

CARSON CITY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT – 2012



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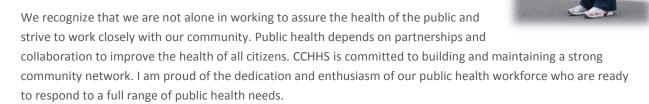
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From the Director

I am pleased to present the first Annual Report from Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS), a local Health Department that is a part of the Nevada Public Health System. Public Health focuses on the health of the population as a whole and places an emphasis on the causes of disease and what steps can be taken to mitigate better health for all. Public health is ultimately local and is not strictly about the local health department but rather how we link toward a community-wide strategic plan for health improvement.

CCHHS provides many services to the residents of our community, from promoting healthy lifestyles and protecting the health of our residents through immunizations and disease investigation to providing county welfare and animal services regulation and sheltering.



On behalf of CCHHS, I hope you find this report informative and after reviewing it have a clearer understanding of your local health department.

Marenesworks

Marena Works, MSN, MPH, APN Director

A Message from the Health Officer

I have been privileged to serve as your Carson City Health Officer and chair of the Board of Health since 2009. This presents a unique opportunity to positively impact the health of all the residents of Carson City. The Board of Health is committed to promoting the health of its citizens through provision of necessary health services, promotion of public immunization programs and support of a safe and healthy physical environment. Our health department has received national commendation for our influenza vaccine campaign and your public health leaders have made presentations to a national conference on board of health governance. We are proud to report improvements in the rate of appropriately immunized children in our community, decreases in the rates of sexually transmitted disease and improvements in provision of health services to the under- and uninsured members of our community.

One of the most notable achievements this past year has been the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP.) With input from business and professional leaders, as well as a wide variety of community participants, a plan has been developed that will help guide the efforts of the Board of Health and the Health Department for years to come. This plan outlines the most pressing of our public health challenges and provides suggestions as to what actions are necessary to improve these areas. I invite all members of the public to become familiar with the CHIP at www.gethealthycarsoncity.org and think about how you can become involved to improve the health of Carson City. The Carson City Board of Health is committed to working in partnership with our community to achieve healthy lifestyles and a clean and safe environment for all residents.

Susan R. Pintar, MD, FAAP

SRP. star

Chairperson of the Board







Board of Health 2013

Who We Are

BOARD OF HEALTH 2012

Dr. Susan Pintar — Public Health Officer Robert Crowell - Mayor Karen Abowd —Ward 1 Supervisor Shelly Aldean — Ward 2 Supervisor John McKenna — Ward 3 Supervisor Molly Walt — Ward 4 Supervisor

BOARD OF HEALTH 2013

Dr. Susan Pintar — Public Health Officer Robert Crowell — Mayor Karen Abowd — Ward 1 Supervisor Brad Bonkowski — Ward 2 Supervisor John McKenna — Ward 3 Supervisor Jim Shirk — Ward 4 Supervisor

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Marena Works – Director

Dustin Boothe – Division Manager, Disease Prevention and Control

Angela Barosso – Division Manager, Public Health Preparedness

Veronica Galas – Division Manager, Clinic Services

Cindy Hannah – Division Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion

Mary Jane Ostrander – Division Manager, Human Services

Gail Radtke – Division Manager, Animal Services

MISSION

To protect and improve the quality of life for our Community through disease prevention, education and support services.

VISION

Carson City Health and Human Services leads the region in providing services that support healthy communities.

VALUES

- Respect for Others: We treat everyone equally.
- **Competence:** We stay current with the latest resources available.
- Collaboration: We work together to meet the mission and move towards our vision.
- **Ethical:** We work professionally, respecting confidentiality and following laws and regulations.



Contact Information

Carson City Health and Human Services 900 East Long Street Carson City, Nevada 89701 Phone: 775-887-2190 Fax: 775-887-2248

www.gethealthycarsoncity.org

OVERVIEW

Clinic Services

- Family Planning
- HIV Testing
- Immunizations
- Men's Health

- STD Testing and Treatment
- Tuberculosis Screening and Treatment
- Well Child Checks
- Women's Health

Disease Prevention & Control

Epidemiology

- Public Health Surveillance and Detection
- Investigation of outbreaks (or individual cases) of reportable conditions or communicable diseases

Environmental Health

Inspections, plan review and emergency response for the following:

