

# Local Public Health Governance: Introduction + Practical Guidance

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Navigating Local Governance of Public Health: A Workshop and Training for  
County Elected Officials and Staff



# Roadmap



- Local Public Health Infrastructure: Nevada Revised Statutes Review
- Local Boards of Health: Duties + Opportunities
- 3 Steps to Local Health Infrastructure Improvement
- Resources for Local Boards of Health Agenda Development

# Local Public Health Governance Infrastructure in Nevada

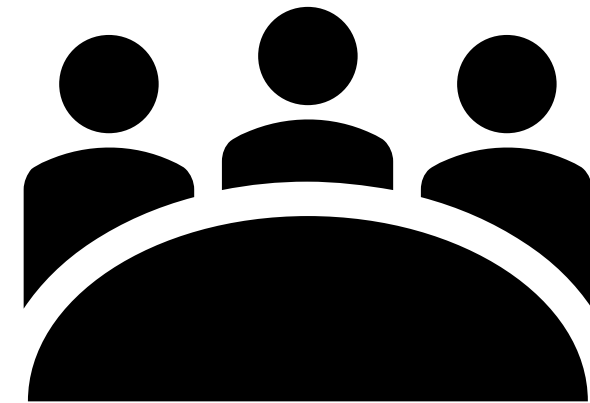


County/District Health Officer

County/District Board of Health



Open Communication, Mutual Trust



**Chair of the Board of Health  
in counties outside of health districts**

**Commissioners/Supervisors + Sheriff +  
County Health Officer  
in counties outside of health districts**

# Local Boards of Health: The Basics



**NRS 439.280 County board of health: Composition; officers; service without additional compensation.**

1. Each county **shall** establish a county board of health to consist of the board of county commissioners, the sheriff and the county health officer.
2. The county health officer **shall** act as chair of the county board of health, and the county clerk shall be the clerk of the board.
3. All of the officers shall serve without additional compensation.

[27:199:1911; added [1919, 221](#); A [1947, 471](#); 1943 NCL § 5261]



# Local Boards of Health: The Basics

## **NRS 439.390 District board of health: Composition; qualifications of members.**

1. A district board of health must consist of two members from each county, city or town which participated in establishing the district, to be appointed by the governing body of the county, city or town in which they reside, together with one additional member to be chosen by the members so appointed.
2. The additional member must be a physician licensed to practice medicine in this State.
3. If the appointive members of the district board of health fail to choose the additional member within 30 days after the organization of the district health department, the additional member may be appointed by the Chief Medical Officer.

[Part 35:199:1911; added [1939, 297](#); 1931 NCL § 5268.01]—(NRS A [1959, 104](#); [1963, 941](#); [1991, 1379](#))

\*In Clark, there is an additional body (the Public Health Advisory Board) whose membership serves as non-voting members of the Board of Health.



# County Board of Health: Duties

**NRS 439.350 County board of health: Duties.** The county board of health shall:

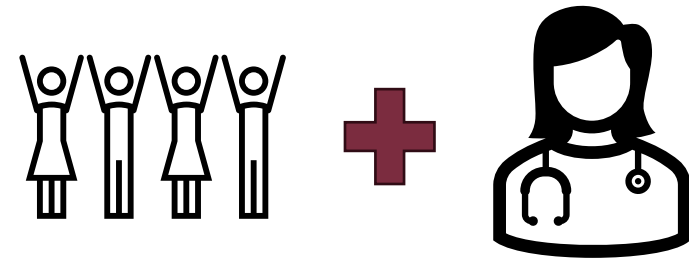
1. Oversee all sanitary conditions of the county in which the board is created.
2. Adopt such regulations as may be necessary for the prevention, suppression and control of any contagious or infectious disease dangerous to the public health, which regulations take effect immediately **upon approval by the State Board of Health.**
3. File a copy of all of its adopted regulations with the county clerk.

[Part 28:199:1911; added [1919, 221](#); 1919 RL p. 2891; NCL § 5262]—(NRS A [1983, 1130](#))

- **NRS 439.360 County Board of Health: Powers; requirements for order for isolation, quarantine or treatment. (BOH “may”...see handout)**

How do Boards of Health fulfill these duties?

