



**Minutes (FINAL)
Of the meeting of the
NEVADA OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND EQUITY (NOMHE)
Black Leadership Advisory Council (BLAC) Subcommittee Meeting
January 30, 2024**

The Black Leadership Advisory Council (BLAC) Subcommittee held a public meeting on Wednesday, October 25th, 2023, beginning at 10:04 am at the location: This meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

Chair Dr. Samuel Hickson called the Black Leadership Advisory Council (BLAC) Subcommittee meeting to order on January 30th, 2024, at 10:05 AM and asked Karina Fox to do roll call.

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Opening Statement

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Karina Fox introduced herself as the BLAC Subcommittee liaison. She advised BLAC Subcommittee members to state their presence once hearing their name.

BLAC Subcommittee members present: Chair Dr. Samuel Hickson, Kamilah Bywaters, Dr. Mary House, Will Rucker, Alisa H. Howard, Bishop Derek Rimson, Dr. Robert Bush.

Seven members were in attendance; the quorum was achieved.

Also present were the following NOMHE staff: Evelyn Donis de Miranda, Alexandra Neal, Tina Dortch, Princette Bowling (joined via phone), and Karina Fox.

Chair Hickson asked members of the public to drop their name and their affiliation in the chat box.

Members of the public present: ASL interpreters include (Lindsey Morton and Naomi), Gabriella KDL, and Tracey Sinette.

Chair Hickson apologize for rescheduling this meeting. He appreciated everyone for the flexibility.

II. Public Comment

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Public Comment will be taken during this agenda item. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be

taken. The Chair of the Black Leadership Advisory Council will place a two (2) minute time limit on the time individuals may address the Committee. The Chair may elect to allow public comment on a specific agenda item when that item is being considered. To provide public comment telephonically, dial 1 (346) 248-7799 with and when prompted to provide the Meeting ID, enter 821 3460 5228, passcode 632029.

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of October 25, 2023, BLAC Minutes (For Possible Action):

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson stated that he assumed that all members of the BLAC Subcommittee had an opportunity to review the minutes.

Kamilah Bywater stated “Yes”.

Chair Hickson asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the minutes.

Kamilah Bywater stated that she did not have any questions or concerns.

Dr. Mary House stated “No”.

Bishop Derek Rimson stated “No”.

All were in favor to approve the minutes for the BLAC Subcommittee October 25th, 2023, meeting.

Chair Hickson approved the BLAC Subcommittee meeting minutes for October 25th, 2023, on January 30th, 2024, at 10:10 AM.

IV. Revisit Pulse Report Development (For Possible Action):

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson asked Karina Fox if the purpose of this agenda item was to understand where the report stands in the development process, revise any recommendations, and approve it.

Karina Fox stated that was correct. She stated that during this meeting, the report would be reviewed for suggestions and recommendations from the members.

Chair Hickson asked Karina Fox to start reviewing the report.

Karina Fox stated that she was presenting the current state of the report. There is section for “**health and wellness**” from Will Rucker. This section contains the observation, underline risk factors, and recommendations. Under observations, in general the Black community face higher rates of chronic diseases and barriers to healthcare access. Members of the Hispanic and Black community could not afford to see a doctor last year. The underlying risks are socio-economic challenges, systematic inequities and healthcare access and delivery. The recommendations include expand healthcare access, improve socio-economic conditions, create culturally sensitive interventions, educate on health maintenance, develop economic strategies supporting job creation and financial literacy.

Karina Fox asked members of the subcommittee if they had any input.

Will Rucker asked if the revision that he had previously submitted were included in the report being presented.

Karina Fox stated that a pulse report is a snapshot of everything that was submitted.

Chair Hickson asked Will Rucker if he was referring to information that was submitted after the initial submission. Whether or not those revisions were included in this draft.

Will Rucker stated that indeed that was his question.

Chair Hickson asked Karina Fox to clarify if those revisions have been included in the version being presented during the meeting.