- Child Care Facilities
- Food Establishments
- Hotels / Motels

- Invasive Body Decoration Facilities
- Public Pools
- RV Parks

Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

- HIV Prevention Programs
- Promoting Health Among Teens

- Safe Routes to Schools
- Tobacco Prevention, Education & Cessation

Public Health Preparedness

- Community Partnerships & Coalition Development
- Exercises & Training / Education
- Health-related Emergency Preparedness Planning
- Hospital Preparedness Planning

- Interoperable Communications
- Mass Vaccination & Dispensing of Medical Countermeasures
- MRC & Volunteer Management

Human Services

- Community Access to Medication Program
- County Match
- Developmental Services
- Home Waiver Programs
- Indigent Accident Fund
- Indigent Burials

- Indigent Services
- Long Term Care
- Medical Indigent Services
- Sexual Assault Fund
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Workforce Program

Animal Services

- Adoptions
- Licensing
- Permits
- Bite Investigations

- Lost/Found Reporting
- Enforcement of Carson City Municipal Code (CCMC) and Nevada Revised Statue (NRS)

The annual report is reflective of calendar year 2012, except where designated as fiscal year (July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013), in the Funding Overview section and statistics for influenza under Disease Prevention and Control. All other data represents the calendar year.

Highlights of 2012

Stay informed!

Read our weekly articles in the Wednesday Health Section of the Nevada Appeal.

This year, one of our biggest projects has been working towards our goal of pursuing national accreditation. We have organized a dedicated Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) team within our staff to help with this process. In doing so, we actively engaged with our community to create a Community Health Assessment (CHA) and then collaborated with our Board of Health to map out avenues to best meet our community's needs through developing a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).



In May, Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS) received a national award for being an outstanding host agency to the Western Nevada Medical Reserve Corps at the 2012 MRC Integrated Training Summit in Nashville. The MRC was recognized for their volunteer contribution at the Family Assistance Center during the Reno Air Races tragedy in 2011.

In October 2012, Public Health Preparedness (PHP) conducted its annual drive-thru Flu clinic

exercise in Carson City and Minden in Douglas County. In Carson City, 2,058 people were vaccinated with the assistance of the Public Works department and more than 30 volunteers, including the MRC and CERT. In Douglas County, 1,697 community members were vaccinated with the assistance from East Fork Fire, CERT and over 50 volunteers.



In Environmental Health, we performed nearly 1,000 inspections of temporary and permanent food service establishments. Our largest events for temporary food permits are a Taste of Downtown and Nevada Day.

A new Human Services division manager was hired who has implemented cost-saving measures, resulting in saving the division thousands of dollars. The Workforce Program helped 42 individuals in our community to find new jobs.



Our newest division, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP), launched in January 2012. By the end of the year, CDPHP increased its capacity (2 to 4 staff members) to provide prevention services to the community.

In Animal Services, we doubled the amount of dog licenses issued in 2011. With each license we enforce State-mandated rabies vaccination requirements.

This was the first year we participated in the Nevada Day with a float in the parade to honor our military past, present, and future.

Clinic Services

Community health services focus on the promotion of healthy behaviors, the provision of personal health services, and the enhancement of the well-being of individuals and families in our community. This is accomplished through disease prevention and health promotion activities, such as immunization, identification and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, well child care, tuberculosis treatment and family planning services, as well as the establishment of partnerships with community organizations, businesses, consumers and health care providers.



We strive to raise the level of awareness and understanding of public health issues, to help people change behaviors that jeopardize their well-being, and to provide intervention and prevention services. Our income-based fee schedule and acceptance of Medicaid, Nevada Check-up and many insurance plans guarantees no one is turned away for services. Our staff is committed to providing quality health care services and referrals to meet all of our clients' needs. Through education and service, we work to promote health and impact the lives of those living in our community.

Accomplishments of 2012

- 6,660 Vaccines Given
- 2,582 Birth Control Services Provided
- 2,124 Domestic Violence Screenings
- 1,834 Depression Screenings
- 1,430 Safe Sex Kits Distributed
- 1,962 Breast and/or Cervical Cancer Screenings
- 1,292 Sexually Transmitted Disease Tests
- 995 Tuberculosis Screenings
- 806 Tobacco Cessation Interventions
- 759 HIV Tests Performed
- 636 Pregnancy Tests Provided
- 387 WIC Anemia Screenings
- 164 Well Child Exams
- 82 Pre-Employment Urine Drug Screens

The Clinic Services Division had an active year, overseeing 9,500 patient visits. Many individuals often receive more than one service per visit.

