



## **Overarching NPHA Advocacy and Policy Goals**

The Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) organizes its advocacy and policy activities around five overarching goals:

- **Promoting Social Justice and Health Equity in Nevada**
- **Ensuring the Right to Health and Health Care in Nevada**
- **Building Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity in Nevada**
- **Promoting Improved Data Collection to Inform Policymaking in Nevada**
- **Advocating for Health in All Policies**

These advocacy and policy goals are consistent with NPHA's vision of a healthy Nevada and its mission of serving as the voice for public health in Nevada in order to improve health and achieve equity in health status and a healthier Nevada. These overarching goals are also aligned with the advocacy and policy goals of the American Public Health Association.

## **2017 NPHA Advocacy Agenda**

In keeping with NPHA's strategic vision, the NPHA Board of Directors established its Advocacy and Policy Committee (APC). During 2017 and consistent with NPHA's overarching advocacy and policy goals, the NPHA APC will focus its advocacy and policy efforts on the following priority areas:

- A. Advocating for Tobacco and E-cigarette Prevention and Control Policy in Nevada**
- B. Promoting Healthy Lifestyles through the Support of Nutritious Eating and Active Living in Nevada**
- C. Protecting and Promoting Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health in Nevada**
- D. Improving Access to Clinical and Preventive Health Services in Nevada**
- E. Supporting Evidence-based Injury and Violence Prevention in Nevada**
- F. Advocating for Policy Measures that Address Health Equity and the Social Determinants of Health in Nevada**
- G. Advocating for Local, State, and Federal Investments in Public Health Infrastructure and Programs in Nevada**

A key element of work in each of these priority areas is the development of resources for NPHA members and other public health professionals to educate and inform policy makers, businesses, the media, communities, and the public on evidence-based population health interventions, the public health system and the ten essential public health services. Pursuing this advocacy agenda will also require our ongoing collaboration with organizations and agencies who share our vision of a healthy Nevada.

An important addition to NPHA advocacy efforts is an emphasis on health in all policies and an associated focus on health impact assessments of current and proposed public policy, planning, and programs. NPHA also supports efforts to improve health-related data collection and analysis used to inform science-based public planning and policy.

Finally, NPHA has the flexibility to act, when appropriate, on other pressing public health issues – such as, the public health and safety of legal marijuana, emerging infectious disease threats like Zika, and proposed changes to the Affordable Care Act being considered by Congress – that may not easily be categorized under the overarching NPHA advocacy and policy goals and our 2017 advocacy agenda and current policy priorities.

## **NPHA Advocacy and Policy Priorities in 2017**

### ***A. Advocating for Tobacco and E-cigarette Prevention and Control Policy in Nevada***

Promote and establish sustainable funding for comprehensive state and local tobacco prevention and cessation programs at funding levels that meet or exceed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, including full funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs from the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) and tobacco tax revenues.

Protect and strengthen the Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act (NCIAA) and other efforts to implement and enforce comprehensive tobacco-free and smoke-free laws at the state and local levels, including smoke-free casinos, taverns, and multi-unit housing.

Support evidence-based practices and policy that reduce the consumption of tobacco products, such as tobacco pricing and strategies leading to reducing tobacco consumption.

Support the evidence-based regulation and control of e-cigarettes and other emerging tobacco products, such as retail, licensing, and taxation policies for these new products.

Support the development and implementation of tobacco-free policies in outdoor public places, including parks, recreational areas, outdoor public events, and all campuses in the Nevada System for Higher Education (NSHE).

Support the preservation of tobacco control and prevention provisions of the Affordable Care Act in Nevada, including coverage of cessation services by Nevada Medicaid and private insurance plans.

Provide information to policy makers and the public in Nevada on the value of evidenced-based tobacco prevention and control measures and policy.

***B. Promoting Healthy Lifestyles through Support of Nutritious Eating and Active Living in Nevada***

Promote and support healthy lifestyle programs and policies in schools and child care settings, including efforts to improve access and opportunities for physical activity, increase consumption of nutritious meals and adherence to nutrition standards at school, and advance the movement towards requirements for quality physical education class time that meet national guidelines.

Promote and support community environments conducive to healthy eating and active living, including built environments that integrate physical activity into daily life, increase access to healthy foods, and the eliminate food deserts.

Support comprehensive worksite health and wellness programs.

Support efforts to collect and report data on student health and wellness by school districts, including annual body-mass index data collection.

Support state and local efforts to monitor, address, and treat eating disorders.

Provide information to policy makers and the public in Nevada on the value of evidenced-based measures and policy that promote nutritious eating and active living.