Karina Fox stated that indeed those revisions have been included in the report being presented. Then, NOMHE's intern will take today's recommendations and add them to the report.

Chair Hickson asked Karina Fox to move to the next section of the report.

Karina Fox moved to the next section of the report that outlined the input from Kamilah Bywaters, which focuses on "**education and youth**". The observations speak about the alarming trends in mass shootings on school campuses, especially after the UNLV shooting. Demographic data has been incorporated into this section of the report. This data can help understand the impacts of the incidents across diverse groups. Underlying risk factors include access to firearms, and institutional and societal factors. Recommendations include enhance mental health services, gun control measures, bullying prevention programs, emergency preparedness and community engagement in education. Karina Fox members if they had any questions.

Kamilah Bywaters stated that she did not have any questions. She stated that this was a good overview of the incident that happened at UNLV. This section of the report focuses on schools across the state.

Alisa Howard asked if there were any recommendations about the educational sector especially security in schools, such as the implementation of metal detectors. She knows that some schools implemented rules regarding students bringing clear bags.

Kamilah Bywaters stated that UNLV is still engaging security measures and determining future measures. UNLV is doing campus surveys. Professors' contact information and locations is available, so UNLV is still trying to figure out how to address that. Also, she is familiar with some conversation that have been happening specifically at schools K-12 regarding this topic. There is some controversy around what safety would look like in schools. There has been an increase in police presence at Clark County schools. Conversations about metal detectors are happening as well. Kamilah Bywaters plans to get more feedback on those topics. She did not have any updates on those security measures. Security measures vary depending on the institution. Clark County School District has their own police department. Charters schools do not have that. Kamilah Bywaters plans to follow up with the charter board to identify some potential practices that they have in place and make sure that she provides an update for this committee.

Chair Hickson asked Kamilah Bywaters how the educational sector is looking to increase mental health resources considering the limitation that currently exists, specifically access to mental health professionals.

Kamilah Bywaters stated that UNLV rolled out their professional that are on campus to support students and staff for mental health. UNLV already had counseling services so those continue to be available. Also, UNLV is

supporting students with final exams and grades. They are also providing some self-care opportunities, counseling, and mental health support. Kamilah Bywaters had a conversation with counselors of the Clark County School District. The recommended ratio of students per counselor is 250 students per counselor. This is less than current counselors' load. The school district is struggling to meet the need. Some schools do not have a social worker in place. It all depends on the funding that the school have.

ASL interpreters switched at this time.

Karina Fox asked other members present to share any input they may have.

Dr. Mary House stated that she did not have any input at this time. The reports have been thorough.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Alisa Howard for comment.

Alisa Howard asked Kamilah Bywaters about any data available on how often school shootings happen at charter, private, versus public schools.

Kamilah Bywaters stated that she did not have that data. The only articles that she has reviewed were especially for UNLV. On the other hand, UNLV is putting a study together and getting the IRB [Institutional Review Board] involved. She will investigate that.

Chair Hickson wanted to hear from Will Rucker and Kamilah Bywaters about the recommendations that they put forward and if those could be actionable.

Will Rucker stated that those recommendations are indeed actionable. He did have an additional revision.

Chair Hickson asked Will Rucker to expand on why he thinks that those recommendations are actionable.

Will Rucker stated that he believes that because the recommendations are within the graphs and those are based on evidence.

Chair Hickson asked Kamilah Bywaters if she believed that the recommendations that she put forward are actionable.

Kamilah Bywaters stated that she believes that those recommendations are actionable. She does see that some of them will require advocacy and communication, specifically for the mental health services. They will also require some conversations and collaborations with individuals at UNLV because they already started implementing some of those services for their students. In the case of Clark County School District, it will require some collaboration with the departments and the BLAC Subcommittee. The gun control measures are part of legislative conversations.

Alisa Howard suggested that Will Rucker speak about partners in actioning some of his recommendations.

