

Steve Sisolak
Governor



**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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Richard Whitley, MS
Director

OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH & EQUITY

3320 W Sahara Avenue, Suite 260

Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Telephone (702) 486 - 2151 • Fax (702) 486 - 3586

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/CHA/MH/>

Minutes (FINAL)
of the meeting of the
Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) Advisory Committee
Tuesday, August 17, 2021

The Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) Advisory Committee held a public meeting on August 17, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the following locations:

This Meeting was held in person and through teleconference:

In person

3320 W. Sahara Avenue Suite 260

Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Conference call:

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 is permitted to attend and participate is suspended.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chair Erik Jimenez.

Committee Members Present: Chair Erik Jimenez, Vice Chair Andrea Gregg, Andre Wade, Dr. Crystal Lee, Dr. Jennifer Kawi, Reverend Dr. Karen Anderson, and Cassandra Cotton.

QUORUM achieved.

Also present were Senator Patricia Spearman; Tina Dortch, Program Manager, NOMHE; Tami Conn, Health Program Specialist II, SSDI Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Section; Alexandra Neal, NOMHE; Cyndee Joncas, Grants Management Unit, DHHS; Dominique Seck, NOMHE; Janet Serial, NAACP Sparks/Reno; Sheila James, Regional Minority Health Analyst, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health Region 9; Jay Cafferata, University of Nevada Reno (UNR) Public Health Training Center; Tamara Telles, Health in All Polices, University of Nevada Reno (UNR); Elika Nematian, SNHD Office of Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion;

2. Public Comment

Chair Jimenez invited public comment. There was none.

3. Review/Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2021, NOMHE Advisory Committee Meeting

Action Item. Chair Jimenez invited a motion to approve the May 18, 2021, NOMHE Advisory Committee Meeting minutes. Dr. Karen Anderson motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Second from Cassandra Cotton, motion carried unanimously; minutes approved with no changes.

4. “Nevada Maternal Mortality Review Committee Review of Nevada Revised Statutes and AB 119 of the 81st Legislative Session” – Tami Conn, Health Program Specialist II, SSDI Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Section

AB 119 Assembly Woman Clara Thompson: Maternal Mortality Review Committee

Actioning AB 119 – AB 119 requires the Maternal Mortality Review Committee to collaborate with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health and Equity Advisory Committee in the development of the disparity reducing and a corrective action report.

Tami Conn invited the Advisory Committee to view the presentation titled “Nevada Maternal Mortality Review Committee Review of Nevada Revised Statutes and AB 119 of the 81st Legislative Session”. Ms. Conn defined maternal mortality, gave an overview of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC), discussed revisions to the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) MMRC Regulations and AB 119 of the 81st Legislative Session, gave a reporting timeline, data overview, and 2020 MMRC report recommendations. Ms. Conn discussed the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) and the MMRC and presented a summary of the responsibilities of the NOMHE MMRC.

Senator Pat Spearman noted Assemblywoman Armstrong’s bill involving doulas and asked if there is any overlap in the functions of the MMRC and how doulas are/are not used. She also wanted to know if there are any plans on educating the public on doulas to improve support and care in pregnancy.

Tami Conn explained that the MMRC does not have any doulas. One midwife serves on the Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board. However, she said that if there was a doula involved in a case that the MMRC was investigating, the doula would be in the case abstraction for the committee members to review and see what role the doula played. Ms. Conn invited recommendations from the NOMHE.

Ms. Dortch said a list of suggested recommendations will be prepared by the NOMHE office for the Advisory Committee’s consideration during the November 2022 meeting.

Chair Jimenez asked for information about funding streams which are deployed in communities.

Ms. Dortch said her office will compile a report.

5. NOMHE Advisory Committee Annual Business

Duties and Benefits

Chair Jimenez asked any of the NOMHE Advisory Committee members interested in receiving a per diem per NRS 232.482 of \$80 to contact the Program Manager, Tina Dortch by email. Tina Dortch pointed out the duties and terms of the NOMHE Advisory Committee members.

Open Board Seats

Ms. Dortch invited the Advisory Committee to view the handout titled NOMHE Advisory Committee Recruitment Info. The handout outlines NOMHE Advisory Committee duties, responsibilities, and terms. Each of the members' information is included. Ms. Dortch asked for suggestions in filling the open board seats.

Andre Wade said folks in Winnemucca who have self-identified as LGBTQ may help fill the diversity goals. Mr. Wade will forward information to Ms. Dortch.

Olivia Smith, Community Outreach Manager, Anthem BCBS Medicaid Division expressed interest in sitting on the NOMHE Advisory Committee.

