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**Minutes (FINAL)
of the meeting of
Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) Advisory Committee
Wednesday, May 27, 2020**

The Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) Advisory Committee held a public meeting on May 27, 2020, beginning at 10:05 a.m. at the following locations:

This Meeting was held via Conference call only:

In accordance with Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006: Subsections 1: the requirement contained in NRS 241.023 (1)(b) that there be a physical location designates for meetings of public bodies where a member of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended.

Teleconference number: (775) 687-0999, Access Code: 62151#

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Andre Wade, Chair. Present were Advisory Committee members Andrea Gregg, Dr. Gillian Barclay, Dr. Jennifer Kawi, Erik Jimenez, Dr. Crystal Lee, and Senator Pat Spearman (the nonvoting legislative advisor to the Advisory Committee).

Advisory Committee member absent: Cassandra Cotton (with explanation).

QUORUM achieved.

Also present were Tina Dortch, Program Manager, NOMHE; Alisa Howard; Baldo Bobadilla, HiAP, Nevada Public Health Training Center; Janet Serial, NAACP Sparks/Reno; Jay Cafferata, UNR Nevada Public Health Training Center; Sara Hanafi, HiAP, Nevada Public Health Training Center; Sheila James, Minority Health Advisor, Region Nine Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health; Dr. Melva Thompson-Robinson, UNLV; and Jose Melendrez, Chair, Nevada Minority Health Equity Coalition.

Chair Wade announced that both he and Andrea Gregg were reappointed to the NOMHE Advisory Committee.

Chair Wade thanked everyone for the continued support during COVID-19-19 and he has been honored to serve on the NOMHE Advisory Committee. Andrea Gregg's membership expires December 2020.

The committee has a new member, Dr. Crystal Lee. Dr. Lee introduced herself and gave a brief description of her background. Dr. Lee was born and raised in the Navajo Nation tribal homeland. She received her MPH and Ph.D. from UNLV; her Ph.D. is in public health. Dr. Lee acknowledged Dr. Melva Thompson-Robinson who sat on her dissertation committee. Currently Dr. Lee is faculty at the University of New Mexico, College of Population Health. Las Vegas is her primary residence, where she serves as Vice-Chair for Clark County Democratic Party American Indian Alaskan Native Caucus. She is also CEO and founder of **UnitedNatives.org**. Dr. Lee has been working with tribes regionally and nationally in response to COVID-19.

Chair Wade noted that former Vice Chairman Sam Liberman recently passed away and would be missed, he called for a moment of silence. Chair Wade called for comments on Mr. Liebermann's passing.

Senator Pat Spearman acknowledged the work that Mr. Liberman had contributed to and said it is a great loss to the community. She also stated that he is one of the reasons that she would like to change "disabled" to "differently-abled". Life worked for Mr. Lieberman because he was always working for someone else. He will be truly missed.

Gillian Barclay recognized his passing as a great loss, and she noted that Mr. Lieberman told her once "Do your best and do what's right and I'll never have to tell you to think of others".

Eric Jimenez said Mr. Lieberman was a dear friend and got him involved in politics and government. Mr. Jimenez noted that differently abled and minority communities are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19-19 and are most at risk. He hopes the work today and through the next legislative session will help protect those groups better.

Dr. Jennifer Kawai knew Mr. Lieberman through UNLV and acknowledged that he was an advocate for higher education.

Dr. Crystal Lee stated that she did not know Mr. Liebermann personally but expressed her condolences.

Andrea Gregg served with Mr. Liebermann for a short time on this committee and expressed her condolences.

Tina Dortch stated that his virtual service had over 600 viewers which is a testament to his impact in the community. Mr. Lieberman was the first person to volunteer and serve on the NOMHE Advisory Committee. His parliamentary prowess will be sorely missed.

2. Public Comment

Chair Wade asked that public comment wait until the end of the meeting due to having a full agenda.

3. Review/Approve Minutes from November 19, 2019, and February 11, 2020, NOMHE Advisory Committee Meetings

Ms. Gregg motioned to approve the minutes from November 19, 2019, and February 11, 2020 meetings, with the exception that her name is spelled incorrectly. Seconded by Ms. Barclay. Motion with changes carried.

4. NOMHE Advisory Committee Leadership

Chair Wade stated annual elections will be coming up in August 2020. The Chair and Vice Chair positions will be selected at the August 2020 annual meeting that is normally to be held in Northern Nevada. Given restricted travel during COVID-19 and a pause in large group meetings – it will likely be a virtual meeting. Mr. Wade will stay on as Chair for the next couple of months until a replacement is found to ensure leadership is in place.

Ms. Dortch thanked Mr. Wade for his continued support, as he has stayed on for two cycles, this would be his third. She pointed out the potential lack of leadership and asked anyone interested to reach out to her. Ms. Dortch asked for questions, there were none.

