

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): 4-8

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.

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

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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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