

Joe Lombardo
Governor



**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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Richard Whitley, MS
Director

**Minutes (DRAFT)
Of the meeting of the
NEVADA OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND EQUITY (NOMHE)
Quarterly Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 14, 2023**

The Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) Advisory Committee held a public meeting on Tuesday, February 14th, 2023, beginning at 10:04 am at the location:

This meeting was held via Microsoft Teams

Tina Dortch welcomed the audience to the February 14th, 2023, Nevada office of Minority Health and Equity Advisory Committee meeting. Tina Dortch introduced herself as the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE)'s Program Manager and one of the staff supporting the meeting. Tina Dortch introduced other NOMHE team members, Evelyn Donis de Miranda, and Alexandra Neal.

Tina Dortch asked for confirmation that the recording had begun for the meeting.

Alexandra Neal confirmed that the recording had begun along with ASL interpretation.

Tina Dortch thanked Alexandra Neal for confirming.

Tina Dortch reminded individuals about silencing their phones and stating their names when speaking. Also, she asked Advisory Committee members to turn on their cameras for the duration of the meeting. Other individuals could stay the camera off unless when presenting.

Tina Dortch asked individuals to withhold their statements until the agenda item has been announced and the floor is open. Also, she stated that there would be a two-minute limit on the time for individuals to address the Advisory Committee. She reminded individuals that no action may be taken by an Advisory Committee member on any matter that is raised in public comment unless and until the matter is included on a future agenda as an item on which action can be taken.

Tina Dortch asked for Dr. Crystal Lee.

Dr. Crystal Lee was not present at the time. Tina Dortch asked for Mr. Chair's permission to read the land acknowledgment.

Chair Hickson granted Tina Dortch permission to read the land acknowledgment.

1. Land Acknowledgement

Tina Dortch read the following land acknowledgment:

The Office of Minority Health and Equity, as a program of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, acknowledges, honors, and respects the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land and recognizes the State of

Nevada is situated on the traditional homelands of the Nuwu, Newe, Numu, and Wa She Shu. We offer gratitude for the land itself, for those who have stewarded it for generations, and for the opportunity to work alongside our Tribal partners.

We encourage everyone in this space to engage in acknowledgment and continued learning about the Indigenous peoples who work and live on this land since time immemorial, and about the historical and present realities of colonialism.

Tina Dortch turned the agenda back to Mr. Chair and asked to start a call to order.

2. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Opening Statement

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Dr. Hickson turned the agenda to Tina Dortch for roll call.

Alexandra Neal notified Tina Dortch that she was muted.

Tina Dortch unmuted herself and started roll call.

Committee Members present: Dr. Samuel Hickson (Chair), Rutu Ezhuthachan (Vice Chair), Nicholas Dunkle, Dr. Raymond Serafica, Reverend Deborah Whitlock-Lacks, Nancy Bowen.

Ex: Officio Member Present: none

Quorum achieved.

Also present were the following NOMHE staff: Tina Dortch, Alexandra Neal, Princette Bowling, Carlos Ramirez, Amanda Anna, Karina Fox, and April Cruda.

Members of the public present: Adrienne Fe, Alisa Howard, Anita Chatterjee, Anna Binder, Asma Awan, Bishop Derek Rimson, Bobbi/interpreter, Esther Gregurek, Evelina Eytchison, Godwin Nwando, Janet Serial, Jen L. Thompson, Jeri Burton, Kamilah Bywater, Kayla Samuels, Kendal Scott, Laura Martin, Lauren Karp, Mamdoe Dyamwalle, Marta Malone, Michelle General, Niani Copper, Randy Robison, Robert D. Bush, Samantha Smith, Sharon L. Benson, Siddhart, Tori Diego, Tory Jaramillo/interpreter, Ty Smith, Vira T., and Will Rucker.

Chair Hickson acknowledged that during this meeting the Advisory Committee is fully seated as it has a nine-member appointment. Chair Hickson welcomed the three new members Nicholas Dunkle, Reverend Deborah Whitlock, and Nancy Bowen. The new members are from the north.

Chair Hickson invited new members to provide an opening statement and called Nicholas Dunkle.

Nicholas Dunkle stated that he is from High Sierra AHEC. He is a diversity advisor and an instructor for Nevada cultural competency.

Chair Hickson thanked Nicholas and invited Reverend Deborah Whitlock to speak.

Debra Whitlock-Lax stated that she is excited to be part of the advisory board and to contribute to the dialogue that is much needed in our community.

Chair Hickson thanked Reverend Whitlock and invited Nancy Bowen to speak.

Nancy Bowen is with the Nevada Primary Care Association. Her entire career has been around Health Equity and working with organizations to provide healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured. She expressed happiness in being part of this group.

