

# Central Nevada Health District Health Officer's Report

May 9, 2024

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Enclosed in the Board packets are the reports from each of the department leaders. You will find the updates for the CNHD 's clinical, environmental health and epidemiology divisions. I will try to provide an executive summary and be available at our meeting to address any particular questions. As always, please feel free to request any other information or formats for future presentations.

Community outreach and education has been a focus for the last 4 months. The educational components have increasingly included the components of public health that are not so obvious or visible to the public yet make up a bigger percentage of CNHD's activities than clinical services.

## Environmental Health

Environmental health has seen an exponential increase in activity and interest. Requests for permits, inspections, consultation, and initial conversations to develop relationships with other counties or entities to provide environmental services have been a focus for April. This change has initiated conversations between the leadership members of the CNHD on how to adapt and focus resources on this increased demand for services.

The environmental department will face increasing challenges as CNHD takes on lead testing, water testing, solid waste testing, and disease vector investigation.

A new emergency management specialist has been hired.

## Epidemiology

The epidemiology department has been focusing on education and expanding capabilities for disease monitoring, education, and investigation.

CDC health advisory notifications are being placed on the district's website and into social media. Hospitals, clinics, and administrators in the CNHD are receiving these notifications individually. Feedback has been positive. Subjects include: measles outbreak in US, C. aureus outbreak in Las Vegas, world wide increase in polio and tuberculosis, and outbreaks of viral meningitis in the US secondary to increase in mosquito vectors.

Cases of respiratory diseases have steadily decreased (Flu, RSV, and COVID-19) The CDC will stop mandatory reporting of respiratory viruses May 15, 2024 and resume when the next respiratory season starts in Sept/Oct 2024.

CDC released a recommendation at the end of April that adults over the age of 65 were now eligible to receive a new COVID-1 vaccine.

## Clinical

Clinical visits continue to expand in Mineral and Churchill Counties. Based on historical data current visits are matching numbers seen by previous state nurses.

The efforts to reach out to the communities and educate citizens regarding our services have resulted in the successes listed in the clinical report.

The challenges presented are in the forefront of team meetings. Out-of-the-box thinking is encouraged and individual efforts to meet the patient where they are to provide services occurs. Medicare and Medicaid credentialing has been difficult. Changes in CNHD leadership and communication with the agency's credentialing teams delayed our efforts. Currently, through the efforts of our executive director, we are 85% finished with the process and the final application will be presented to the two agencies.

## Miscellaneous

The April UNSOM Rural outreach program saw 12 patients, providing vaccines, labs, referrals and examinations. The next outreach clinic will be July 12, 2024. Efforts are being made to include spaces for sports physicals. Members of the UNSOM sports medicine fellowship, Churchill County High School, and the CNHD are working to incorporate this service or to establish an independent sports physical event in August 2024.

The last 2 months have been exhilarating and exhausting. Much of CNHD team and leadership meetings are focused on how to deal with the success we are facing. This is a good place to be and there is a great team of people on the ground for the district to face the challenge. We are becoming more comfortable in understanding that we do not have just one department to overlook and that we share responsibility for the success of the other departments.

I personally would like to thank the CNHD team and the Board of Directors for the opportunity and support to be part of the birthing of this baby.

***Tedd McDonald MD***