



OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH & EQUITY
555.E. Washington Avenue, Suite 4800
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
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, May 18, 2021**

The Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) Advisory Committee held a public meeting on May 18, 2021, beginning at 10:00 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 were a member of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am

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.

Advisory Committee members absent: Dr. Gillian Barclay

QUORUM achieved.

Also present were Senator Patricia Spearman; Tina Dortch, Program Manager, NOMHE; Beth Handler, Deputy Director, Director's Office, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); Alexandra Neal, NOMHE; Jennifer Hughes, Grants Management Unit, DHHS; Dominique Seck, COVID-19 Program Coordinator, NOMHE; Baldo Bobadilla and Tamara Telles, Health in All Policies, University of Nevada Reno (UNR) Public Health Training Center; Catherine Nielsen, Projects Manager, Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities; Janet Serial, NAACP Sparks/Reno; Alisa Howard

2. Public Comment

Alex Goff gave public comment regarding substitutes/proxies to serve on sub- committees.

3. Review/Approval of Minutes from February 16, 2021, NOMHE Advisory Committee Meeting

Action Item. Chair Jimenez invited a motion to approve the February 16, 2021, NOMHE Advisory Committee Meeting minutes. Dr. Jennifer Kawi motioned to move the minutes as presented. Second from Reverend Karen Anderson. Motion carried unanimously; minutes approved with no changes.

4. NOMHE Sustainability Update

Chair Erik Jimenez stated the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) has a budget of \$138,069.00 and so far, \$136,995.01 has been spent.

Tina Dortch stated the budget currently reflects pandemic operations. The largest part of the budget has always been salary and fringe. Typically, there is activity spending so Committee members can travel to Northern Nevada for the Annual meeting.

Andre Wade asked if there was a line item for Grants Response?

Ms. Dortch expressed the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity was not established to create those kind of sub-granting opportunities. However, there are some legislative actions that might change that. Alexandra Neal will present on that later in the meeting. The Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity has done sponsorship in the past and the line item is under memberships dues and registration fees.

5. NOMHE Activities and Impact Reporting

Program Manager Capacity & Impact Overview

Ms. Dortch thanked the NOMHE Advisory Committee for the opportunity to present. Ms. Dortch presented the NOMHE Program Manager Report. The report contained COVID-19 Responsiveness, The Morehouse School of Medicine National COVID-19 Resiliency Network Regional Community Coalition, White House COVID Response Team, CT/NV Lieutenant Governor Panel on Most Equitable COVID Practices, NV Health Center Vaccine Clinic and NOMHE's "Amplify Equity" COVID Response Toolkit.

Ms. Dortch spent time on the NV Health Center Clinic. On April 24, 2021, a clinic was conducted. The Johnson & Johnson Vaccine was not able to be used, but the Moderna which required a second visit. Ms. Dortch said she was unsure if participants would return for the second shot. Organizations are allowing flexibility when it comes to scheduling. Ms. Dortch concluded the more convenient that second dosing is, the more people show up. The outreach that has been done has helped those who are hesitant to taking the vaccine and has moved those same individuals into being compliant.

The Amplify Equity COVID Response Toolkit was created for COVID but has utility beyond COVID. Dominique Seck conducted many one-on-one assessments. These one-on-one scenarios offer the opportunity to proactively make sure community hosts are aware of the resources. Looking forward Ms. Seck will offer the one-on-one meetings to assist entities.

The NOMHE has been busy with a system change. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Diversity Equity and Inclusion Steering Committee is an ongoing work to action the Governor's Proclamation naming systemic racism a public health crisis. The NOMHE will hold a town hall meeting at the end of May. The town hall meeting presents a situational analysis and is intended to show the demographic makeup of the DHHS Workforce and to assess the current climate and how it relates to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This has been developed after analyzing data on employment trends, comparing those to the State's civilian force. The Climate survey was sent out to the entire DHHS agency and of the 60,000 employees 30,000 took the survey. As part of the town hall meeting the survey is being shared. Ms. Dortch not only uses the meeting to introduce herself but to demonstrate what the NOMHE does.