***C. Protecting and Promoting Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health in Nevada***

Support the implementation of evidence-based comprehensive sexual education and standards by school districts.

Advocate for the promotion and protection of reproductive rights and access to reproductive health services for all females.

Support state and local teen pregnancy prevention.

Advocate for evidence-based programs and policy to prevent sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs), including rapid HIV testing and prevention of STD risk behaviors.

Support the development and implementation of school-based health services, including preventive health services for students with behavioral health care needs.

Support early childhood preventative programs that strengthen families' ability to promote the social and emotional development of their children.

Provide information to policy makers and the public in Nevada on the value of evidenced-based measures and policy to promote and protect maternal, child, and adolescent health.

***D. Improving Access to Clinical and Preventive Health Services in Nevada***

Preserve health insurance coverage gains and continue the reduction of financial barriers to accessing health services that have been generated by the Affordable Care Act.

Support the health care and public health workforce development in Nevada, including recognition and reimbursement of services provided by emerging health professions such as community health workers and community paramedics.

Support efforts to improve access to health care services, including programs and policies that ensure safety net services to medically underserved populations and enforce adequate provider networks by all public and private health insurance plans.

Support the integration and reimbursement of comprehensive clinical and preventive services, including chronic disease management and lifestyle change.

Support the implementation and utilization of electronic health records to improve clinical quality and health outcomes, including clinical participation in the state's health information exchange and Nevada Web IZ, Nevada's immunization information system.

Support efforts to improve access to clinical and preventive services delivered through telehealth technology to medically underserved areas and populations

Advocate for improved access to mental health and behavioral health services, including the provision of intervention and stabilization services for youths in crisis.

Support the prevention of prescription-drug abuse and other substance abuse, including medication assisted treatment.

Advocate for access to comprehensive oral health services for all Nevadans.

Support efforts to increase access to community fluoridated water to improve health and wellness for all Nevadans.

Support syringe access efforts to reduce the injection-related transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis, and other blood-borne diseases.

Provide information to policy makers and the public in Nevada on the value of health insurance coverage and access to quality clinical and preventive health services.

***E. Supporting Evidence-based Injury and Violence Prevention in Nevada***

Advocate for evidence-based injury prevention, including programs and policies to improve pedestrian safety and reduce transportation-related injuries and deaths, to prevent drownings and other recreational injuries, and to prevent drug overdoses and drug-related deaths.

Advocate for evidence-based violence prevention, including programs and policies to prevent firearm injuries and violence.

Advocate for evidence-based suicide prevention.

Support evidence-based occupational health and safety programs and policy.

Provide information to policy makers and the public in Nevada on the value of evidence-based injury and violence prevention.

***F. Advocating for Policy Measures that Address Health Equity and the Social Determinants of Health in Nevada***

Support increased investments in K-12 education and higher education in Nevada to address the fundamental relationship between education and health.

Support efforts to ensure a living wage and affordable housing for Nevada workers and families to address the fundamental relationship between income and health.

Advocate for community master planning and policies that support sustainable, active community environments that result in improved health and well-being.

Provide information to policy makers and the public in Nevada on the social determinants of health and evidence-based policy measures to address social inequities that result in health disparities.

## ***G. Advocating for Local, State, and Federal Investments in Public Health in Nevada***

Support efforts leading to more equitable and sustainable funding for essential public health services, programs, and policy.

Advocate for policy measures that transition Nevada's health system to a prevention-oriented, outcomes-based system focused on population health promotion and wellness.

Support local public health departments in their efforts moving towards quality improvement through accreditation, by supporting public health staffs' knowledge and competencies regarding accreditation and quality improvement, facilitating health departments' utilization of health needs assessments and available health data, and participating in health improvement planning with health departments and public health system partners.

Provide information to policymakers and the public in Nevada on the health impact of adequately funding essential public health services, the value of public health accreditation, and the return on investments from evidence-based, population-health oriented programs and policy.

### **Additional Information**

For more information about the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) and the work of the NPHA Advocacy and Policy Committee (APC), please visit [www.nphaonline.org](http://www.nphaonline.org) or contact NPHA APC Chair, Dr. John Packham at [jpackham@med.unr.edu](mailto:jpackham@med.unr.edu) or 775-784-1235.

NPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association and represents a wide range of public health professional disciplines and organizations, including local health departments, universities, local nonprofit organizations, state agencies, and individual public health professionals.

The mission of NPHA is to serve as the voice for public health in Nevada in order to improve and achieve equity in health status and a healthier Nevada. The vision of NPHA is a healthy Nevada.

*Approved by the NPHA Board of Directors on December 6, 2016.*