Will Rucker stated that as part of the health space, it would require a holistic and community approach. He foresees involving government bodies, like the health district, local health systems, and the community at large.

Bishop Derek Rimson stated that both authors of this section have proved tremendous information. He saluted them both for their efforts.

Karina Fox moved to the next section of the Pulse report "**Public Policy, Law and Government**". Adrienne Feemster-Cobb developed this section. The topic is "The political determinants of the economic cost of wellness".

The section explores how political factors influence economic aspects of health and wellness. They gathered information for public campaigns and strategies to promote health equity in Nevada. The underlying risks are housing insecurities, jobs, wages, racism, discrimination, challenges in improving K-12 education, gun violence and women's rights. The recommendations focus on strengthening rural health care infrastructures through increase in funding, establishing artificial intelligence (AI) ethics policies to address bias and ensure inclusivity. Other recommendations include, prioritize climate justice initiatives in regions with heightened environmental risk, enhance community engagement in policy development for inclusive solutions, and increase funding for healthcare workforce development in underserved areas.

Adrienne Feemster-Cobb was not present during this meeting.

Chair Hickson stated that the recommendations put forward by Adrienne Feemster-Cobb were broad. He advised reaching out to Adrienne Feemster-Cobb for clarification.

Dr. Robert Bush stated that under this category the recommendation should take a bottom up and a top-down approach. Also, he believes that partnering with community groups, public health and local leaders will empower the community. He stated that Dr. Mary House is an expert in climate. Also, there are other individuals in the community who may be able to assist in empowering the community. It will be important to present this recommendation to legislative leaders and getting their help. Some of these items may have to run up the flagpole and then back down to the subcommittee.

Chair Hickson asked members about what role faith-based communities play in this context and/or how that could be incorporated into the recommendations, especially with the promotion of policy and improvement of social determinants of health within the Black community.

Bishop Derek Rimson stated that Dr. Robert Bush gave a good summary that included the faith-based communities. Especially because the church is a driving force for many community activists. Churches could bring communities together. Bringing legislators together through the Black church platform whether it is faith-based will be crucial. AI is important because regulations are needed. Faith-based leaders, community activists, legislators need to bring together. The faith-based community is the link between all categories including health and wellness.

Dr. Robert Bush stated that he would like between now and the next meeting, members of the group to identify who are the stakeholders involved in the AI ethics policies. For example, who are the owners of the AI projects. Because those people should be the ones establishing a system of governance.

Chair Hickson stated that was a crucial point and asked Karina Fox and Alex Neal to make a note of that comment.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Dr. Mary House for comment.

Dr. Mary House stated that she wanted to piggyback on what Bishop Derek Rimson and Dr. Robert Bush were saying. Faith-based organizations are active in politics and legislations. She attended a workshop with the Nevada Clean Energy Fund. Congressperson Steven Horsfirth was present at that workshop. She stated that they would be putting up a town hall meeting at Mountaintop Ministries with the Environment Protection Director. This will be happening in the future, and it will be a terrific opportunity for the faith-based community to be present. Dr. Mary House asked Bishop Rimson and Dr. Robert Bush to help her. She has presented things at the Shepherd's breakfast, and she has not gotten any response. She feels that men do not want to listen to women. She thinks that they need to find a way to reach out to the pastors to participate and to bring things to the congregation.

That way, everyone can speak up during public comment, legislation or simply when things are presented. She goes to the Public Utility Commission every year and the Black community is not present, but they are constantly complaining about things with the utility bills. So, everyone needs to stop talking and start getting involved. There are billions of dollars that are hitting the state this year. Everyone can have access to, but people need to get involved.

Chair Hickson thanked Dr. Mary House and acknowledged Alisa Howard for comment.