With help from their County Health Officer, health-related county staff, and health department!

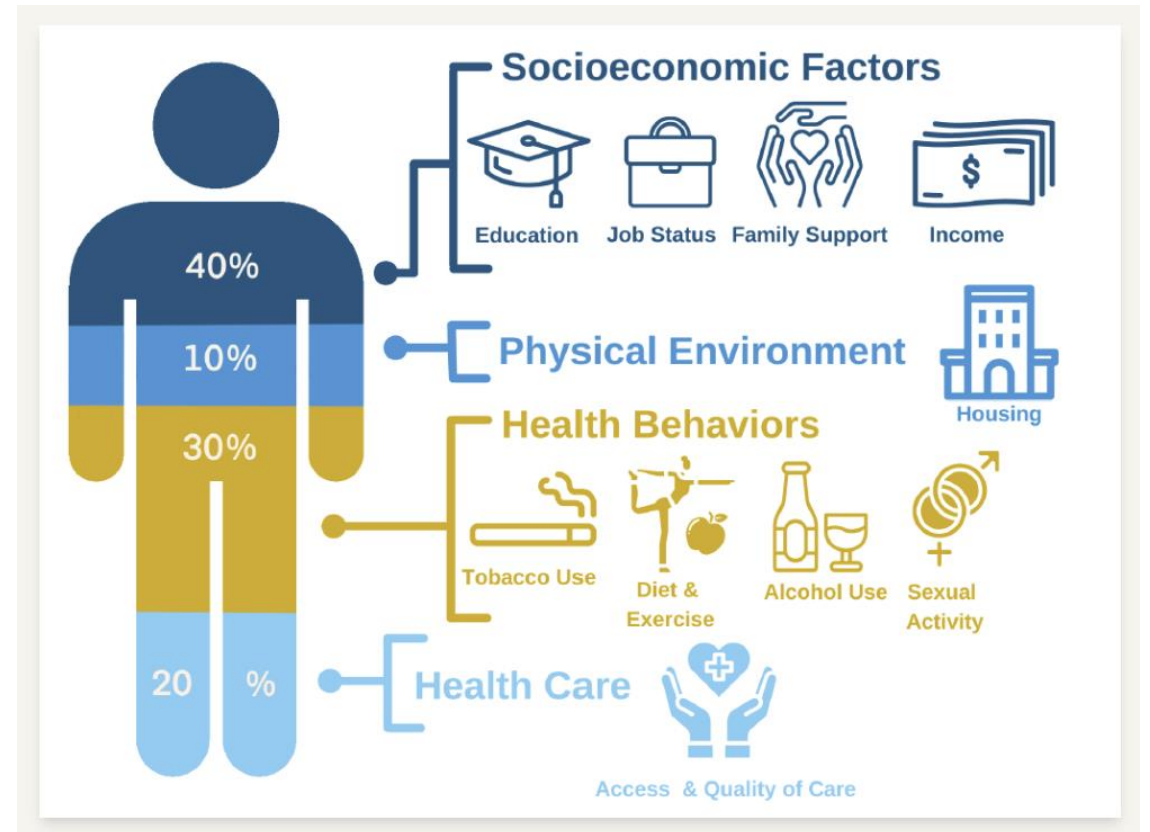


# Local Board of Health: Opportunities



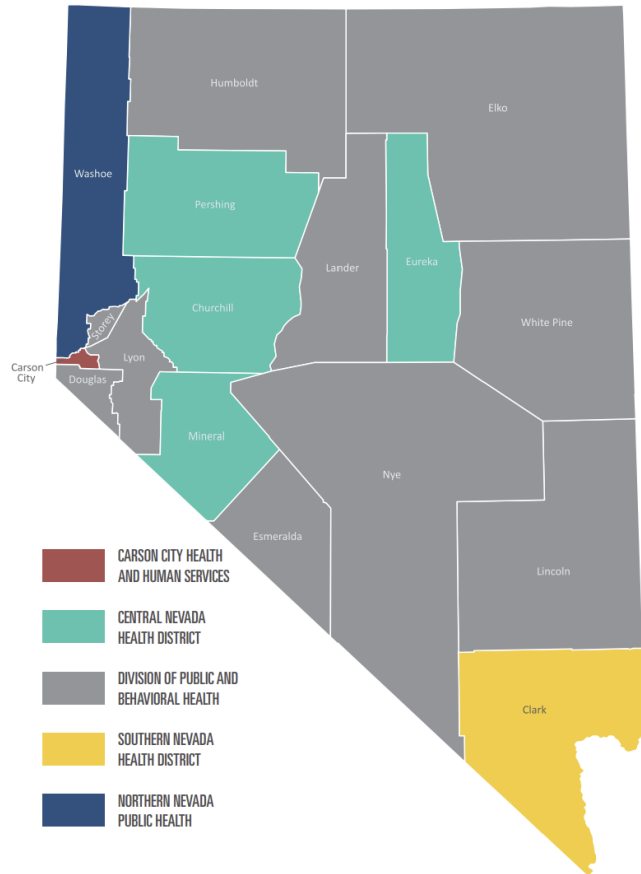
POLICY – STEWARDSHIP – LEGAL AUTHORITY  
PARTNER ENGAGEMENT – CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT – OVERSIGHT

- Health in All Policies (HiAP)
- Stewardship of Community Health
- Increase Knowledge and Engagement
- Utilize Authority/Powers as Needed
- Strategic Health Improvement Planning
- Oversight of health-related county assessments and contracts





# Step 1: Learn Your Local Infrastructure



- 6 Counties served by a health district, governed by District Board of Health
- 1 Consolidated Municipality (Carson City) served by a local health department, governed by local Board of Health, delegated authority from DPBH
- 10 Counties served by DPBH as their health authority, governed by local Board of Health

**Reality of the Current State: Governance looks different county-by-county based on the level of local infrastructure, even though all counties not in districts fall under same NRS**



# Step 2: Hire a County Health Officer

## **NRS 439.290 County health officer: Appointment; qualifications; term.**

1. On or before January 1 next following each general election, the board of county commissioners shall appoint a county health officer for the county.
