western Nevada College’s (WNC) Healthy Campus Environment Committee.
 - In 2017, CCHHS staff assisted WNC in becoming a tobacco free campus.
 - Staff continue to assist WNC with strengthening their Tobacco Free Policy and supplying signage.
- Staff are updating the multi-unit housing (“MUH”) list to identify locations that have smoke-free policies.
 - A script and survey are being developed to gather information on known and unknown policies, along with promoting the adoption of smoke-free policies to those complexes without policies and signage for any complex that wants it.

- A toolkit has been developed by staff for owners and property managers on how to implement a voluntary smoke-free policy.
- The most recent location to adopt a smoke-free policy is “Carson Hills “as of 01/01/22.

Outreach Events

- Staff are continuing to collaborate with local coalitions, Southern Nevada Health District, and Washoe County Health District to develop an initiative known as Attracting Addiction.
 - The goal is to educate parents and adult influencers on the predatory practices of the tobacco industry, increase awareness of the dangers of smoking and vaping flavored tobacco products, prevent youth and adults from becoming tobacco users, and support the elimination of all flavored tobacco products.
 - Social media posts have been created by an outside contractor that provides education to parents and youth.
 - Education materials have been distributed to parent groups and at outreach events.

Challenges for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

- Youth Vaping Funds are in jeopardy.
- Getting back into all the schools to conduct classes at pre-COVID-19 levels. (Adolescent Health Education and Tobacco Control and Prevention)
- Finding youth to conduct focus groups and youth engagement in general. (Tobacco Control and Prevention)

Budget

- General Funds – None
- Grants – 100%



Permitted Establishments – Inspections Conducted				
Permitted Establishments	2019	2020	2021	2022
Restaurants Carson City	670	608	700	685
Restaurants Douglas County	772	726	827	686
Temporary Events Carson City	169	0	131	240
Temporary Events Douglas County	78	2	169	369
Childcare Facilities	20	18	24	26
Public Pools, spas, aquatics Carson City	49	50	66	65
Public Pools, spas, aquatics Douglas County	94	79	100	56
Septic	9	5	10	10
Hotels/Motels	24	4	42	29
Schools	15	16	24	23

Permitted Establishments – Violations, Carson City Only				
Permitted Establishments	2019	2020	2021	2022
Food				
Critical	71	195	175	215
Non-critical	243	439	385	481
Pools				
Critical	4	17	12	8
Non-critical	4	25	148	67

Plans Reviewed				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Plans	*	*	156	242

*Plan review system changed in 2021

Mosquito Abatement				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Hours by EH Staff	32	30	55	28

Other News

- Two foggers were donated to Carson City by Douglas County’s Mosquito Abatement program.
- A \$25,000 grant was awarded to CCHHS to work towards Environmental Health Inspection Standardization.

Staff Trainings

- Soil and Site Evaluation for Onsite Wastewater Systems

Epidemiology

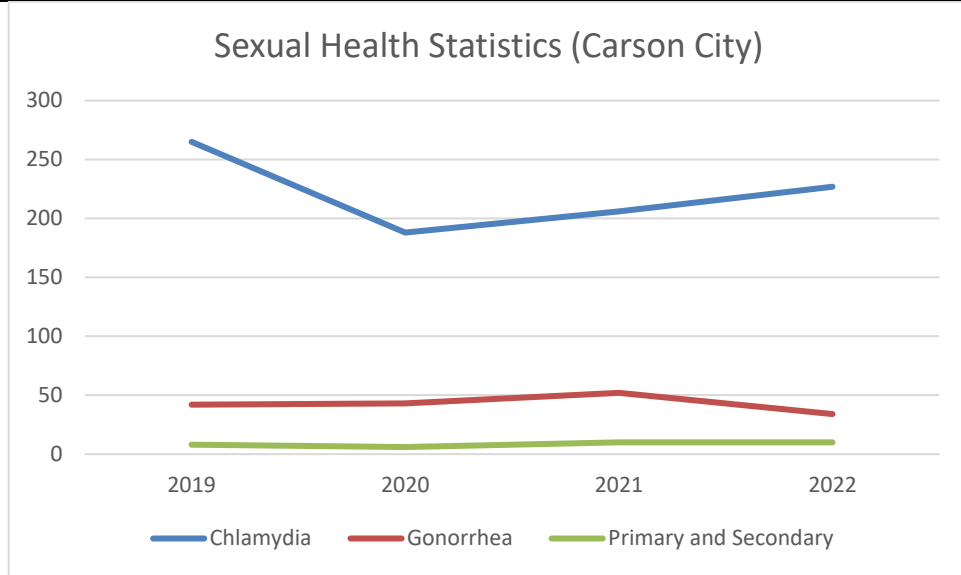
NOTE: Health authority investigation of reportable communicable diseases is required by NRS 441A.