Alisa Howard stated that this was an interesting conversation and that she wished that it could happen more often in the community. Also, she stated that there is an environmental department at the Southern Nevada Health District. They are also having a tough time engaging Black and Brown communities. It seems like it is a cultural thing. People were not raised to think about the environment in that type of way. Alisa Howard is happy to know that Dr. House participates in those meetings and that she is standing up and talking about this topic. This is something like the pandemic. It affected all races. Environment is something that affects everyone. She recommended to work with public health entities that could facilitate sharing information with the Black community. Bus stops and parks also count as part of the environment. Translating this information into something that the community can understand and relate to is important. Alisa Howard's recommendation is to find strategic, actionable ways to make this topic more palatable but also relatable to the Black community.

Chair Hickson thanked Alisa Howard and acknowledged Bishop Derek Rimson for comment.

Bishop Derek Rimson stated that Dr. House has done a fantastic job with the environment and being so consistent as a representative in that field. It is a challenge to create a collaboration between faith-based leaders. The Shepherd's Breakfast is the largest platform that was designated originally to bring together the faith-based leaders. It has spun into a whole different dynamic but is still a successful platform. It is the most diverse platform that happens every 30 days. If he were a millionaire, he would provide some type of incentive to get people involved especially the faith-based community. The faith-based community is the largest platform. These leaders see crowds. They get a consistent crowd of congregants that they speak to. They are influential. Bishop Bill McDonald is the establishmentarian of the Shepherd's Breakfast. It is hard to bring them all together. This could be because everyone has different agendas in their ministries and different calendars.

Chair Hickson thanked Bishop Derek Rimson and acknowledged Kamilah Bywaters for comment.

Kamilah Bywaters asked Will Rucker who did he think should be engage when it comes to mental health. Alisa Howard mentioned having partnerships with the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Kamilah Bywaters asked Alisa Howard is there are any existing relationships.

Alisa Howard stated that "yes", but she was also talking about the different actionable items and how those could be directed to the community including non-profit organizations. Will Rucker and Alisa Howard have connections with healthcare companies, and the CDC. The Office of Minority Health has its own connections. Pulling all those connections could help action some of those recommendations. Alisa Howard thinks that a lot of recommendations are broad and that they do not point to anyone. Sometimes entities do not have the connections that small business may have.

Kamilah Bywater was satisfied by Alisa Howard answers. This helps her build up her list of connections.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Dr. Robert Bush for comment.

Dr. Robert Bush stated that 60% of Black people claim to go to church with primarily Black congregations and Black clergy. This does not count individual who go to churches with while clergy and/or mixed. Instead of trusting the pastors to deliver the message, a video could be created. This could be played during announcement time. Through the connections already mentioned, they could potentially pay for the making of the video. This could be more than effective than trying to go to church to church.

Chair Hickson thanked Dr. Robert Bush and stated that was an excellent idea for diversifying the outreach and how the message is being delivered. Chair Hickson acknowledged Alisa Howard for comment.

Alisa Howard stated that she liked Dr. Robert Bush's idea. A video is something quick and easy. Also, she stated that Millennials and Gen-Zs do not go to faith-based places anymore. So, they will need to be engaged differently. When talking about faith-based initiatives, they focus more on the older generations such as Gen-X and baby boomers.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Representative Bishop Derek Rimson for comment.

Bishop Derek Rimson stated that engaging those generations is tricky because they are not part of the faith-based experience. He suggests using social media. That is where these generations spend most of their time. Dr. Robert Bush suggested of creating a video. Reels could be created to share the information. Gorilla advertisement could be used as well. This type of advertisement is mostly used, and people see it while they are scrolling on social media.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Dr. Mary House for comment.

Dr. Mary House agreed with Bishop Derek Rimson. She stated that she knows of a group of millennials and Gen-Zs that come to her church. Another marketing tool could be getting into CCSD and the high schools because that is where they are. A rally could be done at high schools to address the six categories presented in this meeting. It would not be a lecture, but entertaining. It is not ideal to lecture them. They need to be entertained.

Chair Hickson thanked Dr. Mary House and acknowledged Dr. Robert Bush for comment. He said that this would be last comment to move forward with the report.

