



Hook Into Health

"Creating A Healthier Tomorrow"

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Cluster of Leukemia Cases in Churchill County (Part 2) Continuing Investigation

by Dr. Mary Guinan, State Health Officer



As of February 2001, the number of confirmed leukemia cases with a link to Fallon, in Churchill County has increased to eleven. All are children and have the diagnosis of acute lymphocytic leukemia. All resided in Fallon at some time prior to the diagnosis. Ages of the cases range from 2 to 19 years. One case was diagnosed in 1997, two in 1999 and eight in 2000. Two of these were not living in Fallon at the time of diagnosis. Dr. Randy Todd, State epidemiologist, is leading the investigation. The first phase was the gathering of information on the case children and their families. With help from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Cancer Institute, and other scientists, Dr. Todd developed a questionnaire which included questions about various exposures of the parents and child (before diagnosis), medical and family history, residences, military and occupational histories of the parents, source of tap water in each residence and exposures to known carcinogens. Before the interviews took place, each interviewee was promised strict confidentiality of the information and that the parents would be the first to hear the results of this first phase of the investigation.

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Public Health

A Day In The Life

Money is tight. The family has no insurance. You've just discovered you're pregnant and are unsure how to afford prenatal care, much less the care of an infant. An advertisement about WIC is being aired on the radio. You think you may qualify, so you call the state hotline number in the advertisement and are referred to a clinic in your area. While at the clinic, you learn about a program called Baby Your Baby. Suddenly, the future seems a bit brighter.

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Mission Statement

"Promote and protect the well being of Nevadans and visitors to our state by preventing disease, injury, and disability."

FAREWELL TO THE CHIEF

Richard J. ("Rick") Panelli retired from state service on February 2, 2001 after 30 years of service. Rick began his career as a microbiologist with the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory after graduating from the University of Nevada with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology in 1969 and completing a certificate in Secondary Education in 1970.

Early in his career, Rick began conducting Medicare laboratory certification surveys for the U.S. Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) while still employed with the State Laboratory. Rick moved to the Health Facilities Licensure (precursor to the present Bureau of Licensure and Certification) with the medical laboratory certification program and became one of only five Health Facilities Surveyor for all types of health and medical facilities throughout the state.

Rick's career grew to include new facility types as both state and federal regulations grew. In 1993, Rick became a supervisor and his new responsibilities included developing and revising regulations, training and supervising surveyors, reviewing and recommending sanctions on facilities with serious violations and presenting staff assessments of waiver requests to the State Board of Health.

In 1997, following the retirement of Sharon Ezell, Rick was selected as the Bureau Chief for Licensure and Certification. In this capacity, Rick was responsible for the oversight of all licensure and certification activities for health and medical facilities, laboratories, laboratory personnel, and emergency medical services and personnel. Rick's standard advice to new Bureau employees was always "Stick to your regulations!" This professional approach was well appreciated by providers, lawmakers and surveyors.

Rick's presence will be sorely missed; however, he leaves a healthier and safer Nevada for all who use the health care system. Although retired, Rick will continue his association with the Health Division as a contractor on special projects and legislative analysis over the coming months.

NEVADA DIABETES ALERT DAY

*by Kim Neiman, Diabetes Control Project,
Bureau of Disease Control & Intervention Services*

Tuesday, March 27, 2001, is the date when the Nevada Diabetes Council (NDC) will hold the second Nevada Diabetes Alert Day at the Nevada State Legislature. The day's activities will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a welcome coffee in room 3100 of the State Legislature Building, followed by a press conference at 9:00 a.m.

Members of the NDC, individuals and families affected by diabetes are invited to attend and participate in a program to educate Nevada State Legislators to the importance of supporting diabetes programs and related issues to help reduce the burden of diabetes in Nevada. Among the legislative issues that members of the NDC are requesting legislative support for are continued funding for the Pediatric Diabetes and Endocrine program, restoration of podiatry care for people on Medicaid and coverage of insulin pump therapy for Medicaid recipients.

