



**Minutes (DRAFT)
Of the meeting of the
Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE)
Quarterly Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 9th, 2023**

The Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) Advisory Committee held a public meeting on Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, beginning at 10:04 am at the location:

This meeting was held via Microsoft Teams

Tina Dortch welcomed everyone to the May 9th, 2023, Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) Advisory Committee meeting. Tina Dortch serves as the NOMHE Program Manager. She identified as a black woman using, she/her pronouns. For descriptive purposes, she was wearing a cream-colored jacket with brown buttons. Her hair was in braids. The background in her room was white with floral and greenery accents. She was one of NOMHE's staff supporting the meeting, along with Amanda Annan and Alexandra Neal.

Tina Dortch asked for confirmation about recording the meeting. Alexandra Neal confirmed that the recording has started.

Tina Dortch stated that the meeting was supported by professional American Sign Language interpretation and that closed captioning was available through Teams. She advised everyone to silence their phones when not speaking. Also, if people were to speak, state their names each time before doing so as that helps transcribe the minutes.

Tina Dortch stated that members of the committee were joining virtually, and they were asked to keep their cameras on for the duration of the meeting. Also, they were asked to stay engaged until the conclusion of the meeting. Non-advisory committee members and others who intended to provide remarks through public comment were asked to keep their cameras disengaged unless they were speaking.

Tina Dortch reminded everyone about the 2-minute time limit for public speaking and that no action can be taken by this committee on matters that are raised under public comment. Then, she asked Doctor Raymond Serafica, to unmute and read the land acknowledgment.

1. Land Acknowledgement

Dr. Raymond Serafica read the 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 recognize 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 acknowledgement 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 thanked Dr. Raymond Serafica. She asked Chair Hickson to make note of the time of the official start of the

meeting, do roll call, and take over the agenda.

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

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair thanked Tina Dortch.

Chair Hickson called the meeting to order on, May 9th, 2023, at 10:04 AM for roll call. He advised Advisory Committee members to acknowledge their presence when they heard their name called by program manager Tina Dortch.

Following the roll call, a quorum was reached. The nine in attendance were: Chair, Dr. Samuel Hickson, Dr. Rutu Ezhuthachan, Erik Jimenez, Rev. Dr. Karen Anderson, Dr. Crystal Lee, Dr. Reimund Serafica, Nicholas Dunkle, Nancy Bowen, and Rev Debra Whitlock Lax.

Ex: Officio Member Present: none

The two interpreters and NOMHE staff that were in attendance were: Mary Vonim and Val S., April Cruda, Alex Neal, Amanda Annan, and Carlos Ramirez Gomez.

Tina Dortch asked Samuel Hickson if he had an opening statement.

Chair Hickson stated that he did have an opening statement and proceeded with the following. Chair Hickson thanked those joining virtually and those joining by phone. He felt honored to chair these meetings as there is robust communication and presentations from the Community. He recognized that May was the month to celebrate the heritage of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. NOMHE provided information in links to related resources during the initial rolling slide deck, including the US Department of Health and Human Services Resources on how to provide culturally responsive care for these communities, and soon the 2023 Nevada Minority Health Report.

Chair Hickson acknowledged that Doctor Rutu Ezhuthachan will be leaving the advisory committee and that this was her last meeting.

Chair Hickson recognized Dr. Ezhuthachan's extraordinary contribution as a committee member as well as the Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee. Chair Hickson stated that Dr. Ezhuthachan has taught so much during her leadership. Chair Hickson expressed his sadness about the news, but overall, he expressed happiness for Dr. Ezhuthachan in her pursuit of personal and professional endeavors.

Chair Hickson asked Dr. Ezhuthachan if she had any comments.

Dr. Rutu Ezhuthachan expressed her appreciation for her fellow committee members and the community members that also participate in advancing health equity in the community. She stated that it's very important to her and that she was excited about the team that forms the Advisory Committee which will still work hard to continue to improve the health of the community.

Dr. Ezhuthachan thanked the Advisory Committee for letting her serve on the committee.

Chair Hickson Dr. Ezhuthachan. Chair Hickson recognized Doctor Ezhuthachan for her extraordinary contribution and leadership toward fulfilling the advisory committee's newly established and statutorily required review and provisions of input on the states, maternal mortality, and severe morbidity report. Also, he acknowledged that at this time, NOMHE staff is accepting resumes and letters of interest to fill her seat.

Chair Hickson recognized and congratulate Advisory Committee member Reverend Deborah Whitlock-Lax, who later in the month will be graduating with her Doctor of Ministry.

Chair Hickson invited Doctor Whitlock-Lax to share any words regarding her extraordinary achievement.

Dr. Debra Whitlock-Lax stated that she was excited for May 20th and for the center of her dissertation, which relates to the mental health of African American men between the ages of 18 to 24 and the disparity that happens when the needs of minorities are not addressed. She is waiting to see what doors will be open.

Chair Hickson thanked Dr. Debra Whitlock-Lax and praised her great accomplishment. He stated his excitement towards her in reaching this goal in her life.

Chair Hickson welcomed all non-advisory committee members, the public, and guests, including presenters, to put their name and their title, if applicable in the chat box before moving to the next section of the agenda, which is public comment.

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.

Chair Hickson asked if any persons on the phone or virtually would like to make public comments. Chair Hickson asked program manager Tina Dortch and Alexandra Neil to help in recognizing any persons who would like to speak.

Alexandra Neal stated that there was someone who had joined via phone. She acknowledged that they had unmuted but was unsure if they intended to give public comment or not.

Chair Hickson asked the individual joining by phone if he/she would like to make a public comment.

The individual unmuted and indicated “No”.

Chair Hickson thanked everyone. After seeing or hearing no further interest in public comment, he moved forward to the next portion of our agenda, which was the approval of the February 14th, 2023, Advisory Committee meetings minutes.

4. Approval of February 14, 2023, Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson asked the advisory committee members if there were any questions or issues that they would like to bring up before moving for a motion to approve the February 14th, 2023, meeting minutes.

After seeing or hearing none, Chair Hickson asked for a motion to approve the February 14th, 2023, meeting minutes.

Dr. Rutu Ezhuthachan made a motion to approve the minutes.

Chair Hickson asked if there was a second.

Dr. Reymond Serafica seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the NOMHE Advisory Committee meeting on February 14th, 2023.

Chair Hickson thanked both Advisory Committee members. He asked that all in favor indicated it by saying “Aye” or raising their hand for the count.

All were in favor, and no one opposed.

Chair Hickson, chair of the Advisory Committee for the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity, approved the February 14th, 2023, meeting minutes.

Chair Hickson moved forward, to the next agenda item, which referred to the NOMHE budget. Chair Hickson turned it over to program manager Tina Dortch, to discuss the NOMHE budget.

5. Presentation of NOMHE Budget

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Tina Dortch thanked Chair Hickson. She stated that the document being presented was already shared with the advisory committee members. The information presented was reconciled through March 18th of 2023.

Tina Dortch drew the attention of the advisory committee members to the two components that make up the NOMHE budget. Those two items are the General Funded Activities and Grant Funded Activities. Grant General Funded Activities are at the top of the report and Grant Funded Activities are towards the bottom of the report.

Tina Dortch highlighted a few summary points including that the NOMHE operational budget remains balanced with about \$9,800 available. This will get NOMHE through the end of the state fiscal year, which is June 30, 2023. NOMHE is in very good standing to the end of the fiscal year with about \$10,000. The budget for the General Fund, which supports the line item that is the Program Manager’s salary, expenses, and fringes remains at 139,000 and the budget for NOMHE’s Health Program Specialists sits at about 90,600.

The CDC