Chair Hickson Thanked miss Bowen. Chair Hickson thanked the Advisory Committee members for their input on the November 2022 meeting on the maternal mortality and severe Morbidity report. Chair Hickson recognized Black History Month.

Chair Hickson welcomed all non-Advisory Committee members, the public, and guests, including presenters. Chair Hickson asked attendees to place their names, and titles in the chat box.

Chair Hickson invited everyone for public comments.

3. Public Comment:

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Public Comments 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 Advisory Committee on Minority Health and Equity 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.

Tina Dortch stated that no public comments were being provided via video or by phone. And she updated the roll call to include Pastor Kieran Anderson and we were at seven of nine board members.

Chair Hickson thanked Tina Dortch. Dr. Hickson recognized the amendment to roll call.

Chair Hickson moved to the next portion of the agenda, which was the approval of the November 15th, 2022, Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

4. Approval of November 15, 2022, Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

(For Possible Action):

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson stated that the minutes have been posted on the NOMHE website as required by statute, as well as forwarded to Advisory Committee members. Dr. Hickson asked for a motion to approve the November 15th, 2022, meeting minutes.

Rutu Ezhuthachan motioned to approve the minutes. Chair Hickson recognized member Rutu Ezhuthachan and asked for a second. Reymond Serafica seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

5. Presentation of NOMHE Budget

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson moved to the next agenda item, the NOMHE budget. Chair Hickson stated that "It is important to recognize that NOMHE seeks to operate under a balanced budget". Also, Chair Hickson stated that it is also important to recognize that NOMHE's budget consists of two components, 1 being from general, the other being grant funded.

Chair Hickson turned it over to Program Manager Tina Dortch to discuss the breakdown of NOMHE's budget.

Tina Dortch thanked Mr. Chair. She asked Advisory Committee members, to remain off-camera. She indicated that the budget is required to be reported per statutes. She expressed excitement and stated that NOMHE is no longer just merely funded by general fund dollars, but that NOMHE has healthy support from grant dollars, the general fund. And it demonstrates that for the current fiscal year, NOMHE is sitting at about \$139,500. The other portion of revenue that supports NOMHE's functionality is the CDC health disparity grant. That amount is \$3.1 million. Currently, both budgets are on track. The \$3.1 million funds 5 additional NOMHE staff persons, as well as six work orders and sub-awards. Those sub-awards reflect relationships with external stakeholders. Two contracts are within UNR, and they involve training modules for state employees plus an initiative with the faith sector that talks about how to lift community health workers within various churches in the north and the South. This is to help with the promotion of preventative care, not just around COVID,

but the development of training modules that talk about preventative options and chronic diseases that disproportionately affect minority populations. Two other grants are with you UNLV. And these contracts involve Community focused capacity-building training modules and the evaluation of the grants in general. NOMHE is the keeper of the contract. Also, there's a fifth contract with Nevada Broadcast Associates. Lastly, there is a contract that supports NOMHE's efforts within the Department of Health and Human Services. This is a contract that supports Social Entrepreneurs Incorporated (SEI), and it includes assembling related products produced by all the other funded stakeholders to comprise DEI.

Chair Hickson thanked Program Manager Dortch. Dr. Hickson opened the floor to any committee member that had questions.

No questions were asked, so Chair Hickson moved forward to the next piece of the agenda.

6. Report on NOMHE Activities, Initiatives, and Impacts

Tina Dortch, NOMHE Program Manager

Updates on NOMHE's mission-driven activities, strategic partnerships/initiatives, and status of actioning its CDC Health Disparity Grant by the Program Manager and NOMHE Staff

Tina Dortch stated that through NOMHE's CDC health disparity Grant, NOMHE was able to engage with the Nevada Broadcasters Association and a local firm to oversee the production of commercials to give communities the tools needed to either pre or debunk misinformation. She explains that pre-bunking is a form of education that allows an individual to be very proactive when it comes to identifying content that is of relevance. The minority health and equity coalition helped with the creation of these ads. Specifically, they were able to help NOMHE create a focus group opportunity to make sure that those in the commercial were inclusive and diverse. The ads also include ASL interpretation created by the executive director for the Nevada Commission for Persons Who are Deaf and or Hard of Hearing. NOMHE can give access to commercial links. Tina Dortch asked individuals to put their information in the chat if they would like access to the videos. The commercials are being transmitted via TV and radio in Northern and Southern Nevada stations and call stations. These commercials will run through the end of December of this year. NOMHE was able to negotiate that they run with equal distribution daily. Also, NOMHE was able to negotiate the potential modifications of the ads.

NOMHE attempted to show the commercial but there were issues with the audio.

Tina Dortch opened the room for questions.