Nevada Diabetes Alert Day is part of the NDC Access to Care/Public Policy workgroup's commitment to raise community awareness to the fact that diabetes is a serious public health care issue in our state. As part of this year's program, information and education materials will be on display in the atrium of the Legislature the week of March 26 to March 30. Organizations interested in being part of the display or wishing to help sponsor part of the day's activities are invited to call Mylan Hawkins, Executive Director, Nevada Diabetes Association for Children and Adults at 856-3839 or email ncada@icanv.com.

Tenth Annual Nevada EMS Conference

*by Fergus Laughridge, EMS Supervisor,
Bureau of Licensure and Certification*

The Tenth Annual Nevada EMS Conference will be held in Ely, Nevada, May 4-6, 2001. The conference sessions will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 4, with additional pre-conference sessions beginning Friday morning. The conference allows participants to learn state of the art, out of hospital, medical procedures and technology. The conference is open to all providers of emergency medical services. Last year's conference was well attended by physicians, nurses, and all levels of EMT's from across the state.

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LONG-TIME LOCAL NURSE PRACTITIONER DIES

by Henry Brean, Pahrump Valley Times

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If you've lived in the southern part of Nye County for any length of time, chances are you or someone you love has been examined, stuck with a needle or given some medical advice by Marilyn Gallivan.

A nurse practitioner specializing in women's health for the State Health Division for more than 27 years, Gallivan immunized countless children and treated countless women in Nye County and especially Pahrump. "She was just the second nurse practitioner to be licensed in the State" said Community Health Nurse Maureen Budahl, "she really was a pioneer."

Gallivan succumbed to cancer Sunday night at her home in Pahrump. She was 66.

A memorial service will be held in Gallivan's honor at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday (Dec. 10, 2000) at the First Southern Baptist Church at the corner of Fehrs Way and Highway 160 in Pahrump.

Those who knew Gallivan are left with plenty to remember, Budahl said.

Gallivan immunized literally thousands of children and, along with other community health nurses in Nevada, brought health care-particularly well-women's care-to parts of the county and the state that otherwise would not have had it. "She was to the point where she was immunizing grandchildren of folks she (immunized) before," Budahl said.

Early on in her career, Gallivan and her fellow public health nurses traveled all over rural Nevada, dispensing health care out of the back of an old ambulance. During the retirement party the State Health Division threw for Gallivan earlier this year, Budahl said a colleague told a story about Gallivan performing a Pap smear and a pelvic exam on a woman in the back of that ambulance in the middle of a "horrendous storm" in Ely.

Gallivan was licensed as a nurse practitioner in 1972 and started work for the State Health Division's tiny office in Tonopah. She moved to Pahrump in 1974, and, in addition to her regular nursing duties, assisted with the local ambulance service, which at the time kept the keys in its only vehicle at the post office (now the Cotton Picking Saloon).

"She took care of everybody," said Michelle Conger, Gallivan's only daughter.

But in addition to her service, her life was also marked by tragedy. Gallivan's first husband and her only son died within months of each other in 1980. Her second husband of 18 years, Chuck Gallivan, died in March of this year, and her mother died in July.

Gallivan was diagnosed with cancer last year and took medical leave from work to seek treatment in September 1999. She returned to the community health office in Pahrump this April and worked through May before retiring in June.

"You just don't find people who dedicate themselves so completely to a community," Budahl said. "It's rare that people stay around in one place for 27 years anymore."

Budahl described Gallivan as "the consummate professional" and her "mentor and friend". She also was a "fiercely proud, very independent person," right up until the day she died, when she flatly announced that she would not be moved to a hospice in Las Vegas.

"Filling her shoes, following in her footsteps is going to be a very difficult task," Budahl said. "I don't think you could fathom the number of lives she touched, including mine."