Respiratory illness season beginning Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (“MMWR”) week 40 (first week of October) had a large impact on the health care system in Nevada. In our surveillance area, more hospitalizations were reported in MMWR weeks 40-52 (October to December) for Influenza, which was 78, then were reported for all of last Influenza season, which was 58. RSV (Respiratory Syncytal Virus) reports increased by 62% for MMWR weeks 40-52 compared to the same reporting period in 2021.

In December 2022, the Carson City Board of Supervisors approved several grant funded City positions. This allows for the Epidemiology Division to “Right Size” as we transition to the post COVID emergency.

In September, our Statewide disease surveillance system was transitioned to a more modern system. Since it is a new system, we are in the process of learning the system and fine tuning our reporting.

Sexual Health Statistics (Carson City)				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Chlamydia	265	188	206	227
Gonorrhea	42	43	52	34
Primary and Secondary Syphilis	8	6	10	10



Sexual Health Statistics (Douglas & Lyon Counties)				
	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Chlamydia	287	256	282	199
Gonorrhea	52	93	65	46
Primary and Secondary Syphilis	5	7	15	7
2022 statistics are likely due to decrease in testing, not a decrease in cases.				

*Due to the reporting system change, the numbers of reported conditions should be considered preliminary and are subject to change.

Vector Borne Diseases (i.e., West Nile, etc.)				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Carson City	0	0	0	0
Douglas & Lyon Counties	0	0	1	0

Other Disease Investigations – Carson City, Douglas, and Lyon Counties				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Campylobacteriosis**	6	0	10	17*
GI Outbreak (Childcare Facility)	0	0	1	0
Rabies, Animal (Bat)	0	0	1	1
RSV Outbreak (Childcare Facility)	0	0	2	2
Salmonellosis+	4	3	9	12*

*Due to the reporting system change, the numbers of reported conditions should be considered preliminary and are subject to change.

** Common causes of foodborne illness

Influenza Hospitalizations - Carson City, Douglas, and Lyon Counties				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Influenza Hospitalizations	36	2	6	148

Staff Training

- All staff were part of EpiTrax training, our new Statewide disease surveillance system.
- One staff attended the Childhood Lead Prevention conference (Virtual).

Budget

- General Funds – None
- Grants – 100%

Challenges

Right sizing the Epidemiology Division was the first step in developing a sustainable model for responding to reportable conditions and outbreaks within our surveillance area. The next step is to establish stable long-term funding of core public health services.



