



NEVADA LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE
(*Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 439B.200*)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The fourth meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Legislative Committee on Health Care was held on March 5, 2014, at 9 a.m. in Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 3138 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/77th2013/committee/>. In addition, copies of the audio or video record are available through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's (LCB) Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Senator Justin C. Jones, Chair
Assemblywoman Marilyn Dondero Loop, Vice Chair
Senator Joseph (Joe) P. Hardy, M.D.
Senator Joyce Woodhouse
Assemblyman James Oscarson

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Marsheilah D. Lyons, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division
Risa B. Lang, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Eric Robbins, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Sally Trotter, Principal Administrative Assistant, Research Division

OPENING REMARKS

- Chair Jones welcomed members, presenters, and the public to the fourth meeting of the Legislative Committee on Health Care (LCHC).

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Jones called for public comment; however, no testimony was presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2014, IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2014, MEETING HELD IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR DONDERO LOOP AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE HEALTH STATUS OF CHILDREN IN NEVADA

- Jay Kvam, MSPH, State Biostatistician, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), presented a *Child and Adolescent Health Special Report* (hyperlink provided as [Exhibit B](#)). He referenced statistics from 2009 to 2012 pertaining to child and adolescent health. Mr. Kvam pointed out that during the four-year period, a total of 506 children and adolescents died due to accidental causes. He stated that motor vehicle accidents were the most common cause of accidental death, and overall, adolescents were at the highest risk for accidental death due to any cause. Mr. Kvam discussed statistics from the Report regarding deaths due to homicide, natural causes, and suicide.

He said that motor vehicle accidents, attempted suicides and homicides, and poisoning attribute to hospital and emergency room admittances. Mr. Kvam mentioned an increase in the rate of mental illnesses in adolescents and children. He discussed the *2013 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report* (hyperlink provided as [Exhibit B-1](#)), which provided data gathered to assess trends in health risk behaviors among high school students in the following areas:

- Safety;
- Violence-related behaviors;
- Depression and suicide;
- Tobacco and alcohol use;
- Marijuana and other drugs;
- Diet and physical activity;

- Weight; and
- Health-related topics.

Concluding, Mr. Kvam discussed nationwide trends of increased rates of pertussis. He explained there is a possibility that the vaccine does not provide lifetime immunity.

Responding to Chair Jones's request for recommendations for the Legislature, Mr. Kvam offered the assistance of the DPBH to work with the LCHC.

- Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate and Director of Programs, Prevent Child Abuse Nevada, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, School of Community Health Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), provided an overview of children's health in Nevada ([Exhibit C](#)). She remarked that Nevada's overall health ranking was 37 in 2013, an improvement from 2010. Dr. Haboush-Deloye discussed:

- Teen pregnancy and sexual health statistics;
- The increase in HIV infections;
- Importance of early prenatal care;
- The percentage of low birth weight babies in Nevada;
- Breastfeeding benefits and State statistics;
- Overall physical health statistics by medical condition;
- Obesity and contributing factors;
- Immunization statistics;
- Oral health and the importance of early preventive dental care; and
- The prevalence of mental health disorders in children and adolescents.

Dr. Haboush-Deloye stated that in a survey of kindergarten students, 4.5 percent of parents attempted to access services and 30 percent indicated access to providers and insurance coverage as barriers to receiving services, particularly in Clark County.

Continuing, Dr. Haboush-Deloye presented other impacts to child and adolescent health including: (1) lack of health insurance; (2) under-enrollment for eligible children in Medicaid; (3) not having a primary care provider; and (4) not receiving annual check-ups. She pointed out two barriers: lack of insurance and money to pay for services.

- Vice Chair Dondero Loop asked for a breakdown on where homeless children live and why homeless teens are not living at home. Dr. Haboush-Deloye offered to contact Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth for that information.

In response to Assemblyman Oscarson's request for data on the number of homeless youth in rural areas, Dr. Haboush-Deloye said she would provide more information. She mentioned the *KIDS COUNT Data Book* as a good resource. Dr. Haboush-Deloye commented on possible difficulties obtaining rural area statistics due to confidentiality and lack of information.

- Senator Woodhouse remarked that information regarding poverty and homeless children was provided at the last meeting of the Task Force on K-12 Public Education Funding by Julie Waller, Senior Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB.

