

University of Nevada, Reno  
School of Medicine

Shannon Ernst, Director

Churchill County Social Services

[ssdirector@churcillcounty.org](mailto:ssdirector@churcillcounty.org)

(775)428-0211

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES POST PANDEMIC

# AGENDA

Update on the Central Nevada Health District as a County / Region solution to gaps in public health infrastructure

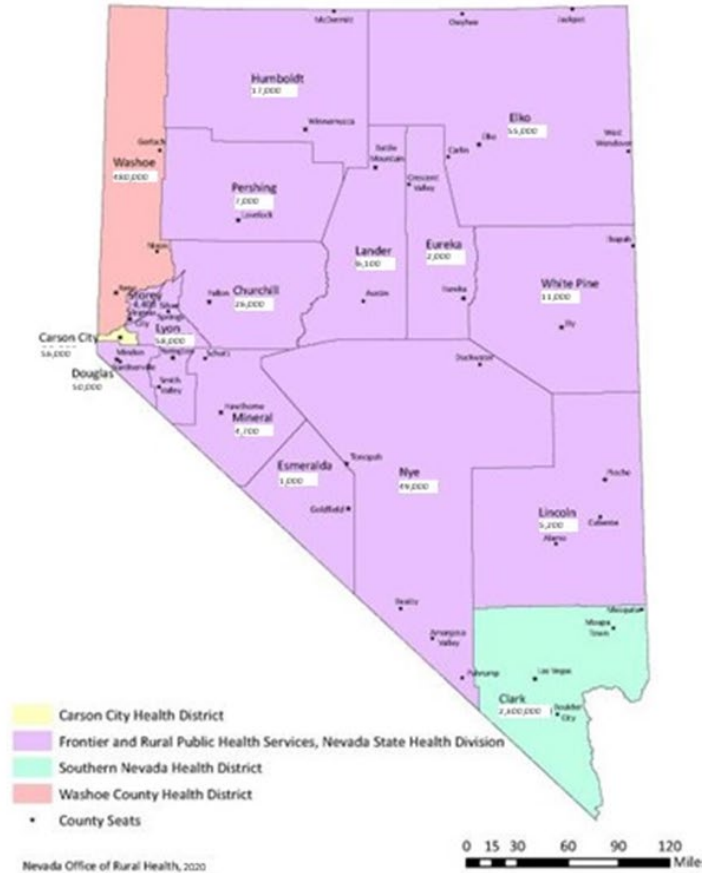
- Lessons learned during planning

- Vision for a resilient community



# Challenges and Gaps Nevada Public Health

Health Districts in Nevada - 2020



Lack of Health Districts in Nevada

Diverse community needs

Landscape of Nevada

Funding based on population to support Public Health

Capacity in communities to provide services in rural communities

Workforce to provide necessary services

# CENTRAL NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT

## CREATION AND GOAL

- Ensuring the health of the largest number of people means resources must be used to their best advantage.
- Creating a health district maximizes the use of everyone's assets.
- Highlights of a health district include:
  - Improve capacity of existing agencies to address a wider scope of public health problems including communicable disease control
  - Increase community input in the development and delivery of public health services
  - Improve public health preparedness and response through enhanced coordination of services in the area
  - Develop additional services provided by larger health departments in Nevada

Albert Einstein  
(1879-1955)

IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERY  
DIFFICULTY LIES  
OPPORTUNITY

InspirationBoost.com

# CHALLENGES TO CREATING A HEALTH DISTRICT IN NEVADA

- Currently 2 types in Nevada
  - Counties whose population is less than 700,000
  - Counties whose population is 700,000 or more (affects Clark County only)
- **NRS 439.369**
  - By affirmative vote of:
    - 2 or more *adjacent* governing bodies, 2 or more cities or towns within any county, or,
    - The board of county commissioners and governing body or bodies of any incorporated city or cities, town or towns, in such county, AND
    - Approval of the state BOH there may be created a health district with a health department consisting of a district health officer and a district BOH

# FUNDING:

- Current Funding is based on population based formulas
- Per statute unable to assess tax for serves for districts under 700,000
- Overall lack of funding to support Public Health nationally

Central Nevada Health District:

Total population of 37,523 of the over all State of Nevada population 3.03 million