Our staff was also involved in many community outreach activities during 2012. On three occasions, we reviewed data in Nevada's Immunization Registry and sent reminder postcards to parents of children under 5 years of age needing additional vaccinations based on recommended standards. We participated in *National Infant Immunization Week* by promoting free immunizations to Carson City day care participants. We also provided breast health education to promote early screening and intervention. Staff offered free HIV testing on *National HIV Testing Day*. We offered health information to expectant mothers and new parents through

Text 4 Baby, planned and implemented two separate vaccination clinics at a local mobile food pantry site, and ended the year with Food for Flu, a campaign offering free flu vaccines to those who donated canned food to aid those in need in our community.

The Clinic operates on 8% general funds and 92% grant funds.

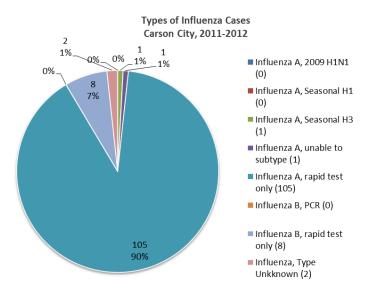
Disease Prevention and Control – Epidemiology

"Epidemiology is concerned with the distribution and determinants of health and diseases, morbidity, injuries, disability, and mortality in populations." — Friss & Sellers, 2004

The Epidemiology program is charged with carrying out the duties set forth in Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Code 441A Infectious Diseases; Toxic Agents. Epidemiology staff receives reports from local physicians and laboratories about the 68 conditions that are required to be reported in Carson City. These reports are part of the data collection that the epidemiology program engages in. These reports also provide the basic information to initiate an investigation of disease outbreak.

The Five Most Reported Conditions in Carson City for 2012

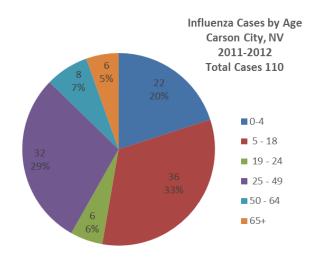
- 1. Chlamydia, 164
- 2. Influenza Type A, 118
- 3. Respiratory Synctial Virus, 59
- 4. Influenza Type B, 16
- 5. Gonorrhea, 9

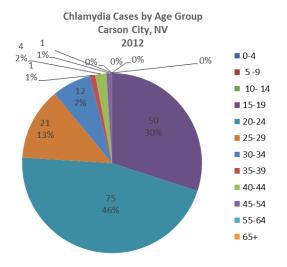




Did you know?

John Snow is considered the father of modern epidemiology for his studies of mapping out the spread of Cholera in London during 1854. His studies found that the disease spread by a water pump on Broad Street. For more information, visit the <u>UCLA Department of Epidemiology's website dedicated to John Snow</u> to learn more.





Disease Prevention and Control - Environmental Health

Environmental health consists of preventing or controlling disease, injury and disability related to the interactions between people and their environment. — Healthy People 2020

The Environmental Health program is in charge of educating, permitting, and inspecting public facilities, such as food establishments, temporary food establishments, bathing places, hotels and motels, child care facilities, invasive body decoration facilities, and school food service facilities.

Our biggest educational program is our food handlers' card. In 2012, 338 tests were given and 68% passed the test. In 2012, there were 590 permitted establishments, and staff conducted 898 routine scored inspections with follow-up.

Our largest program is the licensing and inspection of food program. In the warmer months, we also issue permits to temporary food establishments. During 2012, staff conducted 332 inspections of temporary food establishments.





Food Code Violations

There were 63 critical violations and 440 non-critical violations.

*Critical violations may lead to foodborne illnesses

Disease Prevention & Control has a total of 5.5 FTE: (2.5 FTE are 100% grant funded and 3 FTE are general funded).

Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion

CCHHS believes that prevention is a key part of building a healthy community for the future. The division promotes multi-dimensional, evidence-based approaches to educate, engage and motivate healthy lifestyles that improve health and prevent disease.

This year brought with it a brand new division at CCHHS, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. It has long been a goal of the Health Department to establish programs geared toward helping our community achieve healthier lifestyles.



By combining the already-existing Tobacco Prevention and STD/HIV education programs with upstarts Promoting Health Amongst Teens and Safe Routes to Schools, this new division represents a big step toward promoting healthier lifestyles in Carson City and beyond.

Tobacco Education and Cessation program is offered for adults and teens to assist individuals though the stages of change to successfully quit tobacco.

