

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Environmental Health, Public Health, and Animal Services

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM:  Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services
Robert Oldham, M.D., M.S.H.A., Health Officer/Medical Director
DATE: November 18, 2014
SUBJECT: Placer County Health Update

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 recently 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 continues to face significant targeted health challenges. We have recently been reminded of remaining challenges with recent communicable disease outbreaks, air quality concerns, and changes in the healthcare delivery system. Your health officer is committed to serve as a resource to the Board and to the residents of Placer County to help us overcome to these challenges together.

The health status of Placer County has the potential to substantially impact the long-term quality of life and economic health of Placer County. An ongoing, community-level discussion of Placer County's health, including challenges and opportunities, is critical to maintaining and even improving the health of Placer County. To that end, your Placer County Health Officer submits this report 1) to better inform the Board and the public about the unique opportunities and challenges facing the health of Placer County, 2) to invite feedback from the Board and the public about current and potential metrics utilized to measure health in our community, 3) to invite broad-based community participation in an upcoming "community health assessment", and 4) to facilitate future collaboration to improve the health of Placer County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