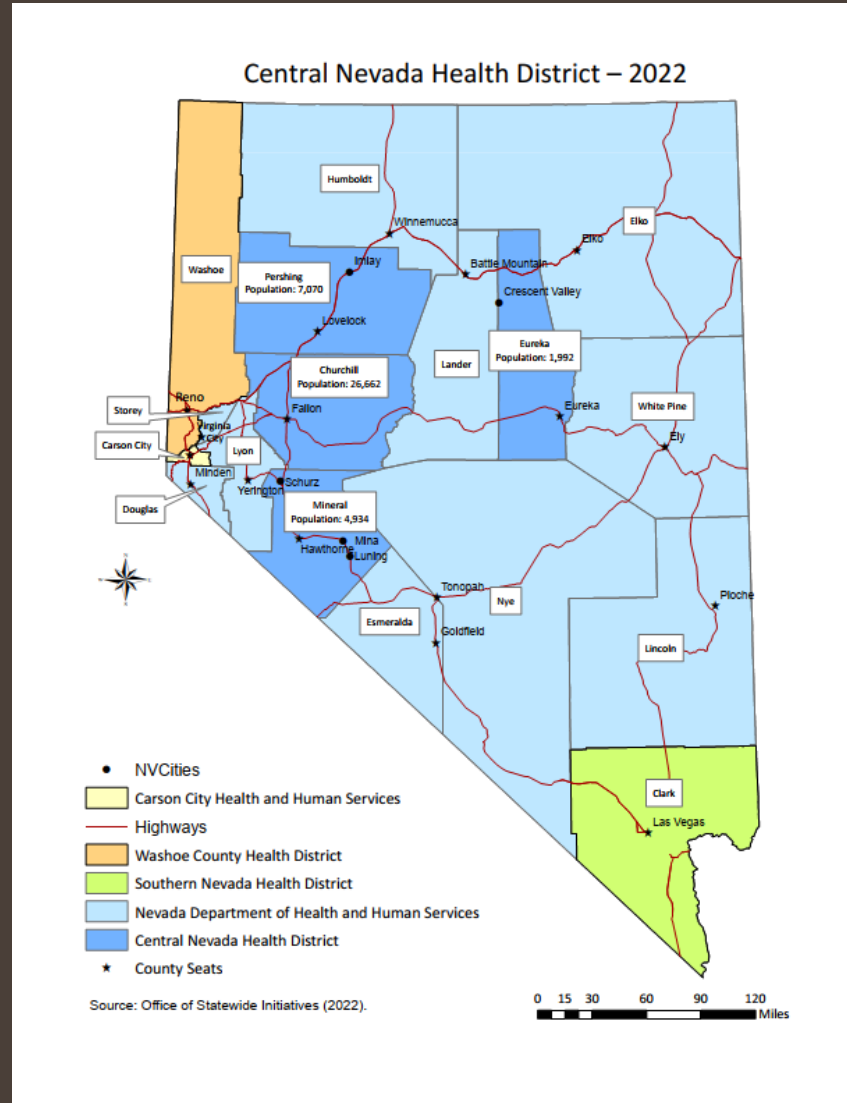
Covers 19,087 square miles of the States total 110,567

650 road miles with 10 continuous hours to loop the communities to be served

“

SUCCESS IS DUE TO OUR STRETCHING  
TO CHALLENGES OF LIFE. FAILURE  
COMES WHEN WE SHRINK FROM  
THEM.

John Maxwell





## January 2022

- Partnering community committee formed, meet monthly to develop structure, Agreed on name: Central Nevada Health District

## February 2022

- Met with DPBH leaders and discussed strategies for development, obtain feedback on process and discussed proposal for removing county assessments for parting counties for State services provided: Environmental Health and Public Health Nurse
- Started discussion on suggested changes to NRS. 439 (adjacent)
- Engaged NACO Board on the CNHD concepts and process
- Purchased Health Department Software

## March 2022

- Presentation to the State Board of Health on proposed project and progress
- Began regular meetings with Julie Peek and Cody Phinney to develop transition plan for services

### April 2022

- Developed proposed organizational chart by lining out position descriptions for implementation and budget development
- County Committee developed Mission, Vision, Values

### May 2022

- Sent off the letter to the Governor requesting approval for Central Nevada Health District and county removal from assessment payments
- Began drafting county ordinance for creation of the CNHD

### June 2022

- Response from the letter to the Governor of support and referred to August 2022 IFC
- Confirmed with the DPBH that are intent was to move forward
- Developed an operational plan
- Applied for a group NPI number needed for the medical billing process
- Presented draft budget to the committee – Flat fee buy-in with \$5 per capita

## July 2022

- Completed budget for the health district

## August 2022

- In cooperation with the DPBH, presented at IFC request to assume Environmental Health and 441A services and was approved. Received funding to support construction of CNHD Office

## November 2022

- Start Board of County Commissioner hearing process for ordinance adoption

## December 2022

- Request from State Board of Health to form the CNHD. Assuming approval to move forward with a July 1st start date: Boards of County Commissioners final adoption of ordinance creating the CNHD, and appoint members will take place

2023

\*\* Hire Health Director

Complete job descriptions to start hiring April, policies, setting up offices, securing county vehicles; develop and disseminate communication, purchase environmental health software module; depending on funds, hire a district health administrator; if needed, apply for Tax Exempt number; EIN number?; identify banking options with Churchill County. Apply for 340B program.

To succeed in  
your mission,  
you must have  
single-minded  
devotion to  
your goal.

Abdul Kalam

QuotePixel.com



**Mission:** To enhance and protect a healthy community by meeting our unique rural needs.



**Vision:** Healthy people, resilient environment, thriving community

**Values:** Adaptable to meet rural needs through integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect and excellence



# Resilient Community

Build sustainable resources through partnership: Hospitals, Coalitions, State, Tribes, and anyone that is willing to come to the table for the common goals

Reduce duplication in services: Identify gaps and barriers in services to develop strategies to fill the need, but not alone, but with partners

Engagement: Engage community members to identify needs, community desires and learn their perspective to increase buy in and meet each communities desired outcomes.

Be flexible: Things change, so must be able to adapt

Thank you to all our partners,  
supporters and communities for seeing  
a vision and helping to move forward!

City of Fallon

Eureka County

Mineral County

Governors Office

NACO

Hospital Partners

Nevada State Public Health Lab

Shannon Ernst

Churchill County Social Service

(775)428-0211

[Ssdirector@churhcillcounty.org](mailto:Ssdirector@churhcillcounty.org)

Marena Works

UNR School of Medicine

(775)315-3136

[marenaw@med.unr.edu](mailto:marenaw@med.unr.edu)

Churchill County

Pershing County

DPBH

IFC - HHS

State Board of Health

UNR – School of Medicine

Coalitions

Community Members