

# Nevada Mentorship Participants

## Southern Nevada Health, NV

### Background

**State:** Nevada

**LHD Population Size Served:** 2.25 Million (plus 46-Million visitors annually)

**Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected:** 20,500

**Retail Program Standards Met/Working On:** Meet Standard 7, pending Verification audit on Standard 5/Working on Standards 1, 2, 4, 7 and self-assessment

**Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards:** initially 2001 but dropped out of the program; re-enrolled 2012

**NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s):** 4-9

**Version of Food Code:** 2005

**Pursuing Accreditation (Y/N?) If Y, have you achieved accreditation?** Yes, had a site visit Oct 2018, on an action plan

### Mission and Brief Background

To assess, protect, and promote the health, the environment, and the well-being of Southern Nevada communities, residents, and visitors.

The Environmental Health Division of the SNHD has a robust food program that encompasses the initial permitting, routine inspections, and training of food establishments throughout Clark County, Nevada by 88 inspectors. In addition to our regular workload, many of our inspectors help to meet the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards by assisting in various projects throughout the year. We hope to complete a full self-assessment in the next year and hope to meet 5 of the Standards.

### Role in Mentorship Program

- Cohort 4: The SNHD participated 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.
- Cohort 5: 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.
- 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.
- Cohort 7: SNHD mentored First District Health Unit (ND) and Seattle-King County, WA Standards 1, 2, 5, 7 and 9.
- Cohort 8: SNHD mentored Amarillo, TX; Arlington, TX; and Randolph, NC on Standards 3, 4, and 9.
- Cohort 9: SNHD mentored Mecklenburg County, NC on Standard 5 and Union County, OH on Standard 6.

### 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.

### **Contact**

- Name: Alexis Barajas
- Email: [barajas@snhd.org](mailto:barajas@snhd.org)
- Phone number: 702-759-1631

**Link:** [www.snhd.info/ferl](http://www.snhd.info/ferl)

## Washoe County Health District (NV)

### Background

**State:** Nevada

**LHD Population Size Served:** 471,519

**Number of Retail Food Establishments Inspected:** 3500 Food Permits

**Retail Program Standards Met/Working On:** Fully met 1, 3, 5, 7

**Enrolled in the Retail Program Standards:** 2006

**NACCHO Mentorship Program Cohort(s):** 6, 7, and 9

The Washoe County Food Protection Program strives to maintain the highest level of food safety in Washoe County for locals and visitors alike. We maintain strong educational components by promoting a collaborative approach with industry to meet established public health goals at the local and national levels.

### Role in Mentorship Program

Cohort 6: 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.

Cohort 7: Washoe mentored Mahoning County, OH.

Cohort 9: Washoe mentored Monongalia, WV on conducting a self-assessment of all nine standards.

### 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.
- Plan Ahead
- Site visit may be more beneficial if mentor travels to mentee

### Contact

Name: Michael Touhey

Email: MTouhey@washoecounty.us

Phone number: 775-328-2698

**Link to food safety program website:** <https://www.washoecounty.us/health/programs-and-services/environmental-health/food-protection-services/index.php>