HIV Prevention is a target population program that offers free HIV testing and behavioral interventions for at-risk youth and adults.

Promoting Health Amongst Teens is a teen pregnancy prevention program targeting the 9-12-year-old age group. The purpose of the program is to delay the onset of teen pregnancy by promoting abstinence.

Accomplishments of 2012

- Educated 50 youth ages 9–12 in our Promoting Health Among Teens Abstinence Program
- Provided 972 HIV tests to high-risk community members
- Provided 9 Tobacco Cessation Classes to Carson City residents
- Received a new Safe Routes to School grant to begin in 2013

Safe Routes to Schools fosters partnerships and engages the community to implement education, engineering, encouragement, evaluation, and enforcement strategies that create a safe environment for children to walk and bike to school.



Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion is supported 100% by grants and does not receive any general fund dollars.

Public Health Preparedness

The Public Health Preparedness (PHP) Division mission is to prepare for, respond to and recover from events or threats to the health of the community. In addition to having the responsibility for Carson City, the State Health Officer has designated the authority for public health preparedness activities to Carson City Health and Human Services for Douglas, Lyon and Storey Counties.



The Nevada State Health Division receives preparedness funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), and distributes these funds to the local health authorities and other partners for community and hospital preparedness. PHP also applies for additional funding through foundations, corporations and associations.



In addition to the CDC Public **Health Emergency Preparedness** grant and the ASPR Hospital Preparedness grant, PHP also entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the Nevada State Health Division for Strategic Planning for Immunization Billing in Nevada health departments. This is a new project of statewide significance that proposes a structure for Nevada health departments to bill third party payors for immunizations. The goal is to be able to sustain immunization programs in clinic locations and various community events.

For the last nine years, Carson City Health and Human Services

has held an annual free flu vaccination clinic in the community (also called a Point of Distribution POD). This POD exercise is one of the biggest events that the health department is known for in the community. The Public Health Preparedness division at CCHHS works in collaboration with many members of the community by way of

recruiting volunteers through the Western Nevada Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), which also operates out of the CCHHS Public Health Preparedness division.

Accomplishments of 2012

- Performed 54 community influenza vaccination events, administering over 10,450 doses. Includes two community Points of Dispensing exercises in Carson City and Douglas County and 23 school-based clinics in Carson City, Douglas and Lyon counties
- Successfully obtained WellPoint Foundation funding to support adult influenza vaccination program.
- Provided educational materials at quad-county senior centers, school and employer health fairs, and food pantries.
- Staffed five First Aid booths and two education booths at various community events.
- Collaborated with Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and Storey Counties in the first-ever Medical Outreach Response
 Event (MORE) for low-income uninsured and underinsured residents.
- Participated in Northern Nevada Cyber Security training and exercise, Family Assistance Center exercise and Active Assailant workshop.
- Received the Outstanding MRC Housing Organization award from the Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps.
- Became a voting member of the Douglas County Local Emergency Planning Committee.
- Inaugural member of the Douglas County Healthcare Coalition.
- Co-chair the Healthcare Facility Preparedness Committee to support preparedness planning and development for skilled nursing facilities and adult assisted living facilities with memory care units in Carson City, Douglas and Washoe counties.
- Co-chair the Northern Nevada Access and Functional Needs Workgroup with Washoe County Health District to develop regional emergency planning for vulnerable populations.
- Eighty-one Medical Reserve Corps volunteers contributed over 1,000 hours in a variety of community events.

Public Health Preparedness is supported 100% by grants and does not receive any general fund dollars.

Human Services

Carson City Human Services is a community action agency providing a variety of services to the Carson City community. Human Services is responsible for ensuring that the City meets health, welfare, and community responsibilities, as set forth in the Nevada Revised Statues and City ordinances. The primary mandates are to provide services to the City's indigent residents and, as a community action agency, assist them in becoming self-sufficient. To assist with this mission, Human Services manages four housing grants, a workforce program grant, a prescription assistance grant, and a Women's, Infants, and Children (WIC) grant.



General Assistance and Mandated Services

During the last legislative session additional programs were passed down to the counties by the State of Nevada. Under new management, procedures have been implemented which have saved the division thousands of dollars. Trained staff reviews charges carefully to ensure that we are only paying for Carson City residents. This has resulted in a \$34,000 savings in Developmental Service's charges and approximately \$145,000 savings in long-term care costs.

A total of 3,356 residents had contact with Human Services in 2012; 941 persons were pre-screened for services.