Responding to Chair Jones's inquiry regarding increases in medical coverage since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, Dr. Haboush-Deloye said that the enrollment had just started and there is no data available yet. She pointed out budget concerns and the importance of evidence-based programs. Dr. Haboush-Deloye requested the Legislature consider the significance of investing in children.

Senator Woodhouse and Dr. Haboush-Deloye discussed immunizations. Dr. Haboush-Deloye indicated that problems with access, transportation, and childcare impact immunization rates, especially in Nevada's rural areas.

In response to Assemblyman Oscarson's query regarding programs in schools addressing allergies and asthma, Dr. Haboush-Deloye mentioned two projects at UNLV that work with schools to address asthma.

Responding to Senator Hardy's inquiry regarding statistics on barriers to immunizations, Dr. Haboush-Deloye stated that she did not have any statistics. She suggested the Immunization Coalition may have that information.

PRESENTATION CONCERNING PERINATAL HEALTH AND BIRTH OUTCOMES

Beth Handler, Program Manager, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Program (MCH), Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness, DPBH, DHHS, presented a handout and slides on "Improving Birth Outcomes in Nevada" ([Exhibit D](#)). She testified that the MCH is observing adverse birth outcomes because of preterm birth, low birth rates, and infant mortality. Ms. Handler provided Nevada's ranking in those three areas. She presented information regarding:

- Infants born to women receiving prenatal care beginning in the first trimester;
- Obesity among women;
- Maternal overweight and obesity by race/ethnicity;
- Pre-pregnancy and gestational diabetes in Nevada 2010-2012; and
- Preterm births among smokers and non-smokers.

Ms. Handler pointed out the following modifiable risk factors: (1) lack of prenatal care; (2) obesity; (3) chronic conditions; and (4) cigarette smoking, alcohol use, or illicit drug use during pregnancy. She discussed the National Governors Association's Learning Network on Improving Birth Outcomes—formed to address the costs and problems associated with preterm births—its mission, core team, and goals. Ms. Handler provided examples of initiatives in Nevada. She commented that the next

meeting for the National Governors Association will be held on March 26, 2014. In closing, Ms. Handler announced plans to utilize uniform and integrated data.

In response to Chair Jones's question regarding the relationship between smoking and preterm births, Jay Kvam, previously identified, said there is a causative relationship between smoking and preterm birth. He added that nicotine is a contributing factor; however, he is not aware of any studies conducted on the effects of the nicotine patch on preterm birth. Mr. Kvam offered to research the information.

There was discussion between Senator Hardy and Ms. Handler regarding methadone statistics, high-risk pregnancy, and substance abuse.

- Chair Jones commented that the LCHC would benefit from hearing the outcomes from the National Governors Association's meetings.

UPDATE CONCERNING CHILDHOOD DISEASES AND PREVENTION EFFORTS IN NEVADA

Immunization and Infectious Disease

- Karissa Loper, M.P.H., Program Manager, Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP), DPBH, DHHS, provided background on the NSIP including its funding and program to provide vaccinations at no charge to eligible children ([Exhibit E](#)); information from the *2012 Final Pertussis Surveillance Report* ([Exhibit E-1](#)); and the Centers for Disease Control National Immunization Survey ([Exhibit E-2](#)). She testified regarding an increase in the reported cases of pertussis in Nevada. Ms. Loper pointed out Nevada is ranked 39th in the National Immunization Survey. She commented that adolescent immunization rates at 86 percent are attributed to a State mandate requiring one tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis immunization to enter high school. She announced that Nevada is ranked at 62 percent (ninth in the nation) for HPV immunizations.

A discussion occurred between Senator Hardy and Ms. Loper regarding immunizations to children with private insurance. Senator Hardy wondered whether there are any restrictions on providing immunizations to children. Ms. Loper mentioned strict enrollment policies for the vaccines in the NSIP. She said that private providers are required to keep a separate stock that is labeled for children who have private insurance. She added that data is reported by category on a monthly basis. Senator Hardy commented on challenges to providers tracking separate groups. He wondered about any differences in the success rates between the two groups.

Ms. Loper offered to find statistics on vaccination rates by insurer status and provide it to the LCHC. Senator Hardy stated his goal would be to allow any child of insurance coverage type to enroll and receive vaccinations.