Gallivan is survived by her daughter, Michelle Conger and son-in-law, Dan Conger of Butler, Mo.; her brother, Richard Elo of Saugus, Calif., and her granddaughter, Tiffany Holovach.

Sunday's memorial service will be followed by a reception at the church.

NOTE FROM HEALTH DIVISION: Filling the void created by Marilyn's retirement is Joyce Zake (pronounced "Zock"). Joyce had previously been a school nurse in Pahrump. We are confident Maureen and Joyce will continue the fine tradition of commitment and service to the community established by Marilyn Gallivan.

STATE OF NEVADA

YOUTH ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE SELECTED STATISTICS

by the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

The National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reveals:

- Nationally: Among youth age 12 to 17, an estimated 1.1 million meet the diagnostic criteria for dependence on illicit drugs, and 915,000 are dependent on alcohol.

The 1999 National Household survey revealed that among Nevada youth age 12 to 17:

- 23,000 (16.0%) used an illicit drug in the past month.
- 12,000 (8.4%) were dependent upon drugs or alcohol.
- 25,000 (17.4%) used cigarettes and 22,000 (15.1%) binge alcohol use.

Compared to youth in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, the 1999 National Household survey revealed Nevada youth age 12 to 17 rank:

- 3rd in illicit drug or alcohol dependence reporting during the past calendar year of 1999.
- 3rd in the percentage of marijuana use reporting in the past month.
- 4th in the percent reporting for the past month for use of any illicit drug.
- 5th in the percent reporting for the past month in binge alcohol use.

The 1999 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report reveals the following:

- Alcohol is a major contributing factor in approximately half of all homicides, suicides, motor vehicle crashes, death and disability. It also contributes to physical fights, destroyed property, crime, marijuana use, poor academic performance, and multiple sex partners.
- 81% of Nevada high school students had at least one full drink of alcohol during their life. Since 1997, there has been a 3% increase in the percentage of students who report drinking.
- Of Nevada students who had sexual intercourse in the past three months, more than one in four (28%) drank alcohol or used drugs before the sexual encounter.
- 22% of males and 12% of females in Nevada drove a vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol.
- Nearly half (49.5%) of Nevada high school students have used marijuana at least once in their life.
- Approximately one in five Nevada high school students (19%) have sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled paint or aerosol spray to get high on at least one occasion.
- Approximately 16% of high school students in Nevada have used methamphetamines one or more times during their life.
- 3% of Nevada high school students used heroin one or more times in their lifetime.
- 1999 Nevada Statewide Arrests by Substance Abuse Offense Under the Age of 18 reveals:

Arrest for Drug/Alcohol Offenses	Males	Females
Driving Under the Influence	114	37
Drug Abuse Violations	1,382	328
Drunkenness	32	11
Liquor Law Violations	1,244	541

IF YOU DRINK OR USE DRUGS - DON'T DRIVE!

by Trenna E. Smith Montes,
Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

On your way home tonight you come upon a traffic accident busy with lights and stopped traffic. This disgusts you in your urgency to get home after a hard day of work. As the police direct you through the flares, within the mangled wreckage lie trapped people taking their last breath. A doll lies in the middle of the road that may have belonged to a child that lost a sister, brother, or parent. One ambulance screams away with a father that has lost his wife and his children, another waits as firefighters work with the jaws-of-life. Off to the side, a beer bottle silently spins.

You drive by the twisted metal, broken glass, and flashing lights with a thankful thought that it did not involve you, but do you stop to think of the thousands of people every year who continue to make wrong choices that contribute to the senseless killing on our highways and the negative impacts to our communities socially and economically? Costs of the accident include not only death but incurred costs to society such as: property damage, emergency treatment and medical costs, physical and mental rehabilitation, long-term care and treatment, insurance and legal expenses, damaged lives and ruined livelihoods, temporary and permanent disability, and devastated homes and families. The disaster and destruction that impaired drivers inflict upon themselves and their communities is immeasurable.