Cassandra Cotton elaborated on Mr. Wade's comment and said she knows some people in Pahrump she will contact to see if they are interested.

Dr. Crystal Lee knows of some tribal leaders in Northern Nevada who have concerns regarding health issues in the Northern Territories. She will send some suggestions to Ms. Dortch.

Bishop Bonnie Radden expressed interest in serving on the NOMHE Advisory Committee.

Elections, (pending election result), Chair

Ms. Dortch invited nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Andrea Gregg motioned for the option to extend Erik Jimenez as Chair; Reverend Dr. Karen Anderson seconded. Ms. Dortch said the motion will hold until nominations are taken.

Nominations for Chair was closed and nominations for Vice Chair was opened.

Dr. Jennifer Kawi nominated Andrea Gregg to continue as Vice Chair.

Ms. Dortch invited a motion to recognize the two nominations on the floor. Dr. Kawi motioned to retain the current Chair, Erik Jimenez, and Vice Chair; Andrea Gregg. Cassandra Cotton seconded the motion. Ms. Dortch asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion.

Verbal role call vote:

Jimenez – yes

Gregg – yes

Cotton – yes

Wade – yes

Kawi – yes

Anderson – yes

Lee – yes

6. NOMHE Sustainability Update - *NOMHE Budget (i.e., sustainability)*

Ms. Dortch presented the handout titled NOMHE Budget Summary SFY22 as of July 28, 2021. The NOMHE has a current authority of \$139,482 and projected expenditures of \$138,913.50 leaving a balance of \$568.50. Ms. Dortch discussed the funding sources and planned expenditures.

Dr. Kawi asked how the work orders were allocated?

Ms. Dortch said the standard methodology was used as a way to utilize individuals already on the sub-contracts (vetting process already completed, cost savings). Many of the Work Orders were used to build on existing work.

7. NOMHE Activities and Impact Updates

Program Manager Report (i.e., Impact)

Ms. Dortch thanked the NOMHE Advisory Committee for the opportunity to present and presented the NOMHE Program Manager Report.

Minority Tax - Fatigued and Taxed Listening Session Series, Alliance Building, Redefining Value

Ms. Dortch defined Minority Tax as the costly intersection BIPOC medical professionals experience between advocating for BIPOC patients and communities served and upholding the interests of profit driven medical institutions, often at the expense of their personal wellbeing and professional advancement and discussed the NOMHE's response including holding a three-part Fatigued and Taxed Listening Session Series, alliance building, and redefining value. The first two listening sessions were held in March 2021 and May 2021. The third will be held in October 2021.

Possible actions by the NOMHE include redefining value and identifying additional subject matter for training.

Community Backpack Giveaway and Prevention Focused Health Fair August 7, 2021

The NOMHE partnered with the Fountain of Hope Church, FEMA, and several medical entities. The purpose of the Community Backpack Giveaway and Prevention Focused Health Fair held on August 7, 2021, was to reframe outreach, re-establish preventative care, and recognize COVID-19 as a chronic disease. The outcomes included 20 services providers, 1,150 attendees, and 350 COVID-19 tests administered in addition to 30 COVID-19 vaccines, back to school vaccines, and the HPV vaccine. The data collected from the outreach survey will be available soon.

CDC Grant Purpose and Outcomes

The purpose and outcomes of the CDC grant include the reduction in COVID-19 related health disparities, improve and increase testing and contact tracing, and improve capacity and service delivery of health and human services providing entities to prevent and control COVID-19 infection among higher risk and underserved populations.

NOMHE's Key Deliverables, Staffing Response

Five new employees will be hired including 4 program officers and a management analyst. Ms. Dortch displayed an organization chart showing the positions. Key deliverables include development of a Health Equity Plan that reflects emergency responsiveness considerations, language access planning, multi-sector coalition building and collaboration enhancements, specifically working with the Nevada Minority Health Equity Coalition, policy changes and operational improvements within NOMHE and across DHHS service providing agencies with a focus on health equity, development and implementation of training on engaging at-risk and underserved populations, and provide reports on all activities and impacts.

NOMHE's Subawards

Ms. Dortch shared information about each of the new Work Orders (WO).

WO 1202 University of Nevada, Las Vegas – The Minority Health Equity Coalition: Community Building

WO 1201 University of Nevada, Las Vegas – School of Public Health: Process Evaluation

Work Order 1204 University of Nevada, Reno – NV Public Health Training Center (affiliated with the new Larson Institute for Health Impact and Equity): Training - Emphasis on Health in All Policies (HiAP) and Sexual and Gender Minority populations

Work Order 1203 Social Entrepreneurs, Inc: Community Building – Diversity Equity & Inclusion Strategy Content; Policy and Procedure Manual with Emphasis on Workforce inclusion

Chair Jimenez invited questions. There were no questions.

