

State of Nevada Board of Health meeting December 8, 2017

Thank you. My name is Neal Jones, I am a property owner in Belmont, Nye County, Nevada.

I am here to ask the assistance of this board with a potential public health issue. State law has declared this board to be supreme in all non-administrative health matters and that it has general supervision over all matters.... relating to the preservation of the health and lives of the citizens of the state.

Belmont is a small ghost town community in northern Nye County. Completely off-grid. No city water system, no city sewer system. Our water is supplied through wells and an artesian spring in town. Sanitation is by the use of septic systems.

In the spring of 2015 a well driller came into town and drilled multiple wells on under-sized parcels, parcels as small as 1/10 acre, some that had existing septic systems. State law stipulates that you have a minimum of one acre of land for a septic system to be on a parcel that is served by a well.

State law requires you to maintain a minimum of a 100 foot horizontal separation between a water well and the perimeter of the components of any individual sewage disposal system (ISDS).

State law requires on-site well drillers to ensure that the wells they drill comply with the requirements of all federal, state and local agencies which have jurisdiction over the land on which the wells are to be drilled.

The well driller did not maintain the state mandated 100 foot separation between wells and septic systems. This well driller drilled wells that are within 100 feet of an unpermitted on-site sewage disposal system (OSDS).

Nevada Division of Water Resources, in conjunction with Environmental Health Services has ruled that since the septic systems existed prior to the wells being drilled that the requirements to maintain this critical 100 foot separation was not applicable. Allowing for theoretically zero separation between these wells and the septic systems.

The Bureau of Water Pollution Control, who has jurisdiction over commercial septic systems, has stated that an un-permitted OSDS at a business in town is not required to maintain this mandated separation from their un-documented well, because BWPC states that this un-permitted OSDS was installed prior to August 26, 2008, but cannot provide any documentation regarding this un-permitted OSDS or when or how it was constructed.

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection has told the business owner that they need to get a permit for this OSDS through Nye County Planning. Nye County Planning, in e-mails with NDEP, BWPC and Nye County Water District has stated that they do not wish to have this business owner apply for a permit for this un-permitted OSDS, because they know that they would not be able to give this business a permit because the business would not conform to the requirements for an OSDS. Nye County also claims to have no records or information regarding this OSDS.

In phone conversations and e-mails with Ms. Cindy Ulch, the former Program Manager with Environmental Health Regulatory and Planning Services, Ms. Ulch stated that she had told NDWR that the well driller "had basically violated State law by creating a situation where ISDS setbacks could not be maintained due to his disregard for the requirements set forth in NAC

444." Ms. Ulch also stated to me that "the wells should never have been installed on the under-sized parcels in Belmont."

In water tests conducted by NDEP on some of the town water wells and the water distribution system fed by the artesian spring in town has shown this water distribution system to test positive for coliform bacteria and e-coli. The water distribution system also serves the aforementioned business.

One of the illegally drilled wells, drilled on a 1/3 acre parcel with an existing ISDS has shown nitrate levels approaching MCL. Another of the illegal wells, also drilled on a 1/3 acre parcel with an existing ISDS has been tested twice and has shown a 61% increase in the nitrate levels, test-to test. There is no agricultural activity in or around the townsite of Belmont, so runoff of nitrogen based fertilizers should not be the cause of the nitrates.

Luckily, the town spring has been tested and has not shown any signs of bacteriological or chemical contamination, yet.

The Nye County Water District has stated, in writing, that they will not investigate the sources of these nitrates in the wells in Belmont.

The State has established procedures for this well driller and the property owners to have applied for waivers or variances to have legally installed these wells, but they did not attempt to apply for these, they just drilled the wells.

The business owner still does not have a permit for their undocumented OSDS.

The business owner has now admitted to the existence of the undocumented well, and uses water from the well.

The State Engineer has stated, in writing, to NDEP that this would be "an illegal use" of the water.

NDEP has told the business owner that their undocumented OSDS and its "illicit discharges" are in direct violation of state law.

Nye County Planning has stated that they know that this undocumented OSDS could not meet the requirements needed for a permit.

These issues along with the wells drilled too close to the septic systems and not one of these agencies will uphold and enforce the existing laws of this State and protect our water from possible contamination and degradation and therefore creating a public health issue for the community of Belmont.

I ask that the board place these issues on the agenda for discussion at their next meeting and can investigate and possibly motivate these other agencies to enforce and uphold the laws of this State.