Dr. Robert Bush stated that Dr. House and Representative Bishop Derek Rimson hit it right on the nose. Prioritizing the millennials is a good idea. Getting the message through a mobile type of marketing will be ideal. Millennials spend around 211 minutes on a smartphone per day. They are all about branding, values, and authenticity. They are very visual. Something that allows them to be able to identify and connect with needs to be put together. They will need to be able to connect. Millennials use more Pinterest.

Chair Hickson asked Karina to move to the next section of the report.

Karina Fox stated that the next section in the report was "**Communication, Arts, and Culture**" in the Black deaf and heard of hearing community in Nevada. Jewel Eldridge is the main person supporting this section. Observations focus on accessibility challenges, artistic expression limitations, and cultural events shortcomings. Accessibility challenges indicate the lack of resources available in sign language, a scarcity of culturally competent practitioners leading to a substantial gap in support services. Recommendations include advocacy to increase funding, professional training and development, inclusive platforms, and representation, and enhanced cultural events. Efforts between community organizations, health departments and advocacy groups are essential to bridge these gaps and create a more inclusive and supportive environment for well-being within the community.

Chair Hickson acknowledged that Jewel Eldridge was not present at the meeting. He asked the other members if they had any comments.

Dr. Mary House stated that she had talked to Jewel Eldridge in the past about the need for sign language in the faith-based communities. At that time, Jewel Eldridge notified Dr. Mary House that was the reason she did not attend church. Dr. Mary House instructed her to watch it via Facebook and put on closed caption. Those are the things that the faith-based community must work on. It is not easy to fix, as volunteers are needed to do the sign language for those who are deaf. It is hard to get volunteers. Dr. House stated that is something she is working on in her ministry.

Chair Hickson thanked Dr. Mary House for her input. Chair Hickson posed a question for Jewel Eldridge. He asked how funds can be deployed. ASL is not an easy language to learn for many people. Chair Hickson see it as an opportunity for economic and workforce development. One of the issues with advocacy to increase funding is that they do not want to give funding. So how can people inspire the idea that technology can now do what humans were able to do instead of recordings that can provide translation services or caption services. He asks, how can people increase funding and then how can training efforts be deployed on a widespread scale. Chair Hickson asked Alisa Howard if ASL was part of the community health workers' (CHWs) training. He has noticed an increase of CHWs within the community.

Alisa Howard stated that they currently do not have any ASL training for the CHWs. But it should be added to the CHWs curriculum. She suggested that a list of resources could be put together to address the faith-based issue. The list could include churches that have ASL interpreters. For example, Victory Missionary Baptist Church had ASL interpretation for the last 20 years that she has been there. There are other churches that have it. If that is not the case, the subcommittee could investigate finding funding for ASL interpreters to work with the faith-based community as well as those CHWs.

Chair Hickson thanked Alisa Howard and stated that he has noticed the increase of CHWs within the community. He asked Karina Fox to continue with the report.

Karina Fox stated that the next part of the report was “**Environmental Challenges and Vulnerable Communities**” from Dr. Mary House. Under observation, Dr. Mary House talked about the disproportionate impact on environmental justice communities, higher pollution exposure, inadequate housing conditions. The underlying risk factor discuss historical and systematic inequalities in housing, industrial zoning and resource allocation, higher susceptibility to health issues due to pre-existing conditions, inadequate living environments, barriers to accessing health and safety resources and programs. The recommendations include enhancing air pollution regulation, equity focused solutions, and infrastructure and housing improvements.

Chair Hickson thanked Dr. Mary House for such a wonderful addition to the Pulse Report. He asked Dr. Mary House if she felt that her recommendations are actionable and to whom should those be directed.