In order to reduce traffic fatalities there are policing maneuvers and sobriety checkpoints, but these alone cannot stop the losses. It is a personal responsibility to know that it is illegal to drive in Nevada if your Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) level is above .10. Even one drink decreases the ability to react quickly and can prove fatal when an impaired individual gets behind the wheel of an automobile. According to the State of Nevada, Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, in 1999 there were 11,913 DUI arrests in Nevada with an average .16 BAC level for arrest. Every single injury and death caused by drunk driving is totally preventable. Alone, alcohol and drugs do not kill people. Those that choose to drive a vehicle when they have consumed alcohol or drugs, whether they are licit or illicit, should consider the more horrible consequences other than fines, prosecution, or the loss of one's license. The consequences are crippling and fatal.

(EMS conference, continued from page 2)

The conference is again co-hosted by the University of Nevada School of Medicine Area Health Education Center, Nevada Emergency Medical Association and the State Health Division's Emergency Medical Services. The conference theme is "All Aboard for EMS." To tie into the theme, an after hours ride on the "Ghost Train" is scheduled for all conference participants with a barbecue at the train depot to follow.

The conference planners are anticipating an excellent conference, as the people of Ely welcome the health care providers with open arms. For conference registration contact Rosanna Gignac, EMS Coordinator, Nevada Office of Rural Health at (775) 738-3828.



NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWSLETTER READER INFORMATION

Would you like to remain on the mailing list for our newsletter? Yes _____ No _____

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New Address:

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E-mail address:

Please tear off this sheet and send to
Nicole Shore, Health Division,
505 E. King St. Room 201,
Carson City, NV 89701-4797

SAFE USE AND STORAGE OF HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

by Kinley Goodman, Environmental Health Section, Bureau of Health Protection Services

The average home has numerous cleaning products stored under the sink or in a closet or storage room. Most of these items may be toxic by themselves or they may become extremely toxic if combined. Occasionally, people will unknowingly combine cleaning products to "save time" or to attempt to make a stronger, quicker cleaning solution. This combination can be very deadly. For example, the combination of a chlorine-based cleaner and ammonia can liberate a deadly gas. Sometimes cleaning products can leak from their containers and combine producing dangerous liquids or gasses. The most beneficial advice that can be given is to read the instructions on the cleaning containers and follow those instructions. Remember that dangers exist with cleaning products and other chemicals stored in the home. Some of these dangers are: high/low pH (acid or alkaline), fire danger, or toxic gas hazard. The following may be of help to any homeowner and was taken from an article by Dr. Wilma Hammett, Housing Specialist, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service.

Managing Hazardous Cleaners

It is almost impossible to eliminate hazardous cleaning products in your home, but it is possible to reduce the risks to your family and your environment by making wise buying decisions and by handling products properly. This actually begins before you purchase cleaning products. Decide if you really need the product. Do you have adequate cleaners on hand already? Read the labels while making your selection at the store. Choose the product that best fits your needs.

When Buying:

1. Read labels.
2. Select the least hazardous product. Let the words poison, danger, warning, or caution be your guide.
3. Buy only as much as you need. Do not store chemicals long term.
4. Choose pump spray containers or other alternatives. (Aerosols are easily inhaled and may contain toxic/explosive propellants).
5. Choose water-based products instead of solvent-based products, when possible (such as paint, glue, shoe polish, etc.)

When Using:

1. Read the label directions for each product.
2. Follow the label directions for each product.
3. Use common sense.

When Storing:

1. Read label directions for each product.
2. Follow the label directions for each product.
3. Leave the product in its original container with the original label attached.
4. Never store hazardous products in food or beverage containers.
5. Make sure chemical containers are tightly sealed.
6. Store hazardous products out of the reach of children and animals.
7. Store incompatible products separately. (For example, do not store chlorine products with ammonia products.)
8. Use volatile products in well-ventilated areas.
9. Keep containers dry.
10. DO NOT store rags that have been used with flammable products, such as furniture stripper or paint remover.
11. Keep flammable products away from heat or sources of ignition.
12. DO NOT store hazardous products above or near food.

