

**MEMORANDUM  
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health**

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services  
**CONTACT:** Robert L. Oldham M.D., M.S.H.A, Health Officer/ Director of Public Health x7287  
**DATE:** February 9, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** Placer County Health Update

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Accept the Placer County Health Officer's "Placer County Health Update".

**BACKGROUND:**

California law requires that in each County a physician serves as the "local health officer". The primary professional responsibilities of the local health officer include the following:

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
8. Assure a competent public and personal health care workforce
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
10. Research for new insights and innovate solutions to health problems

Relative to other counties in California and the United States, the residents of Placer County generally enjoy good health. In fact, Placer County was once again rated as the second healthiest county in California, according to the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Program (a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute). While we celebrate this distinction, we also recognize Placer County has numerous opportunities to improve its health even further and to build strategic partnerships to promote the overall health of our communities.

The health status of Placer County residents has the potential to substantially impact our long-term quality of life and economic health. Ongoing, community-level collaboration to address Placer County's health, including challenges and opportunities, is critical to maintaining and even improving the health of Placer County. To that end, in the past year, your Public Health Division has provided leadership to a number of efforts and accomplishments that we would like to highlight to our Board and residents:

- 1) The development of the "Placer Partnership for Public Health", a collaborative of local leaders who want to work together to improve Placer residents' health.

- 2) The initiation of a comprehensive Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.
- 3) The launch of “placerdashboard.org”, an online community dashboard that will support the efforts of Be Well Placer.
- 4) The Placer County Tobacco Control Program successfully developing a “Smoke-Free Healthcare Facilities” program that has been very well received by our healthcare partners.
- 5) Partnering with the Placer Nevada County Medical Society in the successful application for a grant from the California Health Care Foundation to build a coalition to address prescription drug abuse and overdoses in Placer County and Nevada County.
- 6) The successful monitoring of returning travelers from Ebola-impacted countries using innovative techniques and outstanding customer service. This approach minimized disruptions to travelers (some of them heroes of the West Africa Ebola response) while still protecting the health of the public.
- 7) Leading the effort to make significant improvements in vaccinations rates among school children in Placer County.

Your Placer County Health Officer and the Public Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services submits this report to better inform the Board and the public about the unique opportunities and challenges facing the health of Placer County, to invite feedback from the Board and the public about current and potential metrics utilized to measure health in our community, and to invite broad-based community collaboration to improve the health of Placer County.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action.