Ms. Dortch stated she is mindful of The Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) mission and how the office sustains itself. There are two major activities on the grant front. Both of these grants are from the CDC, the first one being Office for the State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support: National Initiative Address COVID-19 Health Disparities among populations at high risk and underserved, including racial and ethnic minority populations and communities. The second focusing on the National Center for Chronic Disease prevention and health promotion: Community Health Workers for COVID response and resilient Communities (CCR).

DHHS application is for about 32 million dollars, spanning over two years. For NOMHE the amount will be around 1.5 million dollars. The NOMHE will be able to hire five new staff including program officers to help with the State equity plan, a program manager to serve as a liaison, and someone to track data and recording. There will also be training opportunities for both the North and the South. Ms. Dortch then answered Mr. Wade's question from earlier, with this grant the ability to subaward will take place.

The next grant helps with health workers, the purpose is to train and place community health workers across eight different communities in the State. It will provide culturally appropriate education and resources. NOMHE is looking at about \$160,000 to find a management analyst and a health programs specialist who will work with other offices to help support a data function.

The Office of Minority Health and Equity has busy with Education and Outreach, including the Clinical Trial Diversification which work has been active but even more so with COVID. NOMHE has also been active with The Faith and Health Coalition connecting them to the All of Us Initiative. The All of Us Initiative's new program offers incentives to organizations to host demos and feature their products on social media. They receive anywhere from \$400.00 - \$1000.00 dollars.

Ms. Dortch went on to thank Dr. Kawi and Dr. Reimund Serafica for their involvement in the AAPI installment of a 3-part listening session for Nevada's Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC) Medical Professionals.

The Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition continues to thrive. Through an endowment they are able to grant coalition members stipends for the retention of interns. Members that retain the interns receive \$2,000.00 stipends and the host organization receives \$500.00 for administrative expense fees.

81st Legislative Session Overview, Alexandra Neal, COVID-19 Minority Health Equity Specialist, NOMHE

Alexandra Neal Invited the NOMHE Advisory Committee to review the attachment on "NOMHE ACMtg LegUpdate". Senate Bill (SB) 341, sponsored by Senator Patricia Spearman, the purpose of this bill establishes Equity Fund for NOMHE revenue, promotes NOMHE establishing public and private partnerships, and establishes a kidney disease task force.

Senator Spearman stated that some changes have been made to this bill. The task force will be a study. Some items have been removed such as language that said, "must do" to "shall do".

Mr. Wade asked Senator Spearman if there were any updates on the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Bill SB109?

Senator Spearman stated they got it out and it is in the Assembly.

Chair Jimenez thanked Senator Spearman for her efforts and encouraged everyone listening to make their voice heard and participate in the extent they can.

Senator Spearman then spoke on SB297, the Community Gardens and Farm Bill. This bill allows communities to set up a space for gardens and look for land for urban farms. There is also a commercial aspect so people can have a place to shop and provide jobs. SB188 allows the treasury department to set up accounts for individuals of low wealth communities. This account allows people to save money without affecting the social services benefits they are receiving. This bill also helps children who are in the foster care system giving financial freedom to these individuals.

Senator Spearman remarked the State wants to explore lithium and hydrogen resources. There is a hydrogen fuel cell company in Northern Las Vegas who intends to go live in November 2021 and will provide high paying jobs for Southern Nevada residents. If all comes together Nevada will have the second largest lithium plant in the world.

Ms. Neal directed the NOMHE Advisory Committee back to her presentation. SB222 sponsored by Senator Melanie Schieble. The purpose of this bill is to identify an inclusion liaison with State agencies, establish Office of Minority Health and Equity collaboration with communities on minority affairs and the Office of New Americans. A requirement would be to collaborate on findings and recommendations.

Ms. Dortch proclaimed SB222 is crucially important because they support other aspects of State business. Having individuals who are diversity focused who are embedded within state agencies. These are the type of bills that are necessary.