I would again like to thank the Board for allowing me the opportunity to speak at their meeting and expressing my deep concern for the health and safety of the residents of the community of Belmont. I would hope that the board could be of assistance in helping protect the health and safety of all who live and visit there.

I would like to submit this to be part of the meeting minutes.

Thank you.

Neal Jones, P.E.

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CARSON CITY, NEVADA
CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPALITY AND STATE CAPITAL

State Board of Health
Carson City Health and Human Services Report
December 8, 2017

Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

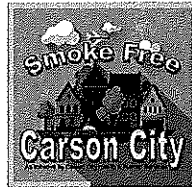
Diabetes

- Diabetes prevention and control efforts continue with staff continuing to meet with providers and discuss the toolkit and barriers to referrals.



Adolescent Health Education Program (AHEP) –

- This program continues to be busy providing both Abstinence and PREP classes. The requests received for comprehensive (PREP) classes exceed the funding amount; therefore, we cannot provide all the classes that are requested.



Tobacco Control and Prevention

- Western Nevada College (WNC) implemented their 100% Tobacco Free policy.
- Staff continues to work with Carson Tahoe Health to work on direct referrals in the electronic record system to Nevada Quitline (National Jewish Health Hospital). This electronic system upgrade would create a pop-up alert to staff when the smoking assessment is completed to refer the patient to the Quitline for cessation. This referral system will utilize the connection of the Nevada Health Information Exchange.

Carson City Health & Human Services

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Clinical Services (775) 887-2195 Fax: (775) 887-2192	Public Health Preparedness (775) 887-2190 Fax: (775) 887-2248	Human Services (775) 887-2110 Fax: (775) 887-2539	Disease Control & Prevention (775) 887-2190 Fax: (775) 887-2248	Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion (775) 887-2190 Fax: (775) 887-2248
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Clinical Services

- In October, a unidirectional HL7 interface for the transmission of immunizations from our electronic medical records (e ClinicalWorks) to the Nevada Immunization Information System (IIS) – WebIZ was initiated. This system currently feeds immunizations documented in the electronic medical record directly to a patient’s record in WebIZ.
- There have been some impacts to operations because of this interface – one being the reports that can be generated and the usefulness of the reports for comparison purposes.
- We want to thank and commend the State Immunization Program for all their work with this project.
- Clinic Services staff conducted flu vaccination clinic events in the community in addition to the events that Public Health Preparedness staff conducted.
- CCHHS provided vaccinations for Carson City employees during the annual Employee Health Fair.

Community Health Needs Assessment 2017

- CCHHS has hired an experienced person to assist in the facilitation of the CHIP workgroup meetings and development of the CHIP, which is our next step in this process.

Environmental Health

- The revisions to Carson City’s Food Code are being made and will go to Carson City’s Board of Health and Board of Supervisors for approval and the plan is to bring it to the State Board of Health in March 2018.

Epidemiology

- Within our jurisdiction, there have been 275 cases identified through testing, 1,208 influenza-like illness events reported from the ERs, and 26 hospitalizations reported.
- We are seeing an increase in more cases compared to last year within the same period.

Public Health Preparedness

- PHP staff conducted 50 flu vaccination events throughout the quad county area. Clinics were located within the community and in schools. Approximately 4,000 community members were vaccinated through this program.
- CCHHS has collaborated with Washoe County PHP to conduct training to community members to become part of the Nevada Access and Functional Needs Support Team. This team is an asset that can be requested during emergencies to support agencies responsible for sheltering or family assistance centers. This class

will be offered in Las Vegas in January. California is the only other state that has a program like this.

Human Services

- CCHHS staff are members of the Carson City Behavioral Health Task Force. One of the subcommittees is Affordable Housing. Carson City's Board of Supervisors just heard a report by the Nevada Rural Housing Authority on December 7, 2017. This report stated that Carson City has a current need of 1,350 rental units within the immediate future. The task force is planning a Landlord Summit and will be developing policy recommendations for presentation to the Carson City Board of Supervisors.
- CCHHS Community Health Worker is now a member of the FASTT (Forensic Assessment Services Triage Team) at the Carson City Jail. She is serving as a case manager for inmates getting out of jail and is assisting them with connecting to medical and social services.

Respectively submitted,



Nicki Aaker, MSN, MPH, RN
Director, Carson City Health and Human Services