



National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Contact**

Theresa Spinner

Director, Media and Public Relations

Direct: 202-783-5551

[tspinner@naccho.org](mailto:tspinner@naccho.org)

## **NACCHO Announces the 2018 National Health Security Award Winners**

*Local Health Departments in Colorado, Florida, Nevada and Ohio Honored*

**New Orleans, LA, July 12 , 2018** – The [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO) and the [Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response](#) (ASPR) are pleased to announce the winners of the third annual National Health Security Award. This award recognizes local health departments that have demonstrated significant accomplishments in implementing health security-related initiatives within their jurisdictions. The winners received a travel scholarship and were recognized at the [2018 NACCHO Annual Conference](#) in New Orleans on July 11, 2018. They are:

- San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership, Alamosa, Costilla, Conejos, Mineral Rio Grande and Saguache counties in Colorado
- Florida Department of Health in Orange County; Orlando, FL
- Southern Nevada Health District; Las Vegas, NV
- Hamilton County Public Health; Cincinnati, OH

Local health departments' day-to-day operations have an impact on national health security across the country on a regular basis. "Every time a staff member runs a vaccination clinic or spearheads a disease-prevention campaign, these efforts also improve health security," said NACCHO Chief Executive Officer Lori Tremmel Freeman. "Every time

a local health department helps to track a disease outbreak or connect people with personal health services, like preventive or health promotion services, the agency gives health security a direct boost. Advancing our national health security is a vital component for all of the nation's local health departments.”

“This award recognizes the essential role of local public health departments in ensuring our country's health security,” added Dr. Robert Kadlec, HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. “The leadership, innovation, and dedication shown by these recipients and many others across the country translates into lives saved.

**CATEGORY: CREATION OF A REGIONAL DISASTER HEALTH RESPONSE SYSTEM**

*San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership, Alamosa, Costilla, Conejos, Mineral Rio Grande and Saguache counties in Colorado*

The San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership (SLVPHP) is a coalition of six local public health agency (LPHA) directors and regional shared staff. “The partnership's mission is to develop and implement shared public health services to improve health outcomes. In this rural area, we rely on each other in so many ways,” said Kimberly Bryant, Partnership Coordinator. “Working together as a region has built trust and a greater sense of security as we call on others' resources and expertise when needed, and helps us develop stronger relationships with our community partners. Creating a regional organization based on collaborative leadership draws good people to it. Community partners reach a little further across the table with partners they trust. When we cooperate with good intentions and attitudes, others want to work with us to strengthen our communities.”

**CATEGORY: PROVIDE STRONG LEADERSHIP**

*Florida Department of Health in Orange County (Orlando, FL)*

During the critical public health response to the Zika virus outbreak, the CDC Zika Local Health Department Initiative (LHDI) supported the placement of an outreach nurse, AnnMarie Chase, BSN, RN, at the Florida Department of Health in Orange County. By providing support at the local level, Chase has been able to deliver Zika awareness information to those most affected by Zika infection: pregnant women and babies. This program's success has reduced the effects of Zika on mothers, infants, and communities

through improved understanding of congenital Zika syndrome, increased understanding of testing protocols, increased number of at-risk individuals being tested, improved timeliness, completion and accuracy of surveillance data, and increased number of women and children connected to services. AnnMarie's leadership and demonstrated successes during her outreach efforts to community and professional organizations and other partner agencies, have not only had meaningful impact on the Zika response but also helped increase the capacity to prepare for the next emerging threat to moms and babies.

**CATEGORY: SUPPORT THE SUSTAINMENT OF A ROBUST AND RELIABLE PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY CAPACITY**

*Southern Nevada Health District (Las Vegas, NV)*

“This award is a reflection of the shared contributions of all our community partners. The collaborative efforts of Nevada’s public safety organizations have helped to improve public health security through inter-agency coordination and a shared commitment to protecting and promoting the health and well-being of Southern Nevada residents and visitors,” - Joseph P. Iser, MD, Chief Health Officer.

Southern Nevada Health District and the Public Health Preparedness Analyst at the local level bring together Homeland Security activities with both CDC and ASPR priority areas. Examples of accomplishments contributing to public health security include: increased training provided by local law enforcement partners for Southern Nevada Health District Workforce to ensure readiness to meet the demands of the evolving threat landscape; provision of bi-weekly and monthly public health situational awareness reports by the Health District to a much larger spectrum of partners to ensure awareness; timely risk communication; and public preparedness activities prior to, during, or following hazard specific threats. Threats that have potential to impact responder operations or health threats to population and visitors are addressed by using cutting-edge public health capabilities and solutions to counter existing or new threats. The SNCTC is one of the few fusion centers in the nation to actively collaborate with the local health department for mutual aid.

**CATEGORY: ADVANCE AN INNOVATIVE MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES ENTERPRISE**  
*Hamilton County Public Health (Cincinnati, OH)*

“We are honored to have received this award,” said Hamilton County Health Commissioner Tim Ingram. “The system for which we’re being recognized allows us to quickly and efficiently get medication into the hands of our citizens, should an emergency arise. There are a lot of people involved in our distribution system – staff and volunteers – and this award is a testament to them, their hard work, and their concern for the well-being of the citizens of Hamilton County.”

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**About NACCHO**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation’s nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit [www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org).