For more information, contact the Nevada Environmental Health Section at (775) 687-4750, ext. 252, or visit the following Web site for other great articles including recipes for making cleaning products at home (Electronic Publication No. FCS-368-2) and home buying and management tips:
www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/housing/docs/index.html.

HEALTH PASSPORT PROJECT HIRES NEW SITE MANAGER

by Steve Woodbury, Bureau of Family Health Services

The partners of the Nevada Health Passport Project (HPP) have hired Ginger Paulsen as project site manager. Ginger replaces Marty Brown who left the project in September after relocating with his family to Portland, Oregon. Ginger brings with her 17 years of experience in marketing and special events and program management. She is highly respected in the marketing community and has served as president of the Nevada Chapter of the American Marketing Association. We think Ginger will be a great asset to our HPP team. For anyone not familiar with the project, HPP is a three-state demonstration project using "smart card" technology to put health-related information at the fingertips of mothers and their children. The HPP is the largest healthcare demonstration for smart cards in the United States and is being conducted in North Dakota, Wyoming and Nevada.

The project will demonstrate how people can use these electronic cards to give up-to-date information to their healthcare providers, early childhood educators, and to redeem WIC food benefits at the store using electronic benefits transfer (EBT). The demonstration will also determine whether the use of the Health Passport will simplify and improve access to health services, resulting in healthier moms and kids.

The specific partners participating in the Health Passport Project vary among the three states. In the Nevada demonstration area (Reno) they are the Washoe County WIC and Immunizations, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada WIC, and CSA Head Start.

The Health Passport Project has four specific goals. One is to reduce healthcare costs—in terms of time and money—for patients and healthcare providers by having accurate information where and when it is needed. Another goal is to improve the quality of care by giving patients better access to the care for which they are eligible and by reducing gaps and duplication in patient records so they get the right care. The project also aims to give individuals more control over this information so they can take more responsibility for their health and the health of their family. Finally, the Health Passport Project hopes to improve "customer satisfaction" with public health services. The Nevada Pilot launched in June of 2000 and is scheduled to run through December of 2001. For more information on the program or on the effort to roll out statewide, contact Ginger Paulsen at (775) 853-9420.

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK DISTANCE LEARNING COORDINATOR

*by Michael Huse,
Bureau of Disease Control & Intervention Services*

The rapid expansion of information technology over the past decade has given birth to a broad range of quality educational programs being offered on a distance-related basis. Therefore, educational institutions across the nation have utilized advancements in technology to create distance-learning capabilities that can reach out to all segments of our society.

Distance learning refers to teaching and learning situations in which the instructor and the learner are geographically separated, and rely on electronic devices and print materials for instructional delivery. Distance education opens the door to working individuals who cannot attend traditional programs because of time, travel and cost constraints. The Distance Learning Coordinator (DLC) plays a key role in bringing students and educators together for a convenient educational experience. Part of my role as DLC in the Health Division is to provide resources for educational opportunities to interested public health workers. A major resource for live satellite broadcasts has been the Public Health Training Network (PHTN). The PHTN is a branch of the CDC that provides a broad range of educational programs that focus on public health issues.

The PHTN Website www.cdc.gov/phtn/calendar offers a month-by-month schedule of satellite broadcasts that are available for educational opportunities. In an effort to encourage participation in these programs, I am inviting you to take a look at the PHTN calendar and see if there is a program that you would be interested in viewing. If you have interest in a particular program, please complete and send me the "Satellite Broadcast Request Form" at the above website. Note that we need a two-month lead time on requests so that proper facility scheduling can be arranged.

I am hopeful these procedures will encourage increase participation in the ever-expanding list of distance-learning programs. As an incentive, please keep in mind that many of these programs offer Continuing Education Units (CEU).

