Nevada Mentorship Participants

Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD)

Background

State: Nevada
LHD Population Size Served: approximately 2.2 million residents and 3.7 million visitors each month (46 million visitors each year)
Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected: 20,000 annual permits and more than 5,000 temporary food establishments annually
Retail Program Standards Met/Working On: Completed first Self-Assessment; Met Standard 7 (Verification Audit); Currently working on Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9.
Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards: initially 2001 but dropped out of the program; re-enrolled 2012
NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s): 4-7

The SNHD’s mission is to “protect and promote the health and well-being of Southern Nevada residents.” The vision is “healthy people in a healthy Southern Nevada.” The SNHD is governed by a Board of Health. The Board of Health is issued regulatory authority by the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 439.366 Powers and jurisdiction of board of health and district health department; regulations of district board of health. A wide variety of food establishments can be found in Clark County, Nevada, including complex large-scale food operations, ethnic restaurants, retail food establishments, warehouses, fast food, full service and gourmet restaurants.

Role in Mentorship Program

The SNHD participated in the NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort 4 as a mentee where a complete self-assessment was conducted. Standard 7 was sent out for a verification audit in Sept. 2015 and received notification in Nov. 2015 that we met the Standard. The SNHD participated in the NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort 5 as a mentor to Ogle County (IL). Ogle County completed their first self-assessment during Cohort 5. During cohort 6, SNHD mentored First District Health Unit (ND) and Washoe County Health District (NV). First District completed their first self-assessment of all 9 Standards, and Washoe completed Standard 4 by developing and implementing a Quality Assurance policy. In the seventh cohort, SNHD mentored First District Health Unit (ND) and Seattle-King County, WA Standards 1, 2, 5, 7 and 9.

Lessons Learned/Tips

As mentees, a major lesson learned during this process is that teamwork is a must in order to complete the Self-Assessments and to meet the Standards. Another lesson learned is the importance of buy-in from management and staff, both above and below. Without the support of upper management, EH Supervisors, and EHS staff the SNHD’s Self-Assessment (and meeting Standard 7) would not have been possible.
As mentors, the major lesson learned is that communication is key in aiding the mentees to succeed with the Mentorship Program. Keeping contact with the mentees and being available to answer questions is extremely important. Also, helping mentees identify gaps during the Self-Assessment enables them to determine which Standards they are closest to meeting and should focus on first.

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**Washoe County Health District (NV)**

**Background**

**State:** Nevada  
**LHD Population Size Served:** ~450,000  
**Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected:** 3,600  
**Retail Program Standards Met/Working On:** Fully met 1 & 7  
**Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards:** 2006  
**NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s):** 6 and 7

The mission of the Washoe County Health District is to protect and enhance the well-being and quality of life for all in Washoe County. The Food Safety Program is continuously striving to meet this mission statement by promoting active managerial control of risk factors most commonly associated with foodborne disease in Washoe County food establishments.

The retail food regulatory program is comprised of two Environmental Health Supervisors, three Senior Environmental Health Specialists and 18 fulltime Environmental Health Specialist who are responsible for conducting compliance inspections and complaint investigations of permitted food establishments, public pools/spas, mobile home and RV parks, and Invasive Body Decorating establishments. In addition to conducting routine inspections of permitted facilities, eight of the 18 Environmental Health Specialist are assigned to the following subprograms within the Food Safety Program: Foodborne Disease Epidemiology, Mobile Food Operations, Temporary Food Operations, Food Establishment Plan Review and FDA Program Standards.
There are a total of 3,542 permitted food establishments in Washoe County to include full service restaurants, fast food establishments, school kitchens, food manufacturing establishments, mobile food units, and retail food stores such as delis, meat departments, seafood departments, and produce departments.

The most recent adoption of the Washoe County food establishment regulations occurred in August 2016. The regulations are largely based on the US FDA 2005 and 2009 Food code with some provisions from the 2013 Food Code. In September 2016 the program conducted a self-assessment comparison against the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards and determined that the criterion of Standard 1 – Regulatory Foundation has been met when compared to the 2009 Food Code.

Regulatory authority is derived from the local Regulations of the Washoe County District Board of Health Governing Food Establishments which are adopted by the Washoe County District Board of Health and approved by the Nevada State Board of Health.

**Role in Mentorship Program**

Washoe participated in the NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort 6 as mentee. During cohort 6, Southern Nevada Health District (NV) mentored Washoe on Standards 2 and 4. In the seventh cohort, Washoe mentored Mahoning County, OH.

**Lessons Learned/Tips**

The NACCHO mentorship program provided the opportunity to collaborate and share ideas with other jurisdictions. It was helpful to hear that other jurisdictions have similar challenges. We were able to share ideas and solutions to some of these challenges. The site visit afforded us the opportunity to discuss other program standards and agency policies and procedures that were not included in our original workplan.

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