



Turning the Page—Looking to the Future to Build Resilient and Thriving Communities in the Post-Pandemic Era

NACO Conference, Public Health Panel

September 27, 2022

Assemblywoman Sarah Peters

Overview

- Public health issues from the legislative perspective
- Work of the HHS Committee on public health issues this interim
- Legislative trends
- Questions and answers



Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS Committee)

Purpose and Jurisdiction:

- The HHS Committee is the successor of the Legislative Committee on Health Care (LCHC).
- Responsibilities and duties on the review of health care regulations, health occupation matters, and reports previously assigned to the LCHC were transferred to the HHS Committee.
- The jurisdiction and membership of the standing Senate and Assembly Committees on Health and Human Services are also reflected in the Committee.
- Additionally, the Committee is responsible for reviewing child welfare issues.

HHS Committee – Work Conducted During the Interim

Eight Committee meetings during the 2021–2022 Interim considering various topics including:

- COVID-19 health crisis interim study and public health;
- Child welfare—including early childhood health and education issues;
- Health Insurance with a focus on Medicaid and the public option;
- Mental and behavioral health;
- Pharmaceutical drug pricing; and
- Women’s, maternal, and child health.

Final meeting and work session with recommendations to:

- Draft 14 BDRs (all were voted on and passed); and
- Send letters to legislative session committees and the director of the Department of Health and Human Services.

COVID-19 Health Crisis Interim Study Pursuant to Senate Bill 209 (2021)

[Senate Bill 209](#) (2021) requires the HHS Committee to conduct a study during the 2021–2022 Interim regarding the state’s response to the COVID-19 health crisis. Study requirements were to:

1. Examine the public health infrastructure in Nevada, including, without limitation:
 - a. An analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the state’s public health infrastructure;
 - b. An analysis of how the state and local governments responded, delineated duties and jurisdiction, and coordinated during crisis; and
 - c. How these items can be improved for future public health crises.
2. Consider recommendations for increased funding for the public health infrastructure of this state;
3. Examine the long-term impacts of the crisis on frontline workers and workers commonly considered to be essential workers;
4. Examine the health and economic impacts of crisis using an equitable perspective;
5. Examine the benefits and challenges of implementing a task force to support private businesses and Nevada’s population areas; and
6. Consider the creation of a Public Health Service Corps in Nevada.

HHS Committee BDRs Related to Public Health

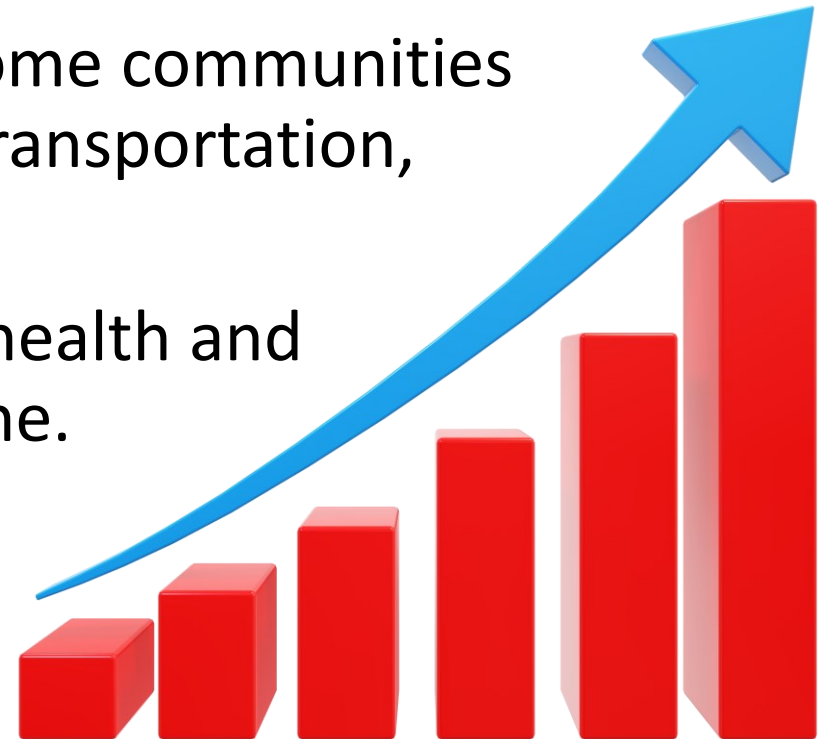
BDRs based on findings of the COVID-19 health crisis interim study:

- **Public Health Administration**—Authorize the establishment of health districts among nonadjacent counties in Nevada. Establish an account for public health infrastructure and improvement.
- **Public Health Emergency Preparedness**—Improve the public health emergency preparedness by increasing the flexibility of the Emergency Assistance Account; and require the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) to conduct an interim study to explore alternative unemployment benefits and to evaluate essential versus nonessential businesses and workers.
- **Telehealth Reimbursement Parity**—Repeal the sunset requirements for all reimbursement parity requirements for telehealth services pursuant to [SB 5 \(2021\)](#), and thereby making all reimbursement parity requirements permanent.

Trends – 2023 Legislative Session

Potential trends related to thriving and resilient communities:

- Bolstering public health at both the state and local levels;
- Creating policies that aid rural and low-income communities that have a harder time finding childcare, transportation, and/or getting time off work; and
- Supporting and increasing both the public health and healthcare workforce and workforce pipeline.



Questions?