Chair Hickson asked, how is NOMHE reaching remote areas that may not have access to streamlining services like radio or television to be able to access those commercials?

Tina Dortch stated that NOMHE will be distributing the links so that they can be shared with stakeholder communities. For example, Advisory Committee member Ms. Bowen asked for the links for the commercial. She could potentially then pass those links along and they can be embedded in your distributions to your advocacy groups and target populations.

Chair Hickson thanked Tina Dortch and asked if NOMHE tracking how effective these commercials are and reducing misinformation presentations and the effects on the public.

Tina Dortch stated that it is somewhat difficult and general to assess the impact of reversing disproportionately experienced. She stated that perhaps NOMHE could track and monitor viewership. Viewership does give an incomplete picture, but it does shows who are tuning in and are watching it. NOMHE can also look at how many people are clicking on the videos through the different partners' websites.

Chair Hickson asked if there were any other questions from the Advisory Committee.

Raymond Serafica had a follow-up question regarding the language in which the commercials are available. It appears as if the commercials are in Spanish. He asked if these commercials are also available in other languages besides Spanish, and English of course.

Tina Dortch stated that having a commercial in Tagalog is for consideration during the refresher of the commercial. She asked Advisory Committee members to make any suggestions for the refresher of the commercials.

Chair Hickson thanked Dr. Serafica for the questions and ask if any other member had other questions.

No other questions emerged.

Dr. Hickson invited Evelina Eytchison to present on the 2023 minority health report.

a. Presentation on the 2023 Minority Health Report

Evelina Eytchison, Chronic Disease Biostatistician – NV Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Analytics

- Tina Dortch gave recognition to NOMHE’s management data analyst Ms. Amanda Annan. She worked very closely with Ms. Eytchison to produce this report. This is a report that comes out every two years and the office feels very strongly that it’s a resource that Health Equity advocates can use on a variety of levels. Tina Dortch commended the Office of Analytics for its dedication and willingness to work with NOMHE.
- Evelina Eytchison introduced herself as the chronic disease biostatistician in the Office of Analytics. She stated the following:
 - The goal of the report is to highlight existing health disparities in Nevada by race, ethnicity, and by region.
 - The report is updated bi-annually, and the data is collected from several different sources including the nation's largest phone survey, death registry system, Nevada Central cancer registry, etc.
 - This report, once it's published, it can be found under the Office of Analytics data and reports page, and it's estimated to be published in early March 2023.
 - The key finding for the year 2021, COVID-19 was the leading cause of death for Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Alaska Native, and Hispanic populations. The death rate for diabetes was highest among the Black non-Hispanic population at 444.8 per 100,000 population. The Black non-Hispanic population has significantly higher death rates from homicide for each year from 2017 to 2021 than any other race or ethnicity group.
 - A significantly larger portion of the bisexual population had thoughts of suicide and depression 15.4% and 52.2%, respectively. The gay and lesbian population had the lowest percentage of adults with thoughts of suicide at 1.4% followed by the straight population at 3.6%.
 - The Hispanic population had a higher prevalence than any other race group of not being able to afford healthcare 20.6%.
 - Nevada's population in the years between 2020 and 2021 decreased by 0.8%. It's the first decrease in 10 years and the population is predominantly white.
 - The leading cause of death among all races and origins was classified as diseases of the heart, with a death rate of 211.7 per 100,000 population.
 - Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Nevada and the United States. It is typically diagnosed late in life with 80.8% of cases diagnosed in Nevada. Among those ages 55 years and older.
 - Unintentional injuries among white non-Hispanic, black non-Hispanic, Native American, and Alaska natives had significantly higher accidental death rates. Asian Pacific Islander population and the Hispanic population had significantly lower death rates in that category.
 - Chronic lower respiratory disease, the white population had a slightly higher death rate in this category. The Hispanic population has the smallest percentage of adults with this type of condition.
 - Homicide rates were highest among the Black population.
 - Mortality rate from suicide was the highest among the White population.
 - Influenza and pneumonia rates were higher among the Black population and Asian Pacific Islanders.
 - Black non-Hispanic population has significantly higher rates of reported cases of HIV infection.
 - Under maternal and infant health, teen birth rates in the Black population had the highest rate.
 - Communicable diseases and vaccine-preventable disease morbidity rates were highest among the Black

population.

- Majority of the population consider themselves, straight (93.9%) bisexual person (4.2%), and gay/lesbian (1.9%). This information came from Nevada's behavioral risk factor surveillance system.
- Hispanic population has the largest percentage of individuals who couldn't afford to see a doctor last year.
- American Indian and Alaska Native populations had a much higher rate of maternal mortality.
- Non-fatal opioid poisoning rates of the Black population were higher than the rates of White individuals.
- Under juvenile arrests and detentions, White individuals had the most arrests in the state than any other race or ethnicity.