SB390 sponsored by The Senate Committee of Health and Human Services. The purpose of this bill creates a new advisory committee to oversee the distribution of Nevada's settlement funds. Section 8 creates the Fund for Resilient Nevada. The purpose of this fund is to remediate the harm, impacts, and risks of Nevada's opioid epidemic. The proposed amendment elects NOMHE members to a new Advisory Committee. NOMHE will assist with the needs assessment and impact fund distribution strategy. The new advisory committee would be within the Department of Health and Human Services for Resilient Nevada. NOMHE would appoint 6 members to this committee. The members would be as follows, one who has a lived experience or a family member of substance use that resides in Nevada. A member who possesses knowledge, skills, and experiences in public health. A member who is the director for a local agency that provides services for neglected or abused children. A member who specializes in youth substance abuse. The fifth member would be a recovery faith-based organization. The last member NOMHE shall appoint is someone who represents a certified non-profit substance abuse disorder treatment program.

The last bill Ms. Neal gave detail on is AB119, sponsored by Assemblywoman Clara Thomas. The purpose of this bill is for NOMHE to support the Mortality Review Committee, providing disparities and disproportionate impact information, and development of corrective action plan.

Ms. Dortch emphasized the importance of these bills helps build the data for the Minority Health Report.

Ms. Neal added one more note on AB327, this requires mental health professional to complete continuing education relation to cultural competency.

Ally-Related Activities, Jay Cafferata, Public Health Diversity Advisor, UNR Public Health Training Center

Jay Cafferata invited the Committee to view the handout titled "Allyship DEI". The deliverable for this project has included Ally Action Group, LGBTQIA Statewide Strategic Plan, SGM Health Conference at UNR, Diversity Medical Education Group and Cultural Competency Training. In year two the deliverables include are but not limited to, Ally Action Group, Nevada Coalition for Transgender Health Care, Anti-Racism steering Committee, SCHS DEI Committee, and the Online Cultural Competency for Licensed Healthcare Facilities Course.

Hope Grows is a Statewide survey for Trans Health and the data is being compiled so it can be used in as many different grants as possible. The report should be done at the end of May 2021. The Diversity Summit held in Northern Nevada included a panel who reported how COVID affected the TRANS population and how it affected their lives. The group Mr. Cafferata was a part of included nearly 50 people.

One of the furthest reaching impacts this grant has contributed to is the Comprehensive Panel for CAH (Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia), DSD (disorders of sex development/differentiation) Intersex. This has prohibited unnecessary surgeries in infants and children. The group has put forth best practices and a standard of care. This will be used on a national scale and is already being used in a number of other states. Additionally, Mr. Cafferata is still working on making the Cultural Competency training accessible to all, including online training.

Mr. Cafferata remarked that they had participated in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Equity Alliance Day at the Legislature. The turnout was remarkable, and Legislators offered comments.

Mr. Wade asked if the intersex comprehensive program could be shared.

Mr. Cafferata stated it was a pilot program, but he would share with anyone who would like the information.

Ms. Dortch emphasized that Mr. Cafferata is available for training needs for any organizations who might need it or to further explain any modules that are already in place.

In a related opportunity the Governor has been promoting the American Recovery Plan which dollars will be more long living than the CARES dollars. The Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity has been actively promoted ideas for funding. Ms. Dortch distributed a Strategy Document from The Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity which includes embedded surveys to give ideas for funding.

Chair Jimenez encouraged the NOMHE Advisory Committee to take part in this survey.

Health in All Policies (HiAP) Activities, Baldo Bobadilla & Tamara Telles, Public Health Diversity Advisors, UNR Public Health Training Center

Baldo Bobadilla Invited the NOMHE Advisory Committee to review the attachment “HiAP Status NOMHE May 2021”, and “HiAP Status NOMHE May 2021”. Mr. Bobadilla recapped on what HiAP has done for the last two years. The deliverables for the HiAP projects have included one training and three conference presentations which include Health in All Policies 101, Nevada Public Health Associations, Northern Nevada Diversity Summit, and Truckee Meadows Tomorrow. The HiAP pilot projects include Pedestrian Safety, Recycling Needs Assessment, Affordable Housing Conversation, the LatinX Communication Strategy, the Heat-related Health Outcomes and Extreme Heat Events in Clark County, the Rural Nevada Health Capacity Building, and Green Advantage which focuses on Construction Safety.