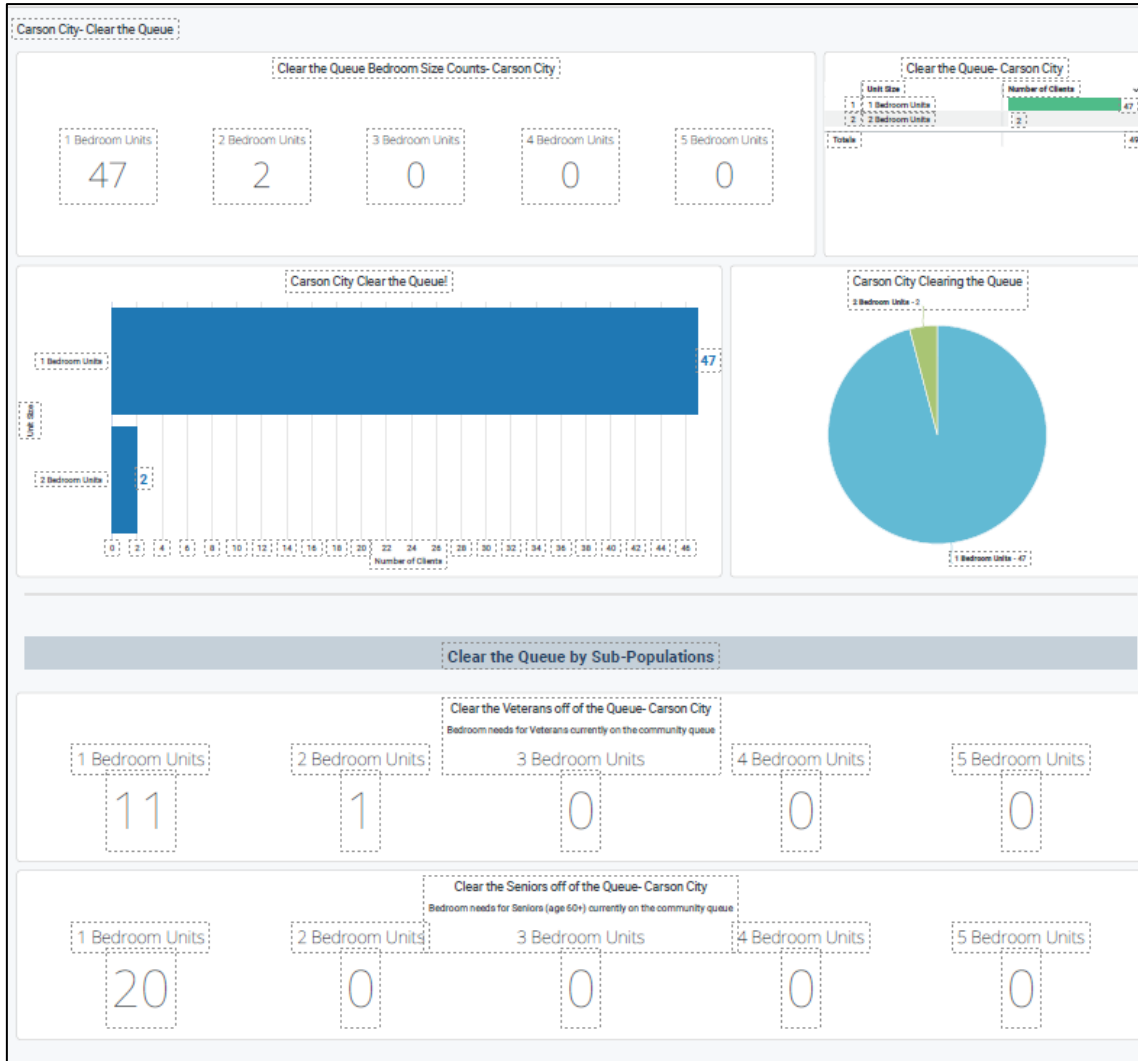
Human Services

Activities

- Attended Clarity Connect Conference; two major takeaways:
 - 1) The Community Management Information System (CMIS) will release a module to utilize for the Street Outreach program. The module will be able to map homeless encampments and identify who is in the encampments. When outreach is conducted the module will follow individuals from camp to permanent housing (reported as a highlight).

- 2) A report can be run from CMIS that will show the homeless individuals assessed, and what type of housing is needed to house each individual. This report breaks it down into veterans and seniors as well.