Third Quarter, 1999 vs. 2000

	July-Sept 1999	July-Sept 2000	% change	YTD 1999	YTD 2000	% change
AIDS	73	59	-19%	203	217	7%
AMEBIASIS	2	3	50%	8	4	-50%
ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	19	34	79%	43	72	67%
INFANT BOTULISM	1	1	0%	1	2	100%
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	34	65	91%	100	166	66%
CHLAMYDIA	849	1008	19%	2375	2926	23%
CHOLERA	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
COCCIDIOIDOMYCOSIS	9	8	-11%	28	22	-21%
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	3	2	-33%	6	4	-33%
DIPHtheria	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
E.COLI 015	12	10	-17%	16	11	-31%
ENCEPHALITIS (PRIMARY)	2	0	-100%	6	0	-100%
GIARDIASIS	65	64	-2%	149	141	-5%
GONORRHEA	375	415	11%	992	1112	12%
HANTAVIRUS (HPS)	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
H.FLU INVASIVE	1	1	0%	3	3	0%
HEPATITIS A	41	17	-59%	108	51	-53%
HEPATITIS B	10	16	60%	43	38	-12%
HEPATITIS C	4	8	100%	9	12	33%
HEPATITIS (UNSPECIFIED)	0	0	0%	0	2	200%
HIV INFECTION	83	83	0%	223	275	23%
LEGIONELLOSIS	0	0	0%	6	0	-100%
LEPROSY	0	1	100%	2	1	-50%
LYME DISEASE	0	2	200%	2	3	50%
MALARIA	1	0	-100%	2	4	100%
MEASLES	0	0	0%	0	7	700%
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE	2	0	-100%	6	2	-67%
MUMPS	0	2	200%	2	2	0%
PERTUSSIS	0	5	500%	1	7	600%
PLAGUE	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
POLIO	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
PSITTACOSIS	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
RABIES, ANIMAL	5	7	40%	5	8	60%
RELAPSING FEVER	0	3	300%	0	3	300%
ROTAVIRUS	49	60	22%	728	555	-24%
RSV	81	81	0%	1779	1425	-20%
RUBELLA	0	0	0%	1	0	-100%
SALMONELLOSIS	59	97	64%	141	205	45%
SHIGELLOSIS	34	20	-41%	54	81	50%
SYPHILIS, P&S	0	0	0%	4	4	0%
SYPHILIS, TOTAL	2	0	-100%	29	9	-69%
TETANUS	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
TUBERCULOSIS	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
TULAREMIA	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
TYPHOID FEVER	1	0	-100%	1	0	-100%
YERSINIOSIS	0	0	0%	4	2	-50%

* = Due to computer problems, Tuberculosis data is currently unavailable.

GREETINGS FROM THE NEW INJURY PREVENTION COORDINATOR

by Kristen O'Gorman Rivas, Bureau of Family Health Services

As the new Injury Prevention Coordinator for the Nevada State Health Division, I would like to introduce myself and share with you some of my experiences in health care.

In many ways, joining the Nevada State Health Division marks a return for me to my first interests in Health Education and Promotion. As a graduate from the University of Nevada Reno with a health science degree in Health Education and Promotion and a minor from the addiction technology center, I became interested in addiction and the health and safety of the community. I am currently pursuing a Master's of Science degree in Counseling and Education Psychology, with an emphasis on Mental Health and Addiction. I will complete this degree in August. As you can imagine, I am very excited about completing this goal.

During the past four years, I was the director of Choices Unlimited, the primary treatment center for Adult and Family Drug Courts, Washoe County. This position's broad spectrum allowed me to work directly with clients on treatment issues, education, performing administrative work, and representing clients in the Adult and Family Drug Court proceedings. Prior to assuming the directorship, I worked at the University of Nevada Reno, Student Health Center as a front-end manager and the drug testing

coordinator for the intercollegiate athletic department. I wore many hats in this position, ranging from clinical care responsibilities to educating parents and incoming students on health and available services for a period of six years. Coincidentally, I have recently taken interest in injury prevention issues.