2. The county health officer must be appointed on the basis of his or her graduate education in public health, training, experience and interest in public health and related programs.
3. The term of office of the county health officer is 2 years or until a successor has been appointed and qualified.  
[Part 6:199:1911; A [1913, 126](#); [1919, 221](#); 1919 RL § 2957; NCL § 5240]—(NRS A [1981, 603](#))

- **NRS 439.300 Compensation of CHO (This section has not been updated since 1919!)**
- **NRS 439.310 County Health Officer: Vacancy, appointment by Chief Medical Officer**

What does a County Health Officer do?



# County Health Officer Considerations

## Hire for:

- Skills/Experience in health field
- Passion for local community and public health improvement
- **Communication Skills**
- Community Trust
- Willingness to engage in CHO trainings and updates



## Support by:

- Integrating CHO into County team
- Negotiate a fair rate of pay, consider benefits (CHO pay is an eligible use of SB118 funds!)
- Participate actively in Board of Health



# Step 3: Establish Regular Board of Health Meetings

1. Clarify purpose
2. Set meeting cadence and dates – ensure availability of CHO (Chair) and Sheriff
3. Develop Agenda
  - I. Standing Items
  - II. Rotating Updates/Education from Community Partners
  - III. Policy Discussion
4. Follow all standard protocols for BOCC meetings