Tamara Telles spoke on the key findings, four key items emerged: the first being Partnerships, Inter-sectoral Collaboration and Opportunities, this allowed agencies to network in the State and create connections and form collaborations on significant projections through the Health Equity lenses. This created a natural synergy from partners.

The second key item was Building Capacity with partners mentioned the Health in All Policies Training 101 helped developed a shared based understanding of the HiAP approach. This brought to light social

determinates of health. This enlightened partners how the work they are doing helps their communities, this has brought a new sense of pride to their work.

The third key item was a lack of data as this is evident with identifying health disparities with partners. The pilot projects have been able to start collecting the data to support the work. However more data is still needed to identify areas of improvement. With a lack of data this creates deficits in resources. Numbers are needed to be shown to get more funding.

The fourth key item is Challenges of Implementation. COVID has created barriers, however HiAP has been able to overcome many barriers. HiAP had learned to become innovative with relationship building. As the pandemic allowed down many projects HiAP was still able to be adaptable. Ms. Telles gave recommendations for more research which needs to be done; an environmental scan should be done to support HiAP approach. With policy or health impact assignments, health or impact notes should be used in the HiAP considerations. Utilization in the Health and All Policy's 101 training was beneficial to other partners and is recommend for professional development. Additionally, funding is needed to make a lasting a memorable impact.

Mr. Bobadilla spoke on the future projects and partnerships said that they are excited to work on. HiAP is excited to work with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) on the pedestrian safety to expand this project to most of Washoe County.

Ms. Telles finished her presentation on the value and the outcomes of the HiAP projects, as they look forward to an Action Plan for future of Health Equity opportunities identified. The Executive Evaluation Report is complete and is available on the website makinghealthhappen.org. Mr. Bobadilla asked if the Committee had any questions.

Chair Jimenez asked that when all the reports are completed that it be shared with Ms. Dortch so it can be passed along. Particularly the recycling and rural housing reports.

Ms. Dortch said the work that HiAP has done is important to the work of the NOMHE and to the State. There are only a handful of States that are championing HiAP. Ms. Dortch expressed her gratitude to the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) team for their work.

Gerold Dermid Director, UNR NV Public Health Training Center, thanked the team for the work they have done in the last two years. The projects have helped plant seeds to reduce disparities in health equity and increase capacity to serve all Nevadans. Mr. Dermid hopes to build on these in the next biennium and proposals have been submitted to build upon these foundations. The status of these projects is to sunset the end of June 2021. They are currently awaiting notice of continued funding. Mr. Dermid thanked the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity and the NOMHE Advisory Committee. This work has not only helped the State of Nevada but has been recognized Nationally.

Actioning HiAP Through SB 302 (The Development/Utilization of Racial Equity Worksheets, Tina Dortch, Program Manager, NOMHE

Ms. Dortch invited the Committee to view the slide for SB302 sponsored by Senator Spearman. The purpose of this Bill is to upstream equity principals through the public sector training, state agencies, workforce composition and to allow for racial equity considerations with drafting legislative measures, The effect this has on NOMHE will support and change NOMHE's functions, responsibilities, and abilities.

6. Scheduling Matters

Chair Jimenez said the next meeting will be August 17, 2021, at 10:00 am. Due the expiration of the Governors Emergency Directive 006 beginning June 1, 2021, there will be a physical location available for the meetings going forward.

The tentative dates for the next meeting will be November 9, 2021, at 10:00 am and February 8, 2022, at 10:00 am.

7. Public Comment

Chair Jimenez opened up public comment.

Vicki Ives from the Department of Public and Behavioral Health shared that the Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Division has a new data dashboard that has federally available data. Ms. Ives will forward the link to Ms. Dortch.

8. Adjournment

Action Item- Chair Jimenez called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andrea Gregg motioned to adjourn. Dr. Kawi seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50.