Without question, my experiences have shaped within me a deep appreciation for the importance of injury prevention as a public health issue. In the next few months, my immediate efforts will be to focus on reorganizing and contacting the Injury Prevention Data Task Force. Getting acquainted with all parties involved in this mission and with the help of the Task Force, I plan to develop, manage and coordinate the Bureau of Family Health Services Injury Prevention Program to the best of my ability.

As a lifetime resident of Nevada, I am very excited to finally be on board with the State of Nevada's Health Division. I am pleased to be part of this very important endeavor. In the meantime before I meet all of you, please feel free to call me at (775) 684-4285 or e-mail Krivas@govmail.state.nv.us. You may see my name appear as either O'Gorman or Rivas until my wedding in April. I will be using both names in hopes that it will technically save time and money. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you!



NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION, ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

by Chris Forsch, Contractor, Bureau of Family Health Service

“Fluoridation is the single most important commitment a community can make to the oral health of its children and to future generations”

Dr. C. Everett Koop, Surgeon General of the United States, 1981-1989

Water fluoridation is the process of adjusting the fluoride content of water to the recommended level to prevent dental decay. Fluoridation is viewed as the single most effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay and to improve oral health over a lifetime. A policy statement on water fluoridation, signed in 1992 by the Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service and the Assistant Secretary of Health recommended fluoridation of community water supplies in areas where naturally occurring fluoride levels are deficient.

By direction of the Legislature, the community water supplies in Clark County, Nevada initiated optimal water fluoridation on March 1st, 2000. On November 7, 2000 voters in Clark County voted to continue fluoridation. Clark County Question No. 1 asked, “Should the water authority and each public water system in the county that serves a population of 100,000 persons or more cease the fluoridation of the water?” 57% of the voters said, “No” they did not want to stop fluoridation.

(Leukemia, continued from cover)

Dr. Todd and his aide, Kelly Service, interviewed and completed the questionnaires for each parent and the case child. The interviews began in September and were completed by December for nine of the cases. The additional two cases were reported subsequently. We told the parents that investigation of cancer clusters rarely result in finding a cause of the cluster. However, the Health Division would do the most thorough investigation to determine if there is an environmental health risk in the community that is contributing to the cause of the leukemias.

Dr. Todd met with the parents of the cases in December and presented the results of his investigation. An analysis of the collected data did not reveal any common exposure that was suspect as a possible cause or contributing cause of the leukemia. The Health Division continues to receive reports of suspect cases, and we investigate each case. The families were told that the next step of the investigation would be to convene a panel of experts to review our work to date and advise us on next steps. The expert panel met on February 15, and the recommendations are posted on the website. The expert panel was also brought to Fallon to speak with the families and address their concerns and questions.

Media interest has been intense. Both local and national media have taken a keen interest in the cluster investigation. The Health Division brought in additional resources including Luana Ritch, a health educator and former information and education officer for the Division, to coordinate communication with the media and the public. She, with John Flamm, our current information officer, organized community meetings at the Fallon Naval Air Station for military families and a Fallon community meeting for all interested community members. They established a hotline for the community to call to express their concerns or ask questions. We have also put information on the Health Division website. See inset for hotline number and website address. The website will be updated regularly with new information. We are taking further action steps in the community, which I will share with you in the next newsletter. In the meantime, Governor Guinn held a briefing in Fallon for community leaders and pledged to continue to make this investigation the highest priority of the Health Division. Assemblywoman Marcia De Braga held three days of legislative hearings from February 12-14 on the Fallon leukemia cluster. A subcommittee will issue recommendations in the near future. To keep up to date, visit our website.