- Heidi S. Parker, M.A., Executive Director, Immunize Nevada, discussed Immunize Nevada's mission and coalition benefits ([Exhibit F](#)). She pointed out that transportation, provider shortages in rural areas, and uninsured or under-insured children are all barriers to children receiving immunizations. Ms. Parker mentioned Immunize Nevada was developed to help families understand what services are available to them. She reported that Immunize Nevada works in three areas: advocacy, access, and outreach. Ms. Parker discussed:
 - Key target areas;
 - Access to vaccines;
 - The School-located vaccination clinics billing project;
 - Outreach through media;
 - Community partnerships; and
 - Seasonal influenza vaccination promotion and assistance.

She encouraged everyone to be ambassadors and promote the importance of vaccines. Ms. Parker provided a handout of the *Immunize Nevada 2013 Annual Report* ([Exhibit F-1](#)).

- Chair Jones commended the NSIP and Immunize Nevada for their efforts to raise Nevada's profile in immunizations.

Responding to Assemblyman Oscarson's request regarding the number of immunizations provided to health care workers, Ms. Parker reported that to date there were over 1,000 vaccinations provided through the mobile pantry project. She noted over 10,000 vaccinations were provided in schools. Ms. Parker said in seven hospitals 90 percent of the employees are vaccinated and in three hospitals 100 percent of the employees are vaccinated.

Chronic Disease

- Monica Morales, M.P.A., Program Development Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, DPBH, DHHS, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "Child and Youth Wellness in Nevada" ([Exhibit G](#)). Her presentation highlighted:
 - The top chronic diseases in Nevada;
 - How Nevada children are measuring on national wellness benchmarks;
 - Physical activity by age;
 - Nutrition among children in the United States;

- Childhood obesity percentages in kindergarten and youth grades 9 to 12 by gender;
 - Overweight and obese adults by ethnicity and gender;
 - Smoking prevalence, including youth who smoked before age 13 and exposure to tobacco promotional materials by region; and
 - Oral health screening surveys of third graders and Head Start students.
- Marsheilah D. Lyons, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB, asked for clarification regarding which page contained the incorrect figure. (Subsequent to the meeting, the correct information was submitted. See [Exhibit G](#).)

Continuing, Ms. Morales presented information regarding:

- Youth who reported having asthma;
- Type 1 diabetes among youth 18 years or under;
- Preventing the burden of chronic disease among children and youth;
- Costs of chronic disease, including direct and indirect costs; and
- Funding to support chronic disease efforts per capita by state.

She commented on insufficient federal funding in Nevada for chronic disease matters. Ms. Morales noted that we have not maximized leveraging federal dollars into our State. She pointed out opportunities to enhance public health including: (1) public policy to address youth access to tobacco products; (2) promoting standards around obesity and physical activity in schools; (3) collection of data for evaluation measures especially relating to body mass index (BMI) and oral health.

Ms. Morales discussed the DPBH programs on obesity prevention, tobacco prevention and control, and oral health, as well as the community health worker pilot project. In closing, she offered these strategies: (1) continue to collect data in areas such as BMI and oral health; (2) enhance the community health worker model; (3) provide public policies to deter access to tobacco by youth; and (4) include physical activity standards in K through 12 and early childhood education.

- Assemblyman Oscarson commented on the increase in the rate of asthma and the costs of chronic disease in Nevada. He requested more information on asthma costs and statistics.

There was discussion between Senator Hardy and Ms. Morales regarding the community health care model. Senator Hardy wondered whether there was any information from other states regarding the credentialing and training of community health care workers. Ms. Morales stated that Arizona, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Texas delivered technical assistance and a Medicaid reimbursement model was provided by Massachusetts and Texas. She testified that the model has been

endorsed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a viable model. Ms. Morales shared some of the financial benefits of the community health care worker. She said that in Massachusetts for every \$1 spent it receives a \$7 return. Senator Hardy wondered about funding. Ms. Morales said she is requesting consideration of the Model for potential reimbursement by Medicaid.

- Chair Jones commented that the first round of a pilot program at the College of Southern Nevada and Truckee Meadows Community College was approved to provide training to community health workers.

Childhood Obesity and Overweight

- Denise Tanata Ashby, J.D., Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance, provided a presentation on childhood obesity prevention ([Exhibit H](#)). She pointed out that national standards on childhood obesity are consistent with Nevada's standards. Ms. Ashby discussed the development of policy and practice-level intervention. She reported that a statewide group formed to observe childhood obesity in early child care and education settings in an attempt to address this issue. She cited *Caring for our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs* as a guide to best practices. Ms. Ashby commented that Nevada's regulations only meet 3 of the 47 standard components for preventing childhood obesity in early childhood education settings.