Essential Services:

- Medical Indigent Services
- Indigent Services
- Sexual Assault Fund
- Indigent Burials
- Long Term Care
- County Match
- Home Waiver Programs
- Developmental Services
- Indigent Accident Fund
- Supplemental Fund

Housing

Two Shelter Plus Care grants through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provide permanent housing to residents that have been chronically homeless. Through intensive case management and partnerships with community resources, we assist individuals in overcoming the barriers that have prevented self-sufficiency. This is a long-term program to ensure future stability. Throughout 2012, eight individuals were assisted in this program. The third housing grant is the Low-Income Housing Trust Fund (LIHTF) that is administered through the State of Nevada Department of Business and Industry Housing Division. A case plan is developed with participants to work toward the goal of maintaining the household expenses independently within a six-month period. Participants need to be working, and each month the grant pays less of the rent as the participant's share increases. During the six-month period the case manager is working on increasing budgeting skills and linking participants with resources available in the community to manage their household expenses. We assisted 28 participants in this program in 2012. The fourth housing grant is a new project that will be implemented in 2013. Similar to the LIHTF, participants will be liable for portions of their rent and work toward complete sustainability within a six month period. This grant will assist us in providing housing for a working homeless person as well as prevent homelessness.

Workforce

Funded by the Community Services Block Grant, our Workforce Program offers Carson City resident job seekers a resource to strengthen their job searches, improve interview skills, and build résumés. The purpose of the program is to assist participants in becoming job ready. In this program barriers to becoming employed are identified and removed. In 2012, the Workforce Program reported 42 participants found work. A new case manager was hired at the beginning of 2013 for the Workforce Program. Our goals for 2013 are to partner with the business community and Western Nevada College to strengthen participant's job skills and job performance. We provide a Workforce Strategies class each week and have opened it up to anyone in our community that is looking for employment.



Community Access to Medication Program

This grant was awarded by NeedyMeds to improve the ability to find, apply for, and benefit from various programs that assist individuals with their medication and healthcare needs. High unemployment rates result in an increase of persons without insurance that cannot afford their maintenance medications. This is an outreach effort to educate residents, community agencies, and the medical community that there is assistance for these needs.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

WIC is a federally funded health and nutrition program to help women, infants, and children eat well and stay healthy. We have a WIC office in Carson City and one in Gardnerville covering the Douglas County area. WIC has increased outreach efforts by attending three health fairs as well as partnering with the Pregnancy Center and Salvation Army to bring services to those in need. A result of this outreach has shown an increase in mothers choosing a healthier option and breastfeeding their infants. Our clinics provided services to over 1,000 local families in need.

Human Services operates on 18% general fund dollars and 82% grant funds. General funds—1 FTE Manager. Grant funds—3 FTE WIC; 4 FTE / 1 PTE for Human Services.

ANIMAL SERVICES

Although many people think Animal Services only runs the animal shelter, in fact, they provide a wide range of services to our community. By law, Animal Control handles complaints about animals, including barking or biting reports. We also oversee dog licensing and enforce all other provisions of Chapter 7 of the Carson City Municipal Code, which deals with animal issues.



Animal Services works with a group of volunteers that assist employees with socializing and fostering pets for



adoption. Those individuals also work with staff to participate in community outreach and education events. Educating the community about responsible pet ownership is an important and often overlooked function of Animal Services.





Pups on Parole is a program where at risk dogs are rescued from the shelter and trained as Companion pets. We give the dogs manners, you give them love. All dogs

are trained for basic commands: "sit, lie down, heal, stay, and leave it." They are also house trained and socialized. All dogs are spayed or neutered and are current on their vaccinations. Contact: Carson City Animal Services – (775) 887-2171 or Warm Springs Correctional Center – (775) 684-3007 for more information.



Animal Services is funded 100% by general funds. There are 7 FTE, 3 PTE and one contracted employee.

Funding Overview

FISCAL YEAR 2013

The following represents the budget for the fiscal year 2013 (July 2012 – June 2013). This budget operates on 47.4% general funds and 52.6% grant funds.