Evelina Eytchison ended the presentation and asked listeners if they have any questions.

Chair Hickson thanked Ms. Eytchison, for the presentation.

Chair Hickson had a question regarding the Hispanic population.

- What comprises the Hispanic population?
- What does the report mean when it says that individuals cannot afford healthcare?
- Is it referring to individuals not being able to afford to see a doctor?
- Is it referring to individuals that have a visa?
- Is it referring to individuals that are citizens or other populations within that group?

Evelina Eytchison stated that that portion of the data comes from the nation's largest survey and it's an anonymous survey. People get the phone call, and they answer questions. That detailed data is not collected. It is unclear if individuals are undocumented aliens, or if they're citizens. The only clear thing is that they are Hispanics. The report is broken down into multiple sections White non-Hispanic, Black non-Hispanic, and Hispanic populations. There is no other information about them, whether they have documents or not.

Chair Hickson thanked Evelina Eytchison. Chair Hickson invited any other committee members to ask questions.

Amanda Annan added to Evelina's presentation regarding the leading causes of death. Although African Americans were not listed, COVID-19 was the second leading cause of death after diseases of the heart. Covid-19 did heavily impacted African Americans as well.

Chair Hickson thanked Amanda Annan for the information and invited others to ask any other questions.

Dr. Raymond Serafica asked the presenter to clarify the information about mental health issues that were presented across the population. Did that include substance abuse disorders? Or is just like, mental health? Even in terms of suicide or anxiety, depression, or any other type of mental health condition.

Evelina Eytchison stated that the information was gathered through a phone survey and people were asked whether they had any thoughts of suicide in the past 30 days. And the second question was whether they had any problems concentrating and remembering things. People responded either yes or no to that question. We don't know any other information about this.

Jen L. Thompson stated that while the minority health report does not cover it in detail, the Office of Analytics does have a massively detailed suicide dashboard that looks at race, and ethnicity. There is also a substance use dashboard that looks at race, and ethnicity, so it's covered in other areas.

b. Presentation and Discussion of the 2023 NOMHE Health Equity Action Plan (For Possible Action)

April Cruda, Program Officer II – Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity

After hearing or seeing no other questions or comments, Chair Hickson introduced the next item on the agenda a presentation of the 2023 Health Equity Action Plan by April Cruda.

April Cruda introduced herself as Program Officer for the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE). She reported being in the last stages of the development of the NOMHE Health Equity Action Plan known as the HEAP. She stated that this will be a new resource and explained the following:

- April Cruda presented during a previous NOMHE Advisory Committee meeting.
- The overall goal of the HEAP is to serve as a resource to support organizations throughout this state to promote and support Health Equity in their work by providing policy, program, and resource recommendations that can be applied to current and future practice.
- To ensure that Nevadans have an equitable opportunity to live a healthy and full life by focusing on strengthening and supporting the organizations that offer services to them. So that would mean that the audience of the HEAP would be public service organizations that interact regularly with community members including nonprofits, CBOS, state agencies, departments, or programs providers, local health departments, etc.
- April Cruda showed a screenshot of the HEAP cover page.
- She also shared a screenshot of a sample page of the chapter on building organizational capacity to display that there are recommendations and under each recommendation, there might be a resource that provides further technical assistance, an article or toolkit that gives more detail on how one might implement a given solution.
- Rural and travel considerations are also added in addition to those recommendations. These communities face unique barriers compared to others living in Clark County or Washoe or the more urban areas of the state.
- There are additional resources and a case study so those resources can be used by readers for further technical support to implement some of those strategies outlined in the plan. The case studies offer a real-life example of how each focus area is actioned.
- Some of the recommendations focus on language access. They specifically speak about being aware of and accommodating the languages that are spoken in the communities, using linguistic services and resources to support language access, be intentional with communication by using inclusive language.
- Other recommendations are about disseminating information in accessible places and accessible formats, evaluating the effectiveness of language services, and helping increase health literacy by empowering individuals to combat misinformation and be an advocate for their health.
- Then, a tribal consideration would be to preserve and revitalize the native language by creating incentivizing opportunities to learn and become fluent in native dialects.
- These are just some examples of how recommendations can then be actioned, so one could be used registration or intake processes to understand what languages are spoken by clients. Patients are the people you serve.
- Some of these recommendations may require staff training on the class standards.
- Other important things to consider are to encourage the utilization of the resource ASL anywhere whenever possible. Developing messages and campaigns that are inclusive and accessible format and are culturally and linguistically appropriate.
- After finalizing the HEAP and of course incorporating any comments from the committee, today, the heap will then be ready to be shared publicly. NOMHE is thinking of doing a tour of presentations with the HEAP starting in March and April and into the rest of the year.