Discussion ensued regarding the standard components. Chair Jones asked whether the standards needed to be added by NRS or the *Nevada Administrative Code* (NAC). Ms. Ashby clarified the standards are not mandatory.

Continuing, she provided the following goals and strategies to reduce overweight and obesity rates: changes to the NAC regarding nutrition, snacks and meals; definitions for physical and sedentary activity and screen/media time; and provisions for facilities to provide a time and place for activities for children who cannot sleep during nap time. Ms. Ashby testified that revisions would need to be made to NAC 432A.400 to prohibit a facility from withholding or forcing physical activity as a form of discipline. She announced that early education centers would have an opportunity to review proposed regulations, and training, resources, and technical assistance would be provided. Ms. Ashby stated that these recommendations would be provided to the LCHC.

In response to Chair Jones's question regarding surveys, Ms. Ashby stated that questions were sent out collectively. She added that there was a comment section for individual concerns regarding the economic impact.

Responding to Senator Hardy's inquiry regarding authority to implement the recommendations, Ms. Ashby said they could implement changes in conjunction with

the DPBH. She indicated that the LCHC would need to provide recommendations to the Legislature to implement the necessary legislation in NRS.

In response to Vice Chair Dondero Loop's query regarding the number of child care centers in the State, Ms. Ashby responded that surveys were sent out to 492 licensed child care centers and a total of 93 responses were received back from the providers.

There was discussion between Assemblyman Oscarson and Ms. Ashby regarding the impact of the proposed change on childcare centers in rural areas. Assemblyman Oscarson wondered whether the implementation would be phased-in to lessen the impact. Ms. Ashby affirmed the process would be made as easy as possible to lessen the economic impact. Assemblyman Oscarson commented that during the legislative session there was opposition regarding costs to train workers.

CONSIDERATION OF REGULATIONS PROPOSED OR ADOPTED BY CERTAIN LICENSING BOARDS PURSUANT TO NRS 439B.225

(As directed by Chair Jones, this agenda item was taken out of order.)

LCB File No. R111-13RP1, Board of Psychological Examiners

- Risa B. Lang, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB, provided a copy of the proposed regulation ([Exhibit I](#)).

Discussion ensued between Senator Hardy and Sarah Bradley, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, and Attorney, Board of Psychological Examiners. Senator Hardy wondered whether the regulation would help to hire and retain psychology interns in Nevada. Ms. Bradley testified that the purpose of the regulation was to hire psychology interns. She said the regulation would provide for interns to be registered and eligible to bill insurance.

Oral Health

- Christina A. Demopoulos, D.D.S., M.P.H., State Dental Director, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness, DPBH, DHHS, provided written testimony regarding the Oral Health Program (OHP) in Nevada ([Exhibit J](#)). She reported the OHP has been working in conjunction with the sealant partners to better assess the oral health needs of Nevada's children. Dr. Demopoulos testified that the Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov) objectives provide a benchmark for Nevada and information is provided to the National Oral Health Surveillance System on an annual basis.

She presented an overview of the prevalence of dental decay, the negative effects of dental problems, and preventive efforts to help reduce the rates of decay

in children. Dr. Demopoulos pointed out issues in metropolitan and rural areas of the State regarding dental care. She discussed an overview of 2012-2013 data received from 40 schools in Clark and Washoe Counties and mentioned that 60 percent of the children in those schools were uninsured. Dr. Demopoulos remarked that with continued support the OHP intends to develop programs in more rural counties. She stated that the Healthy People 2020 objectives for sealants in third grade children were met in the 2008-2009 academic year. Dr. Demopoulos commented on the importance of funding for public health surveillance programs. She mentioned efforts to leverage available funding and create a more innovative approach to address the oral health needs of Nevada's children.

Dr. Demopoulos recommended the following considerations to address the oral health needs of children:

- Support to ensure that oral health is an important component when addressing overall health;
- Support the use of pediatricians and community health workers to assess and provide screenings and sealants; and
- Increase the oral health literacy of parents.