Dr. Mary House stated that it was a privileged to be on this committee representing the environmental issues and challenges. There are many resources in the clean energy world to help the community. Congressman Horsford made it clear that there was over \$4 billion in the state that will be used for clean energy projects. The Nevada Clean Energy Fund is managing that. These funds are for everyone. You can get a loan at an exceptionally low interest rate (4%) to do weatherization, install solar panels, to upgrade appliances, anything that has to do with bringing utility bills down. It has nothing to do with people's credit scores. It is known that communities of color suffer with a lot of low credit scores. There is funding available right now through the Nevada Clean Energy Fund,

Clark County, the City of Henderson, City of North Las Vegas, and the City of Las Vegas. They all are currently working on what they call a hub where people can come as a consumer and get their home/apartment assessed and find out what needs are necessary to make their place of living safer. Some of this is based on income so people may not have any cost associated. Or people may be able to get rebates or have incentives that will be available to lower utility bills. Dr. Mary House is very much involved in this space. Dr. Mary House is having meetings with several representatives from Clark County about making sure that these funds get to the community. There are some areas who have not been involved in this topic such as 89106 and 102. She is very adamant about it and moving forward with this topic. She hopes that individuals of the subcommittee watch her connect with CH&R on their Facebook page and Instagram. That is where all the information is being added to. At the workshop, there were approximately 150 homeowners. Congressman Horsford said that no one is getting the money to the community. So, she is open to making sure that this information gets to the community. She has been putting the message out there. She has been making calls. Still people do not seem open to the idea and joining the conversation. She does not know what else to say. If people do not apply for those funds, those funds will go to someone else.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Alisa Howard for comment.

Alisa Howard asked Dr. Mary House if she could provide a training to the CHWs that work in faith-based communities regarding her message.

Dr. Mary House stated that she absolutely can. She advised Alisa Howard to reach out and coordinate the details for the training.

Alisa Howard stated that she produced this idea as Dr. Hickson brought up the CHWs. The CHWs are being trained on hypertension, chronic disease of different areas, but they have not been trained on environmental health. It would be ideal that the CHWs receive this training as they are the boot on the group, and they are going into faith-based communities. They are some free courses in environment public health online on the CDC as well.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Bishop Derek Rimson for comment.

Bishop Derek Rimson thanked Dr. House and Alisa Howard for the information. He asked if there was any type of printed information that can be distributed. Also, since some members of the BLAC Subcommittee are talking about training, he was wondering if there are any training platforms for the faith-based community. He believes that it would be a good idea if various churches could have Alisa Howard or Dr. Mary House come in and just expose this information to bring awareness. Additionally, if there are any printed brochures or literature that could be passed out as well.

Dr. Mary House stated that she would be honored to do through her workshops. Through this workshop they can invite several entities, such as the Nevada Clean Energy Fund, the commissioner from Tammy Cordoba, Public utilities Commission (PUCN), and the NV Energy Powership Program. Everyone provides literature and information. They send out emails with the resources. She would love to present to the faith leaders and the CHWs in Clark County. Also, she could talk about the hub being utilized to help individual apply for these funds. The goal is the hub to be a one stop shop which will be very convenient for the consumer. She believes that all these initiatives will help people have healthier homes. But also, it will help attach or address the respiratory issues going on within people's homes.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Dr. Robert Bush for comment.

Dr. Robert Bush thanked Dr. Mary House for her presentation. He has faith that if the community know better, they will do better. Unfortunately, in this area, the word is not getting out enough. He would love to help get the word out. He is the publisher of the Urban Voice and they have reached 45,000 readers. He would love to give a platform so Dr. Mary House can talk about this topic. Also, other platforms should be researched to spread the message broadly and faster.

Chair Hickson asked Dr. Mary House if transportation factors were included in environmental considerations. There are many challenges in the vulnerable communities partly because Las Vegas in a very overly populated city with a lot of people who do not have access to healthcare. But more importantly, majority of the minorities tend to live clustered together in the same environment in which their vehicles are producing a lot of pollutants in the air. Is there a push within the environment world to increase or restructure the way public transit systems within the city operate? Which will not only cut down on pedestrian crashes, which is also a public health safety concern with the minority communities, but also increasing access to healthcare for those who deal with respiratory issues. Overall, is transportation included in some of these recommendations?