Chair Hickson displayed an excitement about this new report. Chair Hickson asked if there is a consideration for the interaction with the residentially challenged population or more commonly referred to as the homeless. Also, how providers and or the medical and health community can interact with that population?

April Cruda thanked Chair Hickson and stated that as of right now, there are no specific considerations that mentioned the homeless, but it's a great point to bring up during the development of the plan.

Chair Hickson had a second question about the sexual and gender minority community, particularly considering the specific cultural and linguistic needs that that population has. Does the Health Equity plan talk or discuss nonverbal communication patterns that need to be analyzed and assessed?

April Cruda thanked Chair Hickson for the question and stated that the HEAP does reference the LGBTQ community and how to address or interact with them. Several resources in there offer more guidance than the plan itself does.

Chair Hickson had another question, how often or what is the plan by which NOMHE would be examining the resources provided in the plan to make sure that there's still going to be active so that people don't click a link and find out that the service or tech support is no longer viable?

April Cruda stated that after doing some presentations, she will be the one to refine, revisit and revise the HEAP as well as start the process for NOMHE's strategic plan. So that is kind of an ongoing thing where NOMHE will revisit the HEAP.

Chair Hickson recognized that Tina Dortch had a question.

Tina Dortch stated that she had a statement. She commended the work of April Cruda. She said that it is always more difficult to create than it is to critique. The HEAP is a deliverable of the CDC Health Disparity grant.

Chair Hickson thanked, Ms. Dortch, for her words. Chair Hickson opened the floor to any other committee members that might have questions for Ms. Cruda.

After hearing or seeing none, Chair Hickson recognized that Doctor Crystal Lee, an Advisory Committee member, had joined.

The NOMHE played the Health Matters commercial.

Tina Dortch stated that the video participants were sourced and vetted through support from the Minority Health Coalition. There are three additional versions of the commercial that have different populations representing different kinds of perspectives that all with the intent of driving individuals to this resource so that they could then become their selves.

7. Discussion of NOMHE 2023 Biennial Report Per NRS 232.479 Summarizing 2021-2022 Activities of the Office (For Possible Action)

Tina Dortch, NOMHE Program Manager

- This is one of the statutory requirements, of Statute number 232.479.
- Tina Dortch shared that NOMHE codified the biennial report to the governor and the Director of the Legislative Council Bureau, which is required for March 1 of each odd-numbered year, and that the manager shall submit this report to the governor and the Director of the LCB for Transmission.
- To the legislature, this report outlines the way the office has accomplished its purpose during the previous two years, including, without limitation, information concerning activities, findings, and recommendations of the office as they relate to health care services for members of minority groups, and to healthcare issues of interest to those members.
- NOMHE presented the 2023 biennium report, which will be available through e-mail distribution.
- The report is comprised of 5 sections.
- The report talks about how the office has experienced growth in the last two years and that growth was predicated on a lot of grant activity. Also, it talks about the skill sets and the subject matter expertise that was brought to bear because of the new employees and service matter experts that have been either indirectly or directly working in partnering with the office. NOMHE is always and will be committed to working with those groups, and through some of the work orders and sub-awards NOMHE got projects working with faith-based organizations
- Tina Dortch commended Public Information Officer, Carlos Ramirez Gomez and his work inside Intermountain Health and some other organizations.
- The NOMHE Advisory Committee is now a nine-person Advisory Committee.
- One thing that is important to note, the office while it can function and there is a very unprecedented bandwidth, is heavily predicated on grant-funded positions, which means they could be subject to renewal or the availability of

those dollars.

- Each NOMHE Advisory Committee person serves a 2-year term with the ability to review for an additional 2-year term. So, they can do a total of four years on the Advisory Committee.
- Ethnic and geographic diversity is required for the statute.
- The last parts of the report are meant to satisfy the provision of activities that have been going on with the organization with the office since the last biennium report. Several events go back to 2001.
- NOMHE has a very, very strong connection, with outdoor recreation. In November last year, Truckee Meadows connected communities with the outdoors for health and well-being.
- NOMHE was invited by the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation to present, and we talked about pathways to a better quality of life and possible. NOMHE and the Department of Wildlife made that presentation, and we talked about connecting communities with outdoor activities for their overall well health and well-being.
- The HEAP is to address the barriers that many communities of color face and engage with outdoor recreation. NOMHE will be going to North Nevada as well. April and her presentation will be able to get feedback from those attendees.
- Now during the annual Diversity and Inclusion Liaison (DIL) meeting, they will develop recommendations on how best to promote and improve the experience and methods to overcome barriers and ability to make sure that minority communities know that resources exist. So, during the inaugural year, which was last year, the three agencies also conducted a survey to identify across the participating departments exactly what resources they have and what are your means of service delivery.
- Senate Bill 424 provisions that NOMHE has a public health resource officer, and that the public health resource officer is working to investigate the state's public health infrastructure, specifically factoring for needs at the consumer level with an emphasis on diverse and marginalized communities. This process involves identifying service delivery gaps to deliver equity and focus systemic recommendations to the existing system and then health.