5. NOMHE Advisory Committee Sustainability Update

Budget

Chair Wade stated that there have not been any major budgetary issues in the past or currently and that all state budgets are up for review. He is hopeful that there won't be any cuts to the NOMHE budget.

Ms. Dortch commented that 2018 was the start of the NOMHE's active participation in the community, with an initial budget of \$130,000. Last fiscal year the budget was \$142,000 with the majority of that going to salaries and fringe. The operating budget consisted of about \$30,000 which went to help other organizations to expand the impact of NOMHE on the community level. In the last three months, there has been little activity due to COVID-19. Ms. Dortch asked if there were any questions, there were none.

COVID-19 related Federal Grant Application

In early May it was announced that a Federal Grant, administered through the Federal OMHE, would be released with the goal to help the vulnerable populations affected by COVID-19. Because this grant has a nationwide reach, the NOMHE is looking for a partner who is going to commit to providing resources to the local OMHEs. For that reason, the NOMHE has partnered with Association of State and Territorial Health Offices (ASTHO) and the National Association of State Offices of Minority Health (NASOMH). If awarded it is a three-year grant with a baseline of 10 million dollars with a max annually of 22 million dollars and a 40-million-dollar ceiling over the three years. The Federal USDHHS OMH will be the funder, then ASTHO/NASOMH will be contract holder able to subgrant to the state OMH's who will fund local CBO's currently doing the hands-on, heavy lifting when it comes to COVID-19 mitigation. There are four categories of delivery. The NOMHE has identified the first one (focused on state level implementation

plans) and accepted a leadership role if the award is granted. This category addresses operationalizing all of the means to address mitigation. The start date for this award would be 10-15 days after the award is granted. The award grant date is set for June 1-5 with the money set for distribution mid-June 2020.

Senator Spearman requested that the African American Community be prioritized. Community feedback should be more strongly considered including more listening to the needs of the community rather than just doing. She commented that too often what is provided misses the mark on what is needed. She also recognized the passing of Pastor Fowler, a Las Vegas Community leader.

Ms. Dortch went on to say that the effort of the NOMHE is to include feedback from marginalized communities.

Senator Spearman stated that she is working towards legislation that would promote collaboration with entities who are directly working with the communities and will include accountability.

Ms. Dortch thanked Senator Spearman for her comments and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

6. NOMHE Advisory Committee Activities and Impact Report

Capacity (Staffing)

Ms. Dortch announced that there will be a support staff person joining the office who has been sourced through the CDC Foundation who awarded the NV Department of Health and Human Services five hires. Interviews will be completed tomorrow, and the new support staff will start early to mid-June. Ms. Dortch asked if there were any comments. There were none.

Activities and Impact Overview

Ms. Dortch commented that the NOMHE is focused on three subject matters which include Health in All Policies, the Diversification of Clinical Trials, and Ally Training. The Diversification of Clinical Trials includes the "All of Us" event as the most featured component, unfortunately, the mobile event has been sidelined by COVID-19 and will need to be rescheduled. Comments invited.

Dr. Lee said there are concerns from the tribal communities regarding participation in clinical trials, data sovereignty, and the lack of ownership of data.

Ms. Dortch noted Dr. Lee's concerns, said that conversation with tribal communities and advocates is critical, and looks forward to future discussions sharing information at both the state and national levels with our friends at the National Institute of Health (NIH) because they need to be actively aware of the concerns. Meaningful ways to address concerns are sought.

Chair Wade commented that historically clinical trials have caused more harm than good in the African American community.

Ms. Dortch shared that due to encouragement from Senator Spearman the NOMHE has allied with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centers in Nevada, Nevada Hands & Voices, and the Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Speech Impaired. A Memorandum of Understanding will be formed. This community also has documented concerns regarding clinical trials and vaccinations; there is a strong belief that many of these activities have resulted in hearing loss. The NOMHE is documenting concerns and those concerns will be included in a related Vaccine Awareness Campaign. A collaborative action will take place to close gaps in non-educational service delivery. An effort will be made to integrate differently abled people at the decision-making level. Ms. Dortch invited questions.

Ms. Barclay stated that we need to pay close attention to who has access to the vaccine when it becomes available. Equitable access to vaccines should be the goal, especially in light of the high rate of morbidity experienced by marginalized, high needs, African American, and other ethnic minority populations.

Senator Spearman noted that this is a critical time and that we need to learn and improve in light of COVID-19.

Signature Events

ALLY Action Group for SGM Healthcare Related Activities

Jay Cafferata spoke about Ally related training with local health care providers regarding marginalized communities (please see handout). He informed the committee that if they had questions or concerns that he could be reached by phone or email.

Ms. Dortch stated that Mr. Cafferata is on board because of legislation from the 80th Session (sponsored by Senator Spearman) which seeks to mandate culturally sensitive training in the health sector as part of licensure.

