

Key Health Issues and Priorities to Improve Health Outcomes and Reduce Health Disparities in Nevada

**Presentation to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on
Health and Human Services**

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2022 State Health Assessment

- Describes the current health of Nevadans
- Includes data on numerous health issues and outcomes
- Incorporates input from more than 2,000 Nevadans through surveys and focus groups
- Identifies health needs, challenges, and barriers

<https://dpbh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dpbhnavgov/content/About/AdminSvcs/DPBH-SHA-2022.pdf>

2023-2028

State Health Improvement Plan

- Provides **guidance** to state and local agencies, community organizations, and stakeholders on key issues to improve health
- Serves as a **tool** to create or refine priorities; prioritize resource allocation; and develop and implement projects, programs, and policies
- Provides a **foundation** from which to take collective action and facilitate collaboration

State Health Improvement Planning Process



SHIP Priorities



**Social Determinants
of Health**



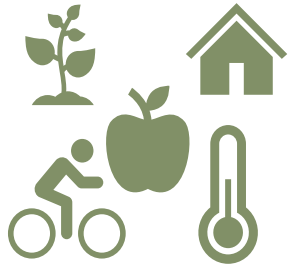
**Access to
Health Care**



**Mental Health and
Substance Use**



**Public Health
Infrastructure**



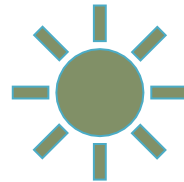
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH



Food Insecurity



Health Literacy



Air Quality / Climate Change



Supportive Housing



ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE



Access to Oral Health Care



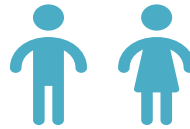
Behavioral Health Workforce



Health Care Workforce



MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE



Children's Behavioral Health



Crisis Response System



Substance Use Prevention,
Harm Reduction, Treatment,
and Recovery



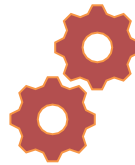
Investment in the Behavioral
Health System



PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE



Flexible, Sustainable Public
Health Funding



Public Health Workforce



Data and Informational
Technology Modernization



Public Health Governance,
Quality, and Community
Engagement

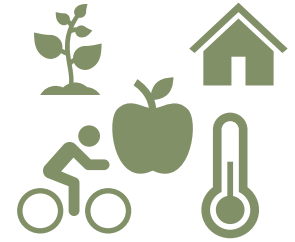
Questions?

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Appendix A:

SHIP Goals and Objectives

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH – FOOD INSECURITY

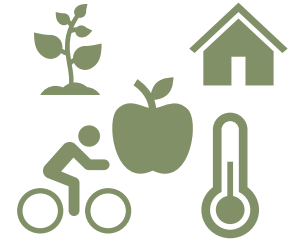


Goal 1: Reduce food insecurity and improve the overall food security ecosystem in Nevada to help eliminate the hunger gap

Objectives:

- 1.1:** Improve collaboration, communication, coordination, and information-sharing among food ecosystem partners
- 1.2:** Partner with local farmers, food vendors, tribal communities, and other community organizations to support initiatives aimed at increasing mobile access to healthy foods throughout the State of Nevada, and specifically in underserved and remote areas
- 1.3:** Support new strategic partnerships and increase awareness among the food security ecosystem regarding service providers and funding opportunities that can assist with distributing food to people, particularly individuals at increased/ higher risk for food insecurity
- 1.4:** Increase participation in state/federal nutrition programs by individuals experiencing food insecurity and/or who are higher risk for food insecurity

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH – HEALTH LITERACY

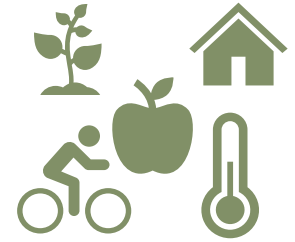


Goal 2: Increase health literacy in Nevada by improving communication access for priority populations to reduce language and other literacy-related barriers

Objectives:

2.1: Assess and reduce health literacy disparities within marginalized communities and communities of need in Nevada by supporting health equity-related initiatives