Nick Dunkle stated he identifies as a Latino and to update the information.

Tina Dortch noted Nick Dunkel's comment.

Chair Hickson asked if there were any other questions or comments. After hearing none, Chair Hickson moved to the next item on the agenda.

8. Request to Approve Members to NOMHE's Black Leadership Advisory Council (BLAC) Subcommittee

(For Possible Action) Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson stated that the purpose of black or the Black Leadership Advisory Council (BLAC) is that it is to serve as a catalyst for change and advocacy for diversity and equity within the state of Nevada as a subcommittee to the Office of Minority Health and Equity, or NOMHE. The purpose of BLAC is also to engage the community members in the decision-making process to improve the quality of life for Black and African American citizens in the state of Nevada.

Dr. Samuel Hickson is the chair, and his role as dictated by bylaws which have been very scant on this process is that the term of each Member of this subcommittee will not exceed more than 12 months, but they do have the opportunity for renewal as the subcommittee continues to work and to exist, that there will be approximately 2 meetings per year, but no more than three that will take place before the meeting of the Advisory Committee, so that the subcommittee may report to the Advisory Committee for recommendations and or questions on the work that they are doing. The committee is comprised of eight social constructs that work in health or social determinants of health. They will comprise 2 Members from Health and Wellness, two members from public policy, law, and government, and one representative for the remaining 6 categories. Each person or each representative would have to agree to their service contract of 12 months.

Advisory Committee members were asked to put forward any names that they might have that could be a part of this, and unless there aren't any additional names, there was a 26-person slate that came from each of these eight different categories.

Chair Hickson asked the Advisory Committee members if they would like to put any other names forward.

No other names were shared.

For the presentation of the 26 representatives Chair Hickson asked individuals to state "I accept" or "I decline" when called. Also, they were able to put their declaration into the chat box that they accepted or declined their nomination.

Chair Hickson asked for confirmation from the health and Wellness, Ms. Alyssa Howard.

Alissa Howard accepted the nomination.

Chair Hickson called Will Rucker.

Mr. Will Rucker accepted the nomination.

Chair Hickson asked for confirmation from Dr. Gwendolyn Green.

Dr. Gwendolyn Green was not present.

Chair Hickson asked Mamdoe Dyamwalle for confirmation.

Mamdoe Dyamwalle accepted her nomination.

Chair Hickson called Dr. Marguerite Brathwaite.

Dr. Marguerite Brathwaite was not present.

Chair Hickson called Michelle Maese.

Michelle Maese was not present.

Chair Hickson called Angela Cook.

Angela Cook was not present.

Chair Hickson called Augusta Massey.

Augusta Massey was not present.

Chair Hickson called Devin Moore.

Devin Moore was not present.

Chair Hickson called Alletha Muzorewa.

Alletha Muzorewa was not present.

Chair Hickson called Mario Mitchell.

Mario Mitchell was not present.

Chair Hickson called Donna Darden.

Donna Darden was not present.

Chair Hickson called Jacqueline Gravatt.

Jacqueline Gravatt was not present.

Chair Hickson called Thedric Andres.

Thedric Andres was not present.

Chair Hickson called Tanya Flanagan.

Tanya Flanagan was not present.

Chair Hickson called China Hudson.

China Hudson was not present.

Chair Hickson called Maryetta Sayles Clinton.

Maryetta Sayles Clinton was not present.

Chair Hickson called Gwen Walker.

Gwen Walker was not present.

Chair Hickson called Kamilah Bywaters.

Kamilah Bywaters accepted her nomination.

Chair Hickson called Tracey Lewis.

Tracey Lewis was not present.

Chair Hickson called Pastor Ronald Thomas.

Pastor Ronald Thomas was not present.

Chair Hickson called Bishop Derek Rimson.

Bishop Derek Rimson accepted his nomination.

Chair Hickson called Laura Martin.

Laura Martin was not present.

Chair Hickson moved to vote. Chair Hickson reminded listeners that nine out of the five NOMHE Advisory Committee members were present. Chair Hickson asked Alexandra Neal to repeat the names of the people who were present and accepted their nomination.

Alexandra Neal stated that there were three nominations put forward under the Health and Wellness category.