HiAP Work Plan Overview

Sara Hanafi said one of the deliverables for the Health in All Policies (HiAP) Initiative is to deliver two in-person trainings on HiAP. This was affected by COVID-19 so it was turned into a three-day webinar series held on April 28, 29, and 30, 2020. The webinar was 2 hours per day so a total of 6 hours and was a success with 60 participants (please see handout). The webinar will be converted into an online at-will training which will be available at the end of June or early July.

Baldo Bobadilla said he is working with numerous rural health entities. A letter from the Governor was received requesting a focus on the infrastructure of rural health care. The five pilot projects include LatinX Health Action Network; Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful; Rural Nevada Public Health Emergency Preparedness; Regional Transportation Commission Pedestrian Experience Index; and Construction Safety, Infections Disease Prevention (please see handout).

Ms. Dortch stated that HiAP is a resource to be utilized by state health agencies and external service providers. Through the training program there are action steps that can be taken to operationalize solutions. Pilot programs serve as proof of concept to support the development of new laws. As an example, infectious disease training ensures that during a hospital renovation project, a business's personnel is safe, including the construction workforce - which includes many minorities. Ms. Dortch invited comments.

Senator Spearman drew attention to the related topic that residential cleaning businesses and any other in-home services need support in making sure that they have the proper PPE and training.

Ms. Dortch commented that Mr. Bobadilla and his team are identifying those non-construction entities who may come into contact with infectious components. Many of these companies are made up of persons of color. Ms. Dortch also pointed out that the Green Advantage certification was in place Pre-COVID-19, but due to COVID-19, it is being magnified.

7. NOMHE Advisory Committee Activity

NOMHE COVID-19 Response Strategy

Chair Wade discussed NOMHE's role in the current environment, the current data, and how to make an impact in the community. He invited feedback on ways the NOMHE can move forward.

Ms. Dortch presented the COVID-19 impact data in three documents from the Office of Analytics and explained the data (see handout). The documents explain the caseload for COVID-19, with the numbers being stratified by race. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Report, representing the world's largest data base on public health, was conducted by phone call, and includes about 400,000 participants nationwide, with roughly 4,000 participants from Nevada. The Survey chronologically and quantifiably talks about chronic disease and is stratified by race as well. The information is important in that it demonstrates the numbers of persons who contract vs. succumb to COVID-19. The majority of persons who have succumbed to COVID-19 belong to marginalized communities, which includes the elderly, medically fragile and ethnically diverse populations (see the handout). Data should be populated with realistic information and used to drive activity and determine where the resources should flow. Ms. Dortch asked the committee member for their thoughts.

Mr. Jimenez commented that the NOMHE does not seem to be consulted regarding the State's COVID-19 response, especially when COVID-19 is hitting communities of color the hardest. The NOMHE should be engaging with allied groups, other partner groups and the community leaders who need the correct information given to them and using that feedback to affect decisions. The American Indian community is promulgating regulations regarding tribal contribution which will force agencies to consult with tribes before decisions are made. Mr. Jimenez would like to see the NOMHE have a similar focus which would influence decisions that affect health outcomes in minority communities.

Senator Spearman agreed and said that in other states the OMH is not treated as an adjunct. She acknowledges the difficulties the NOMHE faces due to lack of funding and personnel to support the

initiatives. Distribution of funding to address inequities in health care delivery should be directed by the NOHME.

Dr. Lee stated that she serves as Vice-Chair for the Clark County Democratic Party American Indian Alaska Native Caucus and that the newly formed Caucus is involved in the response to the COVID-19 situation. Native American Tribes have jurisdictional challenges when it comes to working with state and federal partners. Currently, the Navajo Nations has the highest rate per capita of COVID-19 related cases. It was noted that states that have a tribal liaison have proven to be successful when it comes to working with local governments.

Ms. Gregg agrees with and praised the ideas that are being presented. There will be 4.2 million-dollar HRSA funding that's coming from the federal level to support AHEC's and other initiatives toward their COVID-19 responses. This funding is going to support the workforce side, the health care infrastructure in rural and underserved communities, and help promote telehealth technologies. Ms. Gregg would like to see more education brought to providers and will work on a proposal this week.

Ms. Barclay said detailed policies need to be in place to address racial and ethnic disparities. States that have strong public health practices and infrastructure grounded in the lens of racial and health inequities has helped them stem the endemic. LA County in California has best practices in place that meets the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations. They use a people-first philosophy, daily life experiences, and timely access to patient data to guide treatment. Ms. Barclay would like to see the NOMHE be the voice of universal testing especially for the communities hardest hit. Also needed is institutionalized weekly publications that give real-time data of those who test positive for COVID-19 and utilize contact tracing.

Ms. Dortch shared the testing statistics and suggested research was needed.

