

Utilizing a Health Impact Assessment to Assess Proposed Rental Housing Policy in Clark County, NV

Abstract:

Health Impact Assessments (HIA) have been recommended for use to inform policy, programs, and projects in order to promote health. The Clark County Rental Housing Policy (RHP) was drafted in 2011 as part of the Nevada Healthy Homes Partnership (NHHP). The NHHP is a consortium of housing and health officials in Clark County, Nevada, focused on transitioning the Clark County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program into a more comprehensive Healthy Homes Program. Based on the limited resources in the county to address rental housing, the Policy Planning Committee, a subgroup of the NHHP, determined the need to address substandard rental housing through two mechanisms. First by collecting baseline data on rental housing complaints in Clark County, Nevada by establishing the Landlord-Tenant Hotline (LTH) which served as repository to assess the housing needs of renters. The second goal of the Policy Planning Committee was to draft RHP aimed to ensure healthy housing by promoting public health and safety within rental housing. In this session we will review key components of the HIA process used to assess the drafted RHP Policy and discuss key outcomes and recommendations found as a result of the HIA process.

Learning Objectives:

Participants should be able to understand the importance and utility of incorporating a Health Impact Assessment approach to developing policies, program and projects.

Presenters:

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Dr. Erika R. Marquez is the Director of Social Policy for the Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities. Dr. Marquez has devoted the last decade of her career to working on local issues focused on housing quality, housing-related health concerns, and housing equity. In May 2016, Governor Sandoval appointed Dr. Marquez to the Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists. She was instrumental in transitioning the Clark County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program into an integrated Healthy Homes approach through the development of the Nevada Healthy Homes Partnership, which subsequently received multiple years of federal funding to improve the quality of housing in Clark County. Dr. Marquez earned her Bachelor of Science degree from San Francisco State University, and completed her Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and her Ph.D. in Public Health with a focus in Social Behavioral Health at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dr. Marquez has conducted research at each of these institutions as well as Stanford University. Her research interests include the built environment, the impacts of substandard housing, social determinants of health, healthcare infrastructure, health access, and ways to approach public health policy and programs utilizing systematic approaches, including Health Impact Assessments. Dr. Marquez also serves as an instructor for the UNLV School of Community Health Sciences.

Prior to joining the Guinn Center, she served as the Project Manager for several Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-funded grants. Dr. Marquez has also served on various committees, including the National Center for Healthy Housing Coalition, the Nevada Healthy Homes Partnership, the Clark County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and the National Council of La Raza – Affordable Care Act Health Summit. Dr. Marquez is passionate and committed to improving the lives and health of the residents of Nevada.