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH – AIR QUALITY



Goal 3: Reduce exposure to harmful air emissions and climate pollution, and improve ambient air quality and health equity throughout Nevada

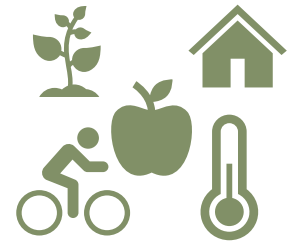
Objectives:

3.1: Increase Nevada's resilience to climate pollution and other pollutants

3.2: Reduce emissions of harmful pollutants

3.3: Improve communication about and accessibility of air quality information

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH – SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



Goal 4: Increase the availability of supportive housing in Nevada through greater cross-sector, interagency collaboration, and the development of supportive housing units

Objectives:

- 4.1:** Establish the infrastructure for a work group on supportive housing to create accountability to guide state policy on permanent housing solutions to address homelessness and housing insecurity for people with complex needs comprised of housing providers, advocates, people with lived experience, and specialized subpopulation experts. Define service models and potential for service financing including Medicaid financing
- 4.2:** Support implementation of Assembly Bill 310, the Supportive Housing Development Fund, and leverage evaluation data to help inform longer-term service funding investments with sources like Medicaid
- 4.3:** Support provider capacity-building efforts by assisting community-based organizations and supportive housing projects with determining their total cost of care
- 4.4:** Work with the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy to expand Medicaid's SDOH strategy within its managed care program, including strengthening screening for homelessness and housing instability of their members as part of the state's in lieu of coverage program for housing supports and services. Ensure that regular reporting of this data is part of the managed care organization reporting to the state and reported to the Interagency Council on Homelessness to Housing.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

ORAL HEALTH CARE



Goal 1: Increase access to oral health care services in Nevada

Objectives:

- 1.1:** Improve prevention efforts to reduce prevalence of early childhood caries (ECC) and provide timely care for children with ECC
- 1.2:** Develop systems to provide oral health surveillance for the State of Nevada through the Oral Health Program within the Department of Health and Human Services
- 1.3:** Increase access to oral health care in rural Nevada by expanding clinics and patient access points
- 1.4:** Build the infrastructure capacity of the Nevada Oral Health Program to improve oral health statewide

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE



Goal 2: Grow and diversify the behavioral health workforce in Nevada to improve access to mental health and substance use services

Objectives:

- 2.1:** Establish the Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center of Nevada to create a robust pipeline for behavioral health professionals that builds on existing successful programs, establishes new programs and training opportunities, and enhances connections through the educational system and professional licensing
- 2.2:** Improve behavioral health professional recruitment and retention by increasing the number of professionals who receive financial incentives, such as loan repayment, to practice in Nevada
- 2.3:** Increase the number of clinical internships available for behavioral health profession students to meet internship experience requirements for licensure
- 2.4:** Increase use and integration of community health workers (CHWs) and peer recovery support specialists in clinical behavioral health settings and schools in Nevada

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE



Goal 2: Grow and diversify the behavioral health workforce in Nevada to improve access to mental health and substance use services

Objectives:

- 2.5:** Increase the number of opportunities to improve behavioral health professionals' wellness, address mental health needs, and reduce burnout
- 2.6:** Increase the number of school-based mental health professionals to improve mental health provider-to-student ratios
- 2.7:** Maximize the use of telehealth to increase the number of behavioral health professionals providing services in Nevada, especially in rural and underserved areas

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE



Goal 3: Increase the number and diversity of health care providers in Nevada to better reflect the communities they serve and improve access to care

Objectives:

- 3.1:** Enhance and diversify the health care career pipeline by increasing the number of young people who are aware of and receive information about health profession career options at an early age, with a focus on underrepresented communities and those in rural and frontier Nevada
- 3.2:** Improve health care provider recruitment to Nevada through increasing the number of professionals who receive financial incentives, loan repayment, and graduate medical education opportunities
- 3.3:** Maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of Nevada's current health care workforce by increasing integration of community health workers (CHWs), who increase minorities' access to care and serve as liaisons between health care providers and the communities they serve
- 3.4:** Increase the number of opportunities to improve health care professionals' wellbeing, address mental health needs, and reduce burnout
- 3.5:** Improve cultural competence within the health care workforce to improve provider-patient communication, reduce health disparities, and improve health outcomes