Dr. Mary House stated that yes there are measures. She was in a workshop with the Department of Transportation and the discussion that came to the table was about the lack of public transportation. Other topics discussed were the need for electric buses, the need for ride sharing programs with electric cars, and putting the infrastructure needed for people who will buy electric cars in the future. Putting those charging stations at community centers, libraries, and schools. This will help individuals who do not have charging stations at their homes and/or apartments. There are some conversation and funding. She is making sure that the community does not get left behind in this movement. It is a slow process, but it is happening. There are actions being taken and they hear what the community is saying and evaluating. She even asked if they could send someone from the committee who lives in Reno or Carson City to ride the bus from Charleston to Cheyenne or Martin Luther King Blvd to see what that looks like. By doing this, they could see how many stops there are and if bus stops have covers. She gave the suggestion whether they do it or not. They need to get out from the capital and come down to the community and be a participant to see what people deal with every single day. So, yes transportation is a part of that. It is just a matter of creating the funding to come down, deciding who will receive it and how it will be executed.

Chair Hickson asked Karina Fox to continue with the next section of the report.

Karina Fox stated that the last section of the report is Black "**Faith-Based Communities**" by Bishop Derek Rimson. Under observations, the following areas were discussed, holistic services, cultural and spiritual support, significant role in Black communities. Underlying risks include economic constraints limiting the ability of organization to maintain a variety of services. Other risks include generational differences in religious participation among Black Americans, comparative lack of resources compared to Caucasian faith-based organization. The recommendations include focus on sustainable financial strategies to support the diverse array of services, enhance engagement with younger generations in the community, advocate for equitable resources distribution and recognition of the unique role of Black faith-based organizations in society. In conclusion, this report underscores the pivotal role Black faith-based organizations in providing essential services and cultural support to their communities.

Chair Hickson asked Bishop Derek Rimson if he wanted to add any thoughts to what was being presented and his ability to action the recommendations.

Bishop Derek Rimson stated that the group had a robust conversation, suggestions, throughout this meeting about the faith-based community. Dr. Mary House provided so much information, data, and opportunities for the

community. He would like to do his part and provide a platform for the training already discussed. This would be one of his newly added recommendations. On top of that, he would continue collaborating with Dr. Bush and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). There are some grassroots organizations that are really fighting for justice and racial equality. Collaborating with those groups and bringing them on board will be ideal. There was an event where the president of the NAACP gave a presentation on voting that its process. The community needs to know about the voting process in the state of Nevada.

Chair Hickson thanked Bishop Derek Rimson for his comments, especially his emphasis on voting. That comment came as such pertinent time while discussing actionable recommendations. The upcoming legislation should be considered for the Pulse Report. Chair Hickson asked members to think about the recommendations and which of those could be turned into a Bill Draft Request (BDR) and which legislative allies could be included. The next legislation session will be in February – June 2025. Everyone should be thinking about how to get involved with producing and pushing forward some of these legislations. Chair Hickson encouraged BLAC Subcommittee members to think about which of these recommendations could become a BDR. Also, Dr. Mary House talked about her connection to Representative Horsford. So, there are some opportunities for the BLAC Subcommittee members to bring forward some of these recommendations.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Alisa Howard for comment.

Alisa Howard stated that though the BDR idea was very good. She is the chair of the Healthcare Roundtable for the Urban Chamber and they just had Senator Nguyen on their Healthcare Roundtable. It is on Facebook. People can go to the Urban Chamber and watch the information. The Senator is in the healthcare committee and she brought up a lot of great points and she was able to answer a lot of questions. Alisa Howard as the chair of this entity will be willing to open the platform for Dr. House to come and talk about environmental health as a business strategy, but from a healthcare perspective.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Kamilah Bywaters for comment.