Grant and Legislative Activity Overview

Ms. Dortch presented information about Equity Focused Bills from the 81st Legislative Session.

SB 424 Senate Committee on Finance: Public Health Resource Officer, Funds NOMHE staff person to assist the Governor's Office new Public Health Resource Office with a review of the State's public health infrastructure.

SB 341 Senator Pat Spearman: Kidney Task Force; Minority Health Equity Fund, Promotes the development of public/private partnerships; establishes the Minority Health Equity Fund and allows for fund-raising.

SB 390 Senate Committee on Health and Human Services: Opioid Settlement Fund Distribution, NOMHE appoints 6 persons to the Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada; requires input from NOMHE on Needs Assessment related to opioid misuse and distribution of the Opioid Settlement.

SB 222 Senator Melanie Scheible: Diversity Liaison's within State Agencies, NOMHE is working with the Office of New Americans and the Minority Commission to identify agency-level Diversity Liaisons and develop related protocols.

Chair Jimenez invited questions. There were no questions. Chair Jimenez commented on SB 341 and suggested it would be good if the NOMHE could find out if the funding can be used to support the NOMHE and submit a request for funds.

Ms. Dortch said she and Dominique Seck will follow up on submitting a request for funds.

Ms. Gregg asked for elaboration on the fund-raising aspect of SB 341 and the intended use for the dollars.

Ms. Dortch said the bill does not include much context about how to use the funding, but the NOMHE Advisory Committee may look at gaps and possibly fund entities that may not qualify for larger federal or state funding.

Olivia Smith asked who will house the fund-raising account?

Ms. Dortch said the fund-raising account will be part of the NOMHE budget and distributed through the NOMHE.

8. Scheduling Future Meetings and Proposed Agenda Topics

Dates for the next meetings are November 9, 2021, Tuesday, 10:00 to 12:00, and February 8, 2022, Tuesday, at 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Ms. Dortch asked the NOMHE Advisory Committee to identify a date in May 2022 that works for them.

Chair Jimenez said the Tuesdays in May 2022 fall on the 10th, 17th, or 24th. Dr. Kawi suggested May 17th which was accepted and will be added to the calendar.

Chair Jimenez asked for proposed agenda topics to be sent to Ms. Dortch. Topics suggested by Chair Jimenez include:

Update the NOMHE Advisory Committee bylaws
Senate Bill 390 orientation

9. Public Comment

Chair Jimenez invited public comment.

Dr. Crystal Lee expressed a concern that some tribes in Northern Nevada are experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks, are in need of vaccines, and asked for outreach. Dr. Lee listed off the following tribal communities are in desperate need of support: Fort McDermitt, Duck Valley, Duckwater, Yomba, Timbasha-Shoshone, Goshute, Ely, Elko, Fallen, Yerington. Dr. Lee will email the list of tribes to Ms. Dortch and Chair Jimenez. United Native Health will be working in conjunction with the Las Vegas Indian Center for a community health fair on Las Vegas September 28, 2021. Dr. Lee will send a flyer to Ms. Dortch to be disseminated.

Sheila James agenda topics – February meeting would be a good time for someone from OASH to give an update on initiatives and possible opportunities for alignment. Fund raising – will continue to keep an eye out for potential funding to support NOMHE's efforts in the community. Dr. Lee tribes in need for vaccination – asked Dr. Lee to email the list of tribes to her. Ms. James will provide information to Ms. Dortch about how the regional office can support the tribal community.

Janet Serial –Reno-Sparks NAACP's health committee will hold a virtual webinar panel on Black mental health with the targeted date of October 14. They canceled the second annual African American Health and Environmental Climate Justice. They are planning a virtual event and they plan to seek out partners including NOMHE. She also wants to bring attention to diversity in workforce development. Janet noted that youth of color are drowning in student loan debt and

thus do not feel medical school is an option. The NAACP is working on addressing it through student loan forgiveness legislation.

Olivia Smith – Tribal event in Las Vegas, asked if Dr. Lee would like to host a COVID vaccination at the same time as the event to be held September 28, 2021. Ms. Smith will contact Dr. Lee and Ms. Dortch.

Manoj Sharma, UNLV School of Public Health, introduced himself and his colleagues and said he looks forward to working with the NOMHE.

10. Adjournment

Action Item- Chair Jimenez called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Kawi motioned to adjourn. Dr. Anderson seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 am.