Chair Hickson thanked everyone. He put forward for the motion of vote Ms. Alyssa Howard as the first representative for health and Wellness Committee members.

Chair Hickson asked Program Manager Tina Dortch, to let him know how many members voted for the approval of Ms. Alyssa Howard.

Tina Dortch stated that Nancy Bowne, Dr. Rutu Ezhuthachan, Nick Dunkle, Dr. Lee, Dr. Serafica, Reverend Pastor Lax, and Reverend Dr. Karen Anderson voted "Yes".

Chair Hickson counted, that is 7 representatives of the 9-member Advisory Committee, thus solidifying Ms. Alyssa Howard as the first representative of the subcommittee BLAC. He put forward Mr. Will Rucker for the second representative of the health and Wellness Subcommittee.

Tina Dortch stated that Nancy Bowen, Dr. Rutu Ezhuthachan, Nick Dunkle, Dr. Lee, Dr. Serafica, Dr. Lax, and Pastor Anderson voted “Yes”.

Chair Hickson thanked Program Manager Dortch. He recognized 7 Advisory Committee members signifying yes to Will Rucker, as the second Representative for Health and Wellness. In accordance with bylaws, Mr. Will Rucker was solidified as the second Representative, thus completing the positions of all other persons.

Those who have been suggested for nominations can certainly serve as members of the public, as certain as collaborators for the work that is done by the BLAC Subcommittee moving to public policy, law, and government.

Chair Hickson motioned to put forward for vote **Mr. Robert Bush.**

Commented [ESDdM1]: He was not called to accept his nomination.

Tina Dortch stated that Nancy Bowen, Dr. Ezhuthachan, Nick Dunkle, Dr. Lee, Dr. Serafica, Pastor Lax, and Pastor Anders voted “Yes”.

Chair Hickson recognized that as being 7 Advisory Committee members who are signifying yes, thus solidifying Mr. Robert Bush as the first representative for public policy, law, and government. He put forward for consideration of vote **Adrian Feemster Cobb** as the second representative for public policy, law, and Government Advisory Committee members.

Commented [ESDdM2]: She was not called to accept her nomination.

Tina Dortch stated that Nancy Bowen, Dr. Ezhuthachan, Nick Dunkle, Dr. Lee, Dr. Serafica, Pastor Lax, and Pastor Anderson voted “Yes”.

Chair Hickson thanked Tina Dortch and signified that capacity was reached as that correct of the five Advisory Committee members.

Tina Dortch clarified that there are eight categories. The first two are health and Wellness. Two members were selected and two members under public policy, law, and government were selected as well.

Tina Dortch stated that the remaining categories were each to be represented by 1 member. There weren’t any individuals that were present today to accept the nomination under business, economics, tech, entrepreneurship, communication, arts, and culture. There were no recommendations under education and youth.

Chair Hickson submitted for vote Ms. Kamilah Bywater under education and Youth Advisory Committee members.

Tina Dortch stated that Nancy Bowen, Dr. Ezhuthachan, Nick Dunkle, Dr. Lee, Dr. Serafica, Pastor Lax, and Pastor Anderson voted “Yes”.

By the Chair’s count, there were 7 votes, solidifying Ms. Kamilah Bywaters as the education and youth representative for the BLAC Subcommittee. He submitted forward for vote Bishop Derek Rimson.

Tina Dortch stated that Nancy Bowen, Dr. Ezhuthachan, Nick Dunkle, Dr. Lee, Dr. Serafica, Pastor Anderson, and Pastor Lax voted “Yes”.

Chair Hickson declared that Bishop Derek Rimson will be the representative for the faith-based communities.

Chair Hickson stated that there are no representatives for the environment category. Due to that, the positions were not filled during this meeting.

Tina Dortch stated that the final subcommittee membership was ready for the NOMHE Advisory Committee to vote on a motion to accept.

Chair Hickson requested a motion to finalize the subcommittee membership as presented during the meeting.

Dr. Rutu Ezhuthachan accepted the motion

Nancy Bowen seconded.

Every member was in favor and there was no opposition.

Chair Hickson officially acknowledged that the subcommittee has been approved with the representatives as presented during the meeting. There are some vacancies.

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

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Tina Dortch called for potential topics. There will be a May, August, and November agenda.

Chair Hickson stated that for May 2023, some of the proposed topics include legislative updates and equity-focused bills and reports by the CDC HD grants ending in May.

Chair Hickson asked if any members of the Advisory Committee had any other topics. No other topics were highlighted for May or August.

Chair Hickson stated that in November 2023 the group will be reviewing the Diversity and Inclusion Liaison annual report, which will include a summary of the second year of activities.

Tina Dortch stated that in August the group may be asked to review the bylaws.