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE – CHILDREN'S BH



Goal 1: Increase access to children's behavioral health services, including school-based behavioral health services, in Nevada to ensure children are served in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs

Objectives:

- 1.1:** Expand availability and use of home- and community-based behavioral health services across settings and the continuum of care (for example, mobile services, high fidelity wraparound services, school-based health services, and in-home therapy)
- 1.2:** Develop, support, and maintain a high quality, well-trained, and adequate network of behavioral health providers to improve quality of and access to care (see Access to Care Goal 2)
- 1.3:** Reduce and prevent unnecessary institutional placements by assessing and diverting children to home- and community-based services when appropriate

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE – CHILDREN'S BH



Goal 1: Increase access to children's behavioral health services, including school-based behavioral health services, in Nevada to ensure children are served in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs

Objectives:

- 1.4:** Increase the number of children engaged in discharge planning and connected with home- and community-based services prior to exiting institutional settings (such as residential behavioral health or juvenile justice settings), so they can return to and remain in the community successfully
- 1.5:** Develop new Medicaid benefits for children's behavioral health services
- 1.6:** Increase access to specialized behavioral health services for children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) and mental health needs
- 1.7:** Increase the use of pediatric and/or school-based universal screenings across settings (such as services covered under Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment [EPSDT] benefit)

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE – CRISIS RESPONSE



Goal 2: Increase the number of individuals and families who access appropriate care when experiencing a behavioral health crisis by fully implementing Nevada's statewide crisis response system in alignment with national best practices

Objectives:

- 2.1:** Enhance 988 call center operations to meet national best practice standards (i.e. related to the ability to dispatch, bed registry, case management, data management system), and improve response times for those who access 988
- 2.2:** Increase the number of people whose behavioral health crisis receives a timely response and connection to services through designated mobile crisis teams
- 2.3:** Increase the number of crisis stabilization centers in Nevada that provide individuals experiencing behavioral health crisis somewhere to go

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE



SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION, HARM REDUCTION, TREATMENT & RECOVERY

Goal 3: Increase the number of individuals receiving appropriate services throughout the continuum of care by increasing and improving prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery services in Nevada

Objectives:

- 3.1:** Increase public awareness and education about substance use disorders, their effects, and available prevention, treatment, and recovery services to promote understanding of substance use disorders, reduce stigma, and increase knowledge about available resources and support
- 3.2:** Improve access to high-quality, evidence-based treatment options and make them affordable and equitable for all individuals in need
- 3.3:** Strengthen and elevate early intervention strategies to identify and address substance use issues promptly—before they evolve into more severe challenges—including through the creation of a robust drug surveillance program.
- 3.4:** Support recovery-oriented systems of care, including access to harm reduction services, to assist individuals in recovery and facilitate their reintegration into society
- 3.5:** Foster collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, healthcare providers, school districts, community organizations, and law enforcement, to create a unified approach to addressing substance use issues

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE - INVESTMENT



Goal 4: Increase investment in the behavioral health system in Nevada—including federal, state, local, and private funding for mental health and substance use treatment and services to adequately support all components of the system

Objectives:

- 4.1:** Increase overall State General Fund investment in Medicaid, and use these additional dollars to raise reimbursement rates for behavioral health services
- 4.2:** Increase investment in (non-medical) wraparound services to assist those experiencing mental health challenges and substance use disorders
- 4.3:** Increase financial incentives to attract and retain behavioral health professionals in Nevada (see Access to Care Goal 2)
- 4.4:** Increase private sector and philanthropic investment and financial support of robust behavioral health services to help all Nevadans receive appropriate care (e.g. hospital investment in behavioral health clinics)
- 4.5:** Pursue / encourage implementation of strategies to increase sustainable funding and reimbursement in Nevada's behavioral health system, as outlined in the [Behavioral Health Community Integration Strategic Plan: Nevada's 2023 update to the Strategic Plan for Behavioral Health Community Integration](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING



Goal 1: Invest in the public health system, with funding levels that are appropriate, flexible, and sustainable to better meet current challenges and ongoing needs

Objectives:

- 1.1:** Increase flexible, non-categorical State General Funds and local government funding provided to state and local public health authorities and counties
- 1.2:** Develop an estimate of the cost to fill the gaps in Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS), based on the FPHS assessments conducted in Goal 4
- 1.3:** Increase the capacity of Nevada's public health system to apply for public health funding to improve the health of communities, address health disparities, and promote health equity by creating one or more positions dedicated to identifying and applying for funding
- 1.4:** Increase new sources/types of federal, philanthropic, and alternative funding for public health to state and local public health authorities and counties, and schools of public health at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)

PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE WORKFORCE



Goal 2: Improve recruitment and retention of a diverse and inclusive governmental public health workforce

Objectives:

- 2.1:** Improve ongoing data collection to identify strengths and needs of the public health workforce statewide by conducting annual workforce development assessments
- 2.2:** Improve access to free, high-quality public health training that meets identified needs of state and local public health professionals in Nevada to improve retention and career advancement
- 2.3:** Elevate and support implementation of the Public Health Workforce Pipeline Development Plan created by the Nevada Health Care Workforce and Pipeline Development Workgroup to strengthen and diversify public health workforce pipelines; expand internships, fellowships, loan-repayment, and other career on-ramp programs; and improve hiring and promotion policies/procedures to ensure diversity and high-quality public health services

PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE WORKFORCE



Goal 2: Improve recruitment and retention of a diverse and inclusive governmental public health workforce

Objectives:

- 2.4:** Advance health equity by assessing organizational culture within state and local public health authorities and making organizational changes to improve cultural awareness/competence, create an inclusive workplace, and improve staff retention and the quality of services
- 2.5:** Establish new or enhance implementation of existing academic health departments between academic institutions, state and local health authorities, and technical training programs to build a cross-disciplinary workforce and provide students with experiential opportunities in public health

PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

DATA & IT MODERNIZATION



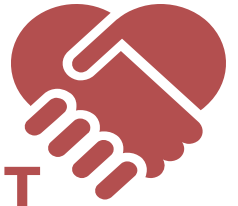
Goal 3: Strengthen the collection of timely and actionable public health data to improve efficiency, operations, and services; enhance interoperability; guide programs; respond to emergencies; and address health inequities

Objectives:

- 3.1:** Modernize and invest in efficient, interoperable data collection and IT systems to improve and enhance the collection, analysis, accuracy, and timeliness of public health data statewide to address health inequities in communities
- 3.2:** Increase data available to the community by developing user-friendly data dashboards and other systems to display real-time data
- 3.3:** Explore and identify opportunities to improve data sharing and interoperability between state and local public health authorities and health care entities to reduce health disparities and inequities

PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

GOVERNANCE, QUALITY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Goal 4: Improve and strengthen governance and quality of Nevada’s public health system—ensuring a minimum set of public health services for all—and improve partnerships and community engagement to communicate the value and availability of these services in all Nevada communities

Objectives:

- 4.1:** Assess FPHS provided by each local health authority and by DPBH in rural and frontier counties that do not have public health authorities; identify gaps and the number of FTEs necessary to address them
- 4.2:** Increase the number of state and local health authorities that are accredited or reaccredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) or pursuing PHAB’s Pathways Recognition Program
- 4.3:** Continue progress toward enhancing public health services in the 11 rural counties that do not have health districts, including opportunities to regionalize, create efficiencies, and/or share resources
- 4.4:** Strengthen partnerships with and understanding of the role and value of public health authorities among the public, policymakers, other sectors (e.g. education, health care, housing, law enforcement, transportation) and stakeholders (e.g. business, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations) by clearly delineating shared goals, respective responsibilities, and building sustainable and equitable collaborations