In response to Vice Chair Dondero Loop's question regarding costs and insurance coverage for sealants, Dr. Demopoulos stated that the cost is approximately \$25 to \$35 and is reimbursable. She testified that Title 1 schoolchildren can receive sealants at no cost.

Responding to Senator Hardy's inquiry regarding dental health delivery, Dr. Demopoulos responded that the University's dental services are not available in every county due to limited resources. She noted not all providers are Medicaid providers and discussed efforts being made to encourage providers to accept Medicaid. Dr. Demopoulos commented on problems recruiting dentists due to lack of employment opportunities and the lack of funding incentives. She offered to provide information regarding the number of students that remain in Nevada or return to the State to practice.

In response to Vice Chair Dondero Loop's request for clarification regarding employment opportunities, Dr. Demopoulos stated that Nevada Health Centers is currently not hiring new dentists. She stated that colleagues from other states have saturated the market and typically bring their own staff. Dr. Demopoulos offered to solicit clarification from Nevada Health Centers.

There was discussion between Senator Hardy and Dr. Demopoulos regarding hiring practices for dentists. Dr. Demopoulos affirmed that Nevada law regulates the hiring practice. She said she will provide information on other states' laws.

PRESENTATION REGARDING CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENT INJURY AND PREVENTION EFFORTS IN NEVADA

- Jay Kvam, previously identified, provided a hyperlink to a single page of fast facts on sleep-related infant mortality ([Exhibit K](#)).

Suicide Prevention

- Misty Vaughan Allen, M.A., State Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP), DHHS, presented information on suicide rates in Nevada and the United States ([Exhibit L](#)). She provided: (1) death counts and rates by age group; (2) a 2013 Nevada youth risk behavior survey; and (3) OSP initiatives and activities to reduce the number of suicides. Ms. Allen talked about a campaign developed to educate parents on how to suicide-proof their homes. She stated that gun safes and locks were purchased through a grant to educate parents on safe gun ownership. Ms. Allen reported on partnerships with Nevada's Department of Education to develop safe and respectful learning environments in schools provided by the passage of Senate Bill 164 (Chapter 393, *Statutes of Nevada 2013*).
- Chair Jones commended the OSP's efforts to educate parents on safe gun ownership and suicide prevention.

Discussion ensued as a result of Chair Jones's request for suggestions to reduce youth suicide rates in Nevada. Ms. Allen advocated multi-level prevention strategies. She testified that limiting access to lethal means is one of the few proven strategies across the nation. Ms. Allen noted screening and early intervention in schools is very important. She said partnerships with the DPBH to build connections in families and communities would impact suicide prevention. Chair Jones commented on other states that had high firearm ownership rates and lower suicide rates. He wondered what could be done in Nevada to make a difference. Ms. Allen proposed to continue partnership development and seek federal funding for programs.

Responding to Vice Chair Dondero Loop's request for statistics and data regarding causes for youth suicides, Ms. Allen testified that having access to lethal means is a huge component and described the five-minute gap between a triggering event and action. Ms. Allen stated it is critical that this be brought to parents' attention. At Vice Chair Dondero Loop's request, she offered to provide data on the rate of suicide in very young children. Vice Chair Dondero Loop emphasized the importance of discovering triggers, in addition to prevention. Ms. Allen recommended mental health treatment to identify stressors and connect children to support.

There was further discussion between Assemblyman Oscarson and Ms. Allen regarding triggering events. Assemblyman Oscarson wondered whether it is possible to educate families about particular events that cause triggers. Ms. Allen discussed efforts and

challenges to equip families and caregivers with the tools to talk about the issues with their children. Assemblyman Oscarson thanked the OSP for their efforts.

In response to Senator Hardy's query about safeguards provided at no charge to the public to decrease access to firearms, Ms. Allen stated that the Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children (Division of Child and Family Services, DHHS) provided funding for gun safes and gunlocks. Ms. Allen stated she would research the effectiveness of limiting access to medications.