Chair Hickson agreed with Tina Dortch and during the August meeting, the group will also be considering a revision of the bylaw specifically to address the formation and guidance of subcommittees as well.

No other topics were suggested for the November meeting.

Chair Hickson asked Tina Dortch if the May meeting date is currently or tentatively set for May 9th at 10:00 AM, which is also virtual.

Tina Dortch confirmed May 9th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

A quorum needs to be confirmed to have the meeting.

Chair Hickson asked Tina Dortch if the August meeting will August 15th, 2023.

Tina Dortch confirmed.

Chair Hickson asked for confirmation about the November meeting to happen on the 14th of the month.

Tina Dortch confirmed.

Chair Hickson reminded Advisory Committee members that we need a minimum of five representatives. He encouraged Advisory Committee members to let NOMHE know if they cannot attend.

Chair Hickson stated that he wanted to propose the subcommittee meeting dates as well. He proposed the date for the first meeting to be April 12th of 2023 as well as July 12th as a potential meeting date and October 11th as a potential meeting. Chair Hickson if anybody had any objections.

Tina Dortch suggested taking two motions, 1 from the Advisory Committee to approve the May 9th, the August 15th, and the November 14th meetings at 10:00 a.m. And then a separate vote from the new subcommittee members to approve, those dates of April 12th, July 12th, and October 11th.

Chair Hickson accepted Tina Dortch's suggestions. And asked the Advisory Committee members to put a motion to vote on May 9th, August 15th, and November 14th at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Serafica made a motion to approve those three days.

Debra Whitlock-Lax seconded.

Everyone was in favor.

No one opposed it. Chair Hickson approved May 9th, August 15th, and November 14th as the three meeting dates for the Advisory Committee Meetings.

Chair Hickson asked for a motion to approve BLAC Subcommittee meetings on April 12th, July 12th, and October 11th.

Robert D. Bush motioned to approve all three dates.

Kamilah Bywaters seconded.

All were in favor.

No one opposed it. Chair Hickson approved April 12th, July 12th, and October 11th as the three meetings for the BLAC Subcommittee.

Chair Hickson moved to the next agenda item.

10. Public Comments

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Public Comments 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 Advisory Committee on Minority Health and Equity 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.

Janet Serial raised her hand and stated that she is the Health Committee Chair for the Reno-Sparks NAACP. She stated that she is in favor of the BLAC subcommittee but would like to see more representation from Northern Nevada since this is a statewide subcommittee and wanted to clarify that the subcommittee meetings would comply with the open meeting law.

Chair Hickson stated that the meetings will be open to the public and comply with open meeting law and the BLAC Subcommittee will take into consideration her recommendation for Northern representation. As mentioned, certainly there are openings. So, the BLAC Subcommittee will get back to that drawing board and consider that as well.

Chair Hickson recognized Rodney Smith for comments or questions.

Rodney Smith with BLAC stated that one of the categories that was not mentioned was the impact of racism on health, especially in the African American community, and specifically when it comes to African American women during the maternity process. It is known that there is a disparity in the number of African American women's deaths during pregnancy and delivery, as well as an excess number of deaths. Infant mortality during the delivery process. There have been multiple studies, even by our government at the National Institute of Health to state that racism is the dominant reason for these excessive deaths. And oftentimes it is due to an increase in certain hormonal levels brought on due to the pressures of race he would like to see that considered as a topic of discussion in future meetings.

Chair Hickson thanked Mr. Smith, for that comment. Chair Hickson stated that certainly that topic will be taken under advisement for sure.

Chair Hickson asked if there were any other questions or comments including for individuals on the phone.

Hearing or seeing none. Chair Hickson asked the Advisory Committee to submit a motion for adjournment. Do I have anyone that would be willing to submit their motion for adjournment?

11. Adjournment

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Debra Whitlock-Lax motioned for adjournment.

Nick Dunkle seconded.

Chair Hickson asked individuals to vote by saying aye.

All members approved.

No oppositions were heard or noted, Chair Hickson adjourned the meeting on November February 14th, 2023, at 11:52 a.m.

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

- a. Washoe County Health District, 1001 E. Ninth St., Reno, NV 89512
- b. NV Dept of Public Safety – Capitol Police, 555 E. Washington Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89101
- a. Capitol Building, 101 N. Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701
- b. Community Based Care, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Ste 104, Elko, NV 89801
- c. Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706
- d. Aging Disability Services Division, 3320 W Sahara, Ste 100, LV, NV 89102
- e. Southern Nevada Health District, 280 S. Decatur Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89107
- f. 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

the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity website:

https://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/CHA/MH/MH_Advisory_Committee/2023/NOMHE-AC-2023/

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.