Alisia Howard said the federal OHM has hosted Webinars, offered training, and has sent out newsletters. Ms. Howard commented she has not seen anything from the Nevada OMHE. The Nevada office should be helping the marginalized community as it is looking for leadership. Data can be used to dispel the myths that are in these communities. Ms. Howard would like to see a push in the response to these communities.

Senator Spearman agreed and encouraged that we listen to other states.

Senator Spearman Left the meeting at 11:42 am.

Chair Wade asked that a link providing COVID-19 information placed on the NOHME website.

NOMHE "Amplify Equity" COVID-19-19 Response Toolkit

Ms. Dortch presented information about the NOMHE Amplify Equity COVID-19 response strategy. The response strategy will be a repository of resources to develop COVID-10 responses. Targeted user will be organizations committed to culturally competent service delivery and/or health equity advocates.

Components include cultural competency education; outreach/public awareness; contact tracing; and action planning and reporting (see handout). Comments were invited.

Mr. Jimenez stated that education is important and added that public awareness and outreach effort is spot on and the NOMHE is moving in the right direction.

Dr. Lee said that it will be important to work with the community to see what is most impactful in disseminating information.

Chair Wade stated that the NOMHE is moving in a great direction.

Ms. Barclay stated that she sits on the Board of Hip Hop Public Health and worked closely with President Obama in the Let's Move campaign. She noted that they met with people to get their opinions. They also made hip-hop videos to drive home the health message, which included health protection and health promotion which were NIH funded. Ms. Barclay encouraged collaboration with those entities.

Ms. Gregg is looking forward to the opportunity for collaboration.

Dr. Lee stated that she also has received NIH funding to work with the Navajo tribes to do public health videos that are culturally and linguistically appropriate for the Navajo, Apache, Hopi, and Nevada tribes.

Ms. Howard said that we need to keep in mind that the black community is not participating in tracking or tracing. There is a conspiracy theory present in the community when it comes to COVID-19. We need to have a conversation on how to engage the population.

Ms. Dortch will speak to Ms. Howard offline regarding how to engage. When it comes to contact tracing, we need to cross-train so that multiple people are not coming to the same doors.

Senator Spearman suggested finding out how the Asian communities are addressing contact tracing.

NOME Partnership with UNLV Center for Health Disparities Research “Exploring Pathways to Cultural Humility”

Dr. Melva Thompson-Robinson stated that she is working with a group of people across the county. She has recently submitted a PCORI grant application for funding focus groups. The focus group's task will be to find out what contact tracing looks like in their communities and how responsive those communities will be to the contact tracing. The information would be used to drive contact tracing efforts.

NOMHE Partnership to host Webinar series using virtual Town Hall Format

Ms. Dortch stated that she will be working with the Nevada Minority Health Equity Coalition and Sheila James' office and will be conducting webinars that are intended to educate individuals on COVID-19. The unique component is that every 4th Tuesday of the month beginning June 23rd there will be an update. There will be a keynote speaker and a panel made up of members from each minority group.

Jose Melendrez reiterated what Ms. Dortch had said and said this will be an ongoing education series for minority groups for the COVID-19 response. The Governor of Michigan has put together an advisory panel to consider the impact of COVID-19 on persons of color (see handout). Mr. Melendrez suggested the NOMHE review that document.

8. Scheduling & Agenda Topics

Scheduling Meetings

Chair Wade stated that the next meeting will take place on August 18, 2020, from 10 am to 2 pm most likely in a virtual context, not in Northern Nevada. Elections will need to take place for the Chair and the Vice-Chair positions, if you have someone you would like to nominate, or self-nominate please prepared do so during the meeting.

Ms. Dortch asked the Committee members to indicate their ability to attend the August 18th and the November 17th meetings. All members indicated they will be able to attend.

Proposed Agenda Topics

Ms. Dortch presented an agenda topic for the next meeting - review the Governor of Michigan's Executive Order No. 2020-55 (see handout).

Ms. Dortch's office will be meeting with the Director of the Nevada COVID-19 Response Team, Caleb Cage. The meeting will not take place until a strategy is finalized.

Ms. Dortch told the Chair that the agenda is still under construction.

Chair Wade informed the committee that there is still an at large NOMHE Advisory Committee member that needs to be filled and asked for referrals sent to Ms. Dortch. Additionally, if you have any guest speaker suggestions please send those to Ms. Dortch as well.

9. Public Comment

Chair Wade called for public comment.

Janet Serial, Sparks-Reno NAACP thanked the committee for an excellent meeting. She stated that she would like the NOHME to take more of an active role in the webinars about health disparities and cultural competency and asked for a place to get the information regarding service delivery and the testing data. Information needs to be readily available.

There were no further public comments.

10. . Adjournment

Chair Wade called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Jimenez moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Gregg seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:17.