Safe Sleeping Environments

- Regina Washington, BSCS, M.S.P., Community Programs Coordinator, Cribs for Kids (C4K), Safe Kids Washoe County, Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority, presented information regarding statewide efforts by C4K to provide safe sleep environments ([Exhibit M](#) and [Exhibit M-1](#).) She discussed the number of infant deaths due to unsafe sleep environments. Ms. Washington presented examples of unsafe sleep settings and preventive measures. She pointed out a map indicating C4K partner locations throughout the U.S. Ms. Washington mentioned that partners receive training materials and Safe Sleep Survival Kits to provide to needy families. She said C4K held over 50 training presentations and participated in numerous health fairs throughout the State. Ms. Washington reported on programs created to educate families about the ABCs of safe sleep. She announced since C4K's inception, over 1,000 families statewide have been provided education on safe sleep environments. Ms. Washington noted federal legislation introduced to enhance awareness about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

In response to Assemblyman Oscarson's inquiry regarding purchase of Safe Sleep Survival Kits, Ms. Washington said the kits are provided statewide at no cost to C4K partners.

PRESENTATION REGARDING HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES

- Sally Jost, Director, Related Services, Special Education Related Services, Clark County School District (CCSD), presented a compilation of services provided by school health nurses (Exhibit N). Her presentation included:
 - A list of health-related partnerships;
 - School-based health center locations;
 - Specialty partners that provide dental services, eye care, and primary care;
 - Plans to provide mental health services through partnership and pilot programs;
 - Numbers of students served by school-based health services in 2012-2013;
 - The role of the CCSD school nurse;
 - The CCSD school nurse staffing;
 - District totals of nursing procedures from August through December 2013;

- State-mandated Automated External Defibrillator projects;
 - Implementation of the epinephrine project and utilization data; and
 - Diabetes initiative discussions and proposals.
- Lynn Row, Director and Chief Nurse, Health Services, CCSD, continued the presentation ([Exhibit N](#)) with an overview of the proposed language for insulin delegation at the CCSD. She pointed out the language was approved and presented at the State Board Practice Committee on March 26, 2014. Ms. Row testified that a registered nurse may delegate the administration of physician-prescribed insulin in school districts where a school nurse is not available.
 - Ray Mathis, Director, School Related Activities, CCSD, discussed policies put in place for children who sustain head injuries in athletic sport activities. He testified that every CCSD high school that offers an athletic program should have an athletic trainer. Mr. Mathis stated that approximately 22,000 high school students and 2,000 middle school students are involved in CCSD athletic programs. He reported that concussions make up one-third of all sports-related injuries. Mr. Mathis pointed out the CCSD's policies: (1) students are required to have a physical and school insurance; (2) coaches must be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and AED training; and (3) administrators are required to provide an emergency plan to all staff. He added that all football equipment must be re-certified at the end of each school year and there are safeguards in place for players who receive head injuries.

Responding to Chair Jones's request for recommendations, Mr. Mathis mentioned there are schools in outlying areas that are not able to provide athletic trainers due to funding issues.

In response to Senator Hardy's inquiry, Mr. Mathis stated that Indian Springs, Sandy Valley, and Spring Mountain schools do not have athletic trainers.

- Dana Balchunas, R.N., B.S.N., M.Ed., Director, Student Health Services, Washoe County School District (WCSD), presented the mission statement and fast facts about the health and nursing services in WCSD ([Exhibit O](#)). Her presentation provided an overview regarding:
 - School nurse qualifications, caseloads, and duties;
 - Duties of clinical procedure nurses and clinical aide qualifications;
 - Student health statistics;
 - Daily nursing services provided;
 - Total student health plans developed by school nurses;
 - School health programs and statistics;
 - Student height and weight survey results;
 - Dental services in collaboration with the Community Health Alliance;
 - Epipen program and policy;
 - CPR and first aid training; and
 - A WCSD healthy students and healthy schools website.

- Jeff Zander, Superintendent, Elko County School District (ECSD) and President, Nevada Association of School Superintendents, highlighted ECSD demographics ([Exhibit P](#)). He introduced Bobbi Shanks, M.S., B.S.N., R.N., School Nurse Coordinator, ECSD, and Board of Directors Representative, National Association of School Districts.
- Ms. Shanks presented on: staffing statistics and challenges; school nurse staffing ratios; the number of health office visits per year; vision, hearing, and dental screenings; and vaccine information. She testified that Elko does not have a public or community health nurse to provide vaccines. Ms. Shanks stated through grant funding Immunize Nevada provides the staff and vaccines to ECSD students. She discussed the ECSD allergy and anaphylaxis policies; sports injuries and concussions training provided to staff; and statewide health services data by district and county. She pointed out school nurse compensation challenges and the need to streamline services. Ms. Shanks opined utilizing a State coordinator would assist in providing resources for mandated services. (See [Exhibit P-1](#).)
- Mary E. Wherry, R.N., M.S., Deputy Administrator, Community Services, DPBH, DHHS, introduced Victoria Blakeney, Education Programs Professional, Office of Educational Opportunity, Department of Education, to discuss the update on the Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant. Ms. Blakeney provided information on the facts, goals and objectives, timeline, and an overview of the State and community-level partners. She announced that as of last week they have received funding for the grant. ([Exhibit Q](#)).

A PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO TEEN PREGNANCY IN NEVADA

- Christine (Christi) Mackie, Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness, DPBH, DHHS, discussed Nevada's teen birth rates, teen births by racial ethnic groups, costs associated with teen births, and funding sources ([Exhibit R](#)). She detailed two funding sources, State Abstinence Education Grant Program funding for ages 9 to 12, and the Personal Responsibility Education Program that targets adolescents aged 13 to 18.

Responding to Chair Jones's query regarding federal funding and grant programs, Ms. Mackie said there are other funding sources available. Mary E. Wherry, previously identified, stated that Nevada's Title X funding is unlike other states' because local health authorities and Planned Parenthood compete for Title X funds individually. She discussed challenges due to different cycles for grant renewal. Chair Jones wondered whether Nevada receives less funding compared to other states. Ms. Wherry was unsure whether there was a comparative analysis available.

- Stacy Hardie, R.N., B.S.N., Supervisor, Public Health Nursing, Washoe County District Health Department, provided an overview of teen pregnancy information

in Washoe County that included: (1) teen pregnancy prevention program objectives; (2) Washoe County teen birth rates; (3) behavior indicators; (4) teen pregnancy consequences; (5) risks to children of teen mothers; (6) teen survey results; and (7) prevention programs in health care settings ([Exhibit S](#)). She discussed challenges due to funding cuts and the opportunity to partner with Renown Regional Medical Center.

- Valerie Cauhape, M.A., Public Health Program Specialist, Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS), gave a brief overview of teen pregnancy rates and adolescent health in Carson City ([Exhibit T](#)). She described CCHHS programs and partnerships. Ms. Cauhape pointed out barriers to programs and education. Concluding, she noted plans to expand programs, increase partnerships, and participate in projects to gather community data.

There was discussion between Chair Jones and Ms. Cauhape regarding the number of participants in the programs. Ms. Cauhape opined that the outreach to charter schools and partnerships with local school districts would increase the number. Chair Jones wondered whether the CCHHS programs would be complementary to sex education programs currently offered in Carson City schools. Ms. Cauhape affirmed the programs would be supplementary.

- Alice Costello, R.N., B.S.N., Community Health Nurse Manager, Southern Nevada Health District, submitted a presentation regarding the teen pregnancy prevention program in Clark County ([Exhibit U](#)). She shared as a result of applying for funds released by President Obama for teen pregnancy prevention, Clark County received \$5 million over a five-year period to implement an evidence-based prevention program. Ms. Costello commented on the focus of high-risk youth and young men in the community. She described successful partnerships with the Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services and Department of Family Services. Ms. Costello outlined community involvement and third-year program results. She suggested support for comprehensive sex education in the school districts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Senator Woodhouse announced that the first report regarding mental health screenings for students in Clark and Washoe County schools, as required by Assembly Bill 386 (Chapter 361, *Statutes of Nevada* 2013), will be available on April 1, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Trotter
Principal Administrative Assistant

Marsheilah D. Lyons
Supervising Principal Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Senator Justin C. Jones, Chair

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the “Meeting Notice and Agenda” provided by Marsheilah D. Lyons, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).

[Exhibit B](#) is a hyperlink to a report titled *Child and Adolescent Health, Special Report to the Legislative Committee on Health Care*, dated March 2014, submitted by Jay Kvam, MSPH, State Biostatistician, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

[Exhibit B-1](#) is a hyperlink to the *2013 Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Report*, dated February 2014, supplied by Jay Kvam, MSPH, State Biostatistician, DPBH, DHHS.

[Exhibit C](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Children’s Health in Nevada, Statistics and Trends in Children’s Health,” given by Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate and Director of Programs, Prevent Child Abuse Nevada, Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy, School of Community Health Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit D](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Improving Birth Outcomes in Nevada,” furnished by Beth Handler, Program Manager, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Program, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness, DPBH, DHHS.