Sample of Module:



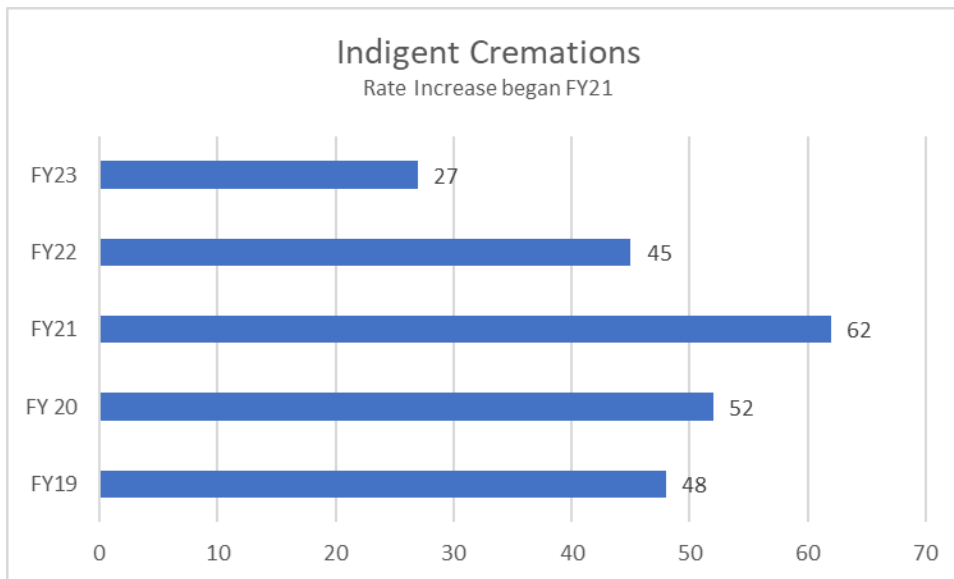
Individuals Assisted

As of February 15, 2023:

- Point in Time Count preliminary number for count completed on January 26, 2023, is **68 unsheltered homeless**. There was not a motel count conducted this year.
- An on-going housing program, Shelter Plus Care, is assisting **7 households** that were previously chronically homeless individuals.
- Homeless prevention programs through the Emergency Solutions Grant-Homeless Prevention and Affordable Housing Tax Fund assisted **19 households**.
- The Emergency Solutions - Rapid Rehousing Grant made it possible to rehouse **two households**.
- **Eight households** were assisted with security deposits through the Welfare Set-Aside funds.

Individuals Assisted, continued

- **Three households** received one-time rental assistance through the Welfare Set-Aside funds.
- **Six individuals** were housed in the CSHARES Program, which is the housing partnership between Human Services and the Carson City Specialty Courts.
- **One senior** gets a rent supplement funded through the Indigent Accident Funds (IAF). He has now relocated and no longer needs rental assistance.
- With the Emergency Solutions COVID-19 Grant, **4 households** impacted by COVID-19 were assisted with rental assistance to prevent homelessness.
- **Four residents** were housed in a location secured by CCHHS who did not have a place to isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19 or were at high risk due to medical needs.
- In FY23, **1 individual** in the county receives assistance for long term care.
- There are **134 individuals** (average) in the Medicaid County Match program (long term care) in FY22.



Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

For calendar year 2022:

- The Carson City Clinic has seen a total of **580 unduplicated participants**: 10% pregnant women, 5% fully breastfeeding, 3% partially breastfeeding, 10% not breastfeeding, 30% infants, and 43% children.
- The Gardnerville Clinic has seen a total of **294 unduplicated participants**: 12% pregnant women, 8% fully breastfeeding, 3% partially breastfeeding, 6% not breastfeeding, 33% infants, and 38% children.

Carson City Behavioral Health Task Force Update

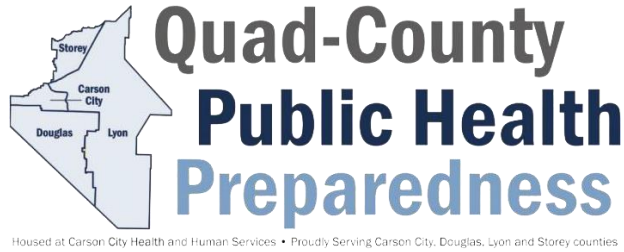
A Community Health Needs Assessment presentation was given. Behavioral Health continues to be a priority. This group of professionals will be part of the group working on the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Staff Training

National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) related to Community Services Block Grant (CSGB)