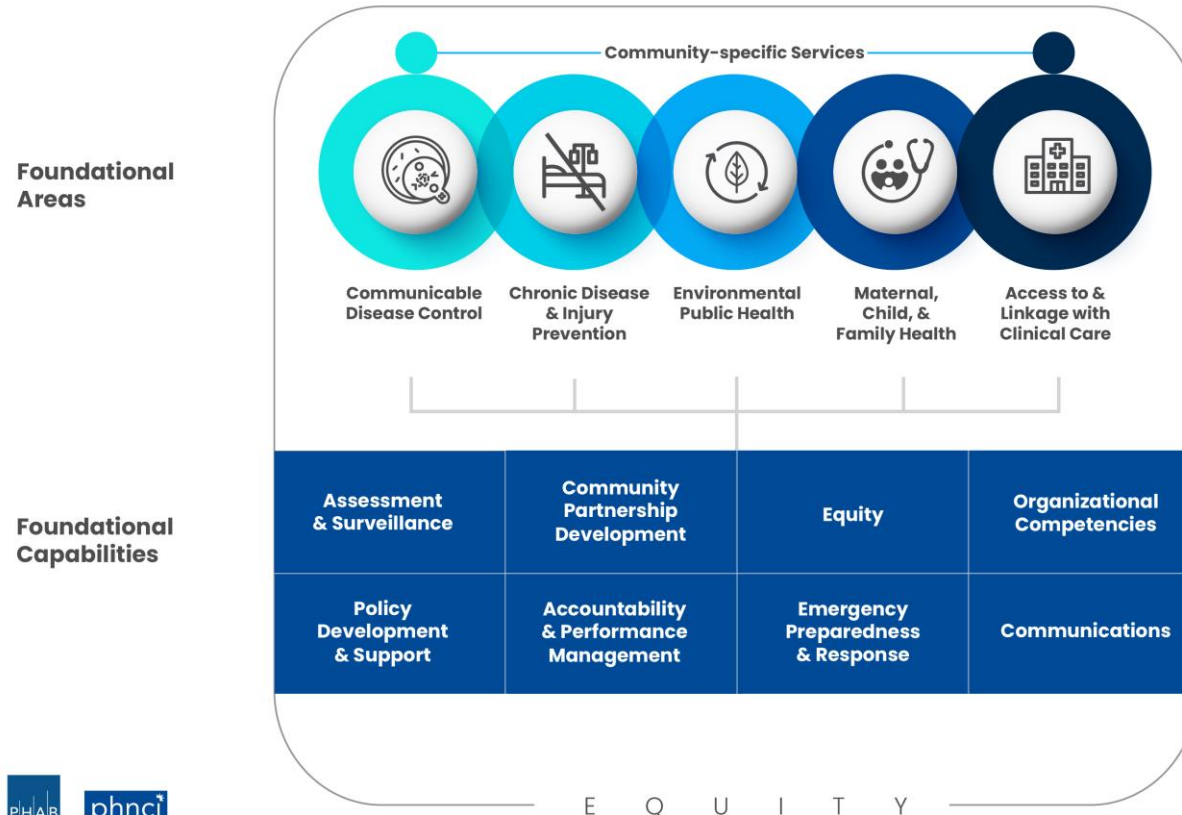
# Resources:

- [Nevada Association of Counties Website](#)
- [State of Nevada Office of Analytics Dashboards](#)
- [State of Nevada Contacts for CHS Services](#)
  - Community Health Nursing (Tammy Ritter tritter@health.nv.gov)
  - Environmental Health Services (Teresa Hayes thayes@health.nv.gov)
  - Epidemiology / Disease Investigations (Preston Tang ptang@health.nv.gov)
  - Immunizations (Kristy Zigenis kzigenis@health.nv.gov)
- [National Association of Counties](#)
- [Public Health Reaching Across Sectors \(Home - PHRASES: Public Health Reaching Across Sectors\)](#)
- [Making Health Happen Trainings](#)
- Nevada Public Health Institute County Health Officer Training
- [National Association of City and County Health Officials - NACCHO](#)
- [National Association of Local Boards of Health – NALBOH](#)
- [Health in All Policies \(HiAP\)](#)



# Foundational Public Health Services Assessment

## Foundational Public Health Services



### Overview

FPHS were developed to represent a minimum package of public health services every community should have or have access to.

NACO/UNR Extension Conducted Assessments across the State... Anticipated final reports at NACO Annual Conference

**THANK YOU**

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