[Exhibit E](#) is a document titled “Nevada State Immunization Program,” offered by Karissa Loper, M.P.H., Program Manager, Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP), Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (BCFCW), DPBH, DHHS.

[Exhibit E-1](#) is a report titled *2012 Final Pertussis Surveillance Report*, dated October 23, 2013, provided by Karissa Loper, M.P.H., Program Manager, NSIP, BCFCW, DPBH, DHHS.

[Exhibit E-2](#) is a chart of statistical information for Nevada supplied by Karissa Loper, M.P.H., Program Manager, NSIP, BCFCW, DPBH, DHHS.

[Exhibit F](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Nevada Legislative Committee on Health Care,” dated March 5, 2014, given by Heidi S. Parker, M.A., Executive Director, Immunize Nevada, Reno.

[Exhibit F-1](#) is a document titled *Immunize Nevada 2013 Annual Report*, submitted by Heidi S. Parker, M.A., Executive Director, Immunize Nevada, Reno.

[Exhibit G](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Child and Youth Wellness in Nevada,” dated March 5, 2014, furnished by Monica Morales, M.P.A., Program Development Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, DPBH, DHHS.

[Exhibit H](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Childhood Obesity Prevention,” offered by Denise Tanata Ashby, J.D., Executive Director, Children’s Advocacy Alliance, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit I](#) is the Digest and Revised Proposed Regulation of the Board of Psychological Examiners, LCB File No. R111-13, dated January 23, 2014, submitted by Risa B. Lang, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB.

[Exhibit J](#) is the written testimony of Christina A. Demopoulos, D.D.S., M.P.H., State Dental Director, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, BCFCW, DPBH, DHHS.

[Exhibit K](#) is a report titled *2007-2011 Sleep Related Infant Mortality*, dated February 2014, supplied by Jay Kvam, MSPH, State Biostatistician, DPBH, DHHS.

[Exhibit L](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation furnished by Misty Vaughan Allen, M.A., State Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Office of Suicide Prevention, DPBH, DHHS.

[Exhibit M](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “A New Look at Sudden Infant Death Syndrome,” offered by Regina Washington, BSCS, M.S.P., Community Programs Coordinator, Cribs for Kids (C4K), Safe Kids Washoe County (SKWC), Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), Reno.

[Exhibit M-1](#) is the written testimony of Regina Washington, BSCS, M.S.P., Community Programs Coordinator, C4K, SKWC, REMSA, Reno.

[Exhibit N](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Clark County School District Health Programs and Partnerships,” dated March 5, 2014, given by Sally Jost, Director, Related Services, Special Education Related Services, and Lynn Row, Director and Chief Nurse, Health Services, Clark County School District.

[Exhibit O](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Health and Nursing Services in the Washoe County School District,” submitted by Dana Balchunas, R.N., B.S.N., M.Ed., Director, Student Health Services, Washoe County School District.

[Exhibit P](#) is a document titled “Elko County School District Health Services offered by Jeff Zander, Superintendent, Elko County School District (ECSD) and President, Nevada Association of School Superintendents.

[Exhibit P-1](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “School Health Services,” provided by Jeff Zander, Superintendent, ECSD and President, Nevada Association of School Superintendents and Bobbi Shanks, M.S., B.S.N., R.N., School Nurse Coordinator, ECSD and Board of Directors Representative, Nevada Association of School Districts.

[Exhibit Q](#) is a document titled “Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant,” furnished by Victoria Blakeney, Education Programs Professional, Office of Educational Opportunity, Department of Education.

[Exhibit R](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Public Health Response to Teen Pregnancy in Nevada,” offered by Christine (Christi) Mackie, Chief, BCFCW, DPBH, DHHS.

[Exhibit S](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Teen Pregnancy,” provided by Stacy Hardie, R.N., B.S.N., Supervisor, Public Health Nursing, Washoe County District Health Department.

[Exhibit T](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS) Adolescent Health Education Programs,” given by Valerie Cauhape, M.A., Public Health Program Specialist, CCHHS.

[Exhibit U](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program,” dated March 5, 2014, submitted by Alice Costello, R.N., B.S.N., Community Health Nurse Manager, Southern Nevada Health District.

This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits and other materials distributed at the meeting are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library online at www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm or telephone: 775/684-6827.