Nevada State Health Division
Community Information Line:
1-(888) 608-4623
Please visit our Website:
Health2k.state.nv.us

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Meetings, Seminars and Conferences

- April 2 – 5** *11th National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference* in Nashville, TN
For more information call: (410) 631-3868 or visit the website: www.deq.state.las.us/nrep/
- April 6** *Board of Health meeting* at Washoe County District Health Department, 1001 E. 9th St., South Auditorium at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Kay Picton at (775) 684-4200
- April 13** *Board of Trustees for the Trust Fund for Public Health* in Reno at Washoe County Complex, Washoe County District Health Department at 9:30 a.m.
Contact: Phil Weyrick at (775) 684-4200
- April 27 - 28** *Nevada Early Childhood Conference* in Las Vegas, NV from 11:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. and from 7:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Sponsored by NAEYC - National Association for the Education of Young Children. Contact: Amber Jocoba at (702) 208-0430 or (775) 850-8009
- April 29 – May 2** *33rd National Conference on Radiation Control* in Anchorage, AK
For more information call: (502) 227-4543 or visit the website: www.crcpd.org/random/
- May 3** *The Childbearing Years And Preconception Counseling Workshop* at the Elko Convention Center, Elko, NV, 9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$40 Registration Fee, ceus available.
Contact: Cynthia Huth at (775) 684-4250
- May 4 – 7** *Substance Abuse and Librarians Information Specialists Conference* in Anchorage, AK
Contact: Trena Smith-Montes at (775) 684-4095
- May 16** *Quarterly Nevada Diabetes Council Meeting* via compressed video
Contact: Poc Maddie Barney at (775) 684-5982
- May 31 – June 3** *Independent Diabetes Association Conference* in Reno, NV
Contact: Mylan Hawkins at [Http: www.ndaca@icanv.com](http://www.ndaca@icanv.com)

National Health Observances

MARCH

National Kidney Month
Nutrition Month

National School Breakfast Week, 5-9 National American Diabetes Alert, 23rd

APRIL

National Infants Immunization Week, 22-28
National Public Health Week, 2-8
National Sexually Transmitted Diseases Awareness Month

Child Abuse Prevention Month
Alcohol Awareness Month
Kick Butts Day, 4th

MAY

National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month
National High Blood Pressure Month

National Osteoporosis Month
National Running and Fitness Week, 13-19

JUNE

Fireworks Safety Month (through July 4)

National Men's Health Week

JULY

National Mammography Day, 19th

National Infection Control Week, 16-22

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Frequently Called Health Division Numbers

Nevada State Switch Board - North	(775) 684-1000
- South	(702) 687-5000
Health Division Administration	(775) 684-4200
Health Planning & Statistics	(775) 684-4218
Office of Vital Records	(775) 684-4242
Health Protection Services	(775) 687-6353
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	(775) 687-4750
Environmental Health	(775) 687-4750
Milk Sanitation	(775) 687-3787
Public Health Engineering	(775) 687-4754
Radiological Health	(775) 687-5394
Water (SDWA)	(775) 687-6615
Licensure & Certification	(775) 687-4475
Emergency Medical Services	(775) 687-4475
Family Health Services	(775) 684-4285
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	1-800-8NEVWIC
Baby Your Baby	1-800-4BYBNOW
SCC, Reno	(775) 688-1341
SCC, Las Vegas	(702) 486-7670
Community Health Nursing	(775) 687-6944
Community Health Promotion / Educator	(775) 684-8014
Disease Control & Intervention Services	(775) 684-5900
Women's Health Connection	1-888-463-8942
AIDS Hotline	1-800-842-AIDS
Immunization Program for VFC Providers	(775) 684-5913
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)	(775) 687-4800
Diabetes Control Project	(775) 684-5949
TB	(775) 684-5938
Tobacco	(775) 684-5914
Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse	(775) 684-4190



Department of Human Resources

Nevada Health Division

505 East King Street, Room 201

Carson City, Nevada 89701

[HTTP://www.state.nv.us](http://www.state.nv.us)

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