Budget

- General Funds – 29%
 - Grants – 71%*
- *Includes the Indigent Accident Funds



Public Health Preparedness

Emergency & Disaster Preparation

- Quad-County Public Health Preparedness (PHP) staff are leading Carson City departments in the development of a Mass Care and Sheltering plan for Carson City. This planning process brings together City leadership, Emergency Management, Public Works, Parks, Health, Human Services, Humane Society, American Red Cross, and volunteer groups such as CERT.
- Quad-County PHP staff are revamping the Western NV Medical Reserve Corps operational capabilities. This includes building situation-specific trainings for volunteers to include mass care sheltering and points of dispensing (POD) activities. This is being funded by a Medical Reserve Corps RISE award through NACCHO. Project completion date is June 2023.
- Several PHP staff members participated in the State Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) workshops in October. These workshops bring partners together who would be responsible for responding in an emergency to discuss the threats and risks to being able to accomplish responses effectively. Since every emergency has a public health component, it is important for staff to be engaged in this week-long event.
- The CCHHS COVID After-Action Report and Improvement Plan has been finalized and presented to stakeholders.

Health Care Emergency & Disaster Preparation

- Quad-County PHP staff and a member of the Quad-County Healthcare Coalition attended the National Healthcare Coalition conference in Anaheim, CA. The conference provided the opportunity to engage with federal project officers and healthcare coalition leadership from across the country to share best practices.
- The Quad-County Healthcare Ready and Response Coordinators are keeping the Coalition apprised of the surge in respiratory illnesses including COVID-19, flu, and RSV. Staff have shared information regarding clinical staff calls with the federal government, ordering processes, and symptomology. Additionally, the coordinators are sharing resource requesting information with healthcare providers regarding antivirals.
- Quad-County PHP staff supported healthcare partners during the winter weather event around New Year's Eve with details regarding oxygen, oxygen concentrators, and warming shelter locations.

Community Vaccinations

- Hosted 45 flu vaccination clinics administering 2,232 flu vaccines; mostly held in schools and administered to children. Total flu vaccinations administered by CCHHS in 2022 is about 10% lower than in 2021.

- October 1 – December 31, 2022: Hosted 12 COVID bivalent booster vaccination clinics administering 447 COVID-19 booster vaccines.

Staff Training

- One staff member helped facilitate a Northern NV Drought Workshop with Washoe County Health District and State Public Health Preparedness Division.
- Staff attended Region 9 training in California regarding the revisions to the Strategic National Stockpile.

Staffing Challenges

- As COVID-19 response decreases, staff are leaving to pursue other work that does not involve COVID-19.
- The search for a new Public Health Preparedness Manager began in September 2022 and continues as the search has been unsuccessful to date.

Budget

- General Funds – None
- Grants – 100%
- Revenue – Collected from health insurance companies and individuals for influenza vaccinations. (Community Vaccination Revenue)

CCHHS Administrative/Fiscal

Staff Report

- Employees – Number of employees - 55
 - 37 FT City Employees - 67%
 - 11 PT City Employees – 20%
 - 7 Contract Employees [Marathon, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)] – 13%
 - 4 Vacant Positions
 - 3 – Contracted (1) Health Officer, 2) Family Planning Medical Director, and 3) Pharmacist (not included in the percentages)

Challenges

- Hard to fill vacancies: 1) Fiscal/Grant Analyst – Health (will be posted again), 2) Public Health Nurse, 3) Epidemiology, and 4) Public Health Preparedness Division Manager

Budget

- General Funds – 100%
 - * Three of the fiscal staff (1 FT and 2 PT) are partially grant funded and are included within the appropriate division statistics.



Accreditation

- Additional documents or explanations requested submitted 6/23/22. To date, there has been no further news from the Public Health Accreditation Board.
- Next Steps -
 - Review of documentation by the site reviewers
 - Request for more documentation or explanations
 - Virtual site visit
 - Public Health Accreditation Board Decision

3rd Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Update

- Executive Summary and entire assessment are located on www.carson.org,

3rd Community Health Improvement Plan

Next step is development of this plan with the help of a collaborative group of professionals and residents.