	Admin	Animal Services	CDPHP	Clinic	EH/ EPI	Human Services	PHP	Total Staff
FTE	3	7	3	5	5	8	6	37
PTE	0	3	1	10	1	1	6	22
% General Fund	100%	100%	0%	8%	55%	18%	0%	
% Grant Fund	0%	0%	100%	92%	45%	82%	100%	
General Fund	1,134,957	394,572	0	79,644	262,459	394,572	0	2,266,204
Grant Fund	0	0	489,996	597,710	178,017	145,318	1,107,085	2,518,126
# of Grants	0	0	5	4	5	8	6	28

GRANT FUNDS

Each year, grant funds that CCHHS receives have dwindled, leaving the health department with less money to run programs or offer services. To date however, no programs have been cut. Instead, employees have become more flexible and innovative in delivering services to the citizens of our communities. If we continue to lose grant funds that support personnel, we will lose experienced and educated employees that are passionate about making our community a healthier one. Many programs and services the public has come to appreciate and rely on may go away.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

A "what if" scenario is presented below if the health department were to lose all of its grant funding (based on the same figures and percentages above for fiscal year 2013). This would leave staff, funds, and Essential Services looking something like this:

	Admin	Animal Services	СДРНР	Clinic Services	ЕН/ЕРІ	Human Services	Public Health Preparedness
Funds	\$1,134,957 (same as above)	\$394,572 (same as above)	\$0	\$79,644	\$262,459	\$394,572	\$0
Staff (FTEs)	1 Director 1 Finance 1 Admin (same as above)	7FTE 3PTE (same as above)	0	1 Nurse	2 Health Inspectors 1 Admin	1 Manager	0
Services Required by NRS	Not Required	NRS 574 • Animal Cruelty • Fighting • Food • Water • Shelter • Abandonment • Overcrowding • Animals in Vehicles • Adopting • Vaccinating • Altering NRS 441 A • Rabies Control	Not Required	NRS 441 A • Tuberculosis Treatment • STD Treatment	NRS 446 Food Establishments NRS 432 A Child Care Facilities NRS 439 Bottled Water NRS 444 Sanitation Schools & Jails NRS 583 Meat & Poultry NRS 585 Food, Drugs, & Cosmetics NRS 441 A Disease Investigation Requirements	NRS 428 Indigent Persons; Hospital Care for Indigent Persons; Institutional Care; Supplemental Fund; Indigent Accident Fund; Indigent burials NRS 217.290 Sexual Assault Fund, provides counseling up to \$1,000 to sexual assault victims NRS 277.180 Interlocal contract between public agencies. Allo ws State of Nevada to bill counties for non-federal Medicaid costs.	Not Required

^{*}This would bring the total number of employees from 59 down to 14, requiring general funded personnel to fill in where needed most. Essential services would be reduced to what is required by law, leaving all other additional programs up for evaluation.

Looking Forward

With a new year upon us, we have many things to look forward. We are moving with full force toward applying for national accreditation this spring. We've outlined a five-year strategic plan to lay a foundation of goals to achieve externally in our community while working in conjunction with our partners, as well as strengthening our internal processes through a new workforce development plan and quality improvement efforts.



In our Clinic Services Division, we are excited that we are now accepting many insurances for immunizations and other services. Through this, we hope to see more clients, while allowing us to recoup some of our costs and add revenue to make our clinic and outreach efforts in the community more sustainable.

In Environmental Health, we plan to finalize the adoption of a statewide food regulation code for safety. Following this, we will update our local codes. In Epidemiology, we are developing a core health indicator list to provide measurements for local health data.

In 2013, we are also looking forward to planning and implementing outreach efforts to prevent sexually transmitted diseases in our community. In collaboration with the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division, CCHHS will be providing STD prevention education to students at our local area high schools.

With our new Safe Routes to School program, we aim to get children, as well as adults in our community moving physically for a safe and alternative commute to school or work. We look forward to a number of events this year, including bike rides to promote this new program.

Our Public Health Preparedness division looks forward to promoting community resiliency by continuing to provide immunizations, education, and volunteer management through exercises, workshops and participation in community coalitions. In addition, we will continue to support the healthcare system through training, sharing of resources, and coalition development.

We are excited to see how our new program, Community Access to Medication, grant-funded by NeedyMeds; will educate residents, community agencies, and the medical community to assist individuals with medication and healthcare needs.

We also received a new grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to work in collaboration with our surrounding communities, beginning with Douglas County, to utilize resources and share resources cross-jurisdictionally.

The Animal Services volunteer / foster program with 76 active volunteers and 12 fosters, continues to grow and makes a huge difference in the lives of the animals owned by Carson City.

On behalf of our staff, we are excited about our upcoming events and programs to establishing a healthier community, and we look forward to making 2013 a healthier year!