

Who will keep the public healthy in Nevada?

Reno Gazette-Journal / RGJ.COM

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Next month, the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) will host its 2008 annual conference. The theme of this year's conference – "Who will keep the public healthy in Nevada?" – is timely considering the numerous public health threats currently facing Nevada, the collapse of the state's economy, and never-ending budget crisis in Carson City.

The NPHA annual conference represents the principal statewide gathering of the public health community in Nevada, including the participation of public health professionals from the county health departments, state health division, and schools of public health. While small in number, the membership of NPHA is drawn from a broad, statewide spectrum of public health and health care organizations and agencies, both public and private.

This year's conference features a lively agenda, including plenary sessions on public health performance standards in Nevada, social marketing theory and practice, urban sustainability in Reno and Las Vegas, and public health policy in Nevada ten years after the tobacco master settlement agreement.

Conference speakers include former Nevada Attorney General, Frankie Sue Del Papa, Acting Nevada State Health Officer, Mary Guinan, Nevada State Medical Association Executive Director Larry Matheis, and a panel of experts addressing lessons learned from the recent hepatitis C outbreak in Clark County.

The conference provides an opportunity for attendees to learn from the best and brightest public health practitioners in Nevada on new approaches, programs, and research to advance the public's health in our neighborhoods, communities, and state. The conference will also showcase the latest public health research and policy analysis from scholars at UNR, UNLV, and the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Who will keep the public healthy in Nevada? To learn the answer to this question, I encourage you to join us at this year's conference on October 2-3 at the Alexis Park Resort in Las Vegas.

For more information on NPHA and the association's upcoming annual conference, including a complete conference agenda and registration information, please visit www.nphaonline.org.

John Packham, PhD is Director of the Nevada Rural Hospital Flexibility Program at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. He currently serves as the President of the Nevada Public Health Association.