Kamilah Bywaters asked for clarification on next steps for the report. She asked if she is supposed to be finding people to collaborate with in her area of education and youth. Or should she wait until the report is final.

Chair Hickson advised that members should start actioning. So, he recommends that members finalize the Pulse Report. So, by the next meeting all updates should be submitted to Karina Fox. At the same time members should start think who are these people that they need to talk to action some of the recommendation. Chair Hickson emphasized the need to finalize the report.

Karina Fox displayed the pulse report requirements in the screen. Those would be disseminated to the group as well.

Chair Hickson proposed a vote to have all updates related to the Pulse Report submitted by the next meeting. He asked for a motion.

Dr. Mary House made the motion to have updates finalized by the next meeting.

Dr. Robert Bush seconded the motion.

All were in favor, except for Alisa Howard who opposed to this motion. She would like to recommend that action steps be added to the report. This extra information should indicate who the members will be partnering with to action the recommendations. Members should list the non-profits and CDC organizations names, who will be

pivotal partners in this process. This will ensure that recommendations get actioned, but also help the community know what is being done. They will learn who they can work with.

Chair Hickson amended his motion. It should include not only having members' updates available by the next meeting, but also to incorporate the recommendation submitted by Alisa Howard. Members must include who their actionable items will be directed to and who will be allies in this work.

Alisa Howard made the motion.

Dr. Mary House seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Chair Hickson approved that the BLAC Subcommittee members submit their updates for the Black Pulse Report before the next BLAC meeting, including who the members will be directing those actionable items on January 30th, 2024, at 11:42 AM.

V. Discussion and Approval of Future Meeting Dates, Agenda Topics (For Possible Action):

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson stated that a poll would be sent out to see if the next BLAC Subcommittee meeting can be held on February 21st, 2024. He advised subcommittee members to attend the NOMHE Advisory Committee meeting on February 13th, 2024.

VI. Public Comment

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Public Comment will be taken during this agenda item. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The Chair of the Black Leadership Advisory Council will place a two (2) minute time limit on the time individuals may address the Committee. The Chair may elect to allow public comment on a specific agenda item when that item is being considered. To provide public comment telephonically, dial 1 (346) 248-7799 and when prompted to provide the Meeting ID, enter 821 3460 5228, passcode 632029.

No comments were made.

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Robert Bush made the motion to adjourn.

All were in favor.

Chair Hickson adjourn the meeting on January 30th, 2024, at 11:46 AM.

This meeting will be held virtually (via conference video & call). Notice of this meeting was faxed, emailed, or hand delivered for posting to the following locations:

- Northern Nevada Public Health, 1001 E. Ninth St., Reno, NV 89512
- NV Dept of Public Safety – Capitol Police, 555 E. Washington Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89101
- State Capitol Building, 101 N. Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701
- Community Based Care, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Ste 104, Elko, NV 89801
- Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706
- Aging Disability Services Division, 7090 Pollock Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89119
- Southern Nevada Health District, 280 S. Decatur Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89107
- Dept of Health and Human Services, Director’s Office, 400 King St, Suite 300, Carson City, NV 89703

Agenda and meeting materials may also be viewed on the internet at:

the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity’s website:

https://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/CHA/MH/MH_Advisory_Committee/2024/NOMHE-AC2024/

and

the Department of Administration’s website:

<https://notice.nv.gov/>

Written comments in excess of one typed page on any agenda items which requires a vote are respectfully requested to be submitted to the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity at nomhe@dhhs.nv.gov three (3) calendar days prior to the meeting to ensure that adequate consideration is given to the material. We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who have a disability and require special accommodations or assistance to attend/participate in the meeting. Also, copies of meeting materials can be made available. Requests for accommodations or meeting materials should be directed to the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity Program Manager by emailing tdortch@dhhs.nv.gov or by calling Tina Dortch at 702-486-2151 no later than three (3) working days prior to the meeting date.

Office of Minority Health and Equity

7090 Pollock Drive • Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

702-486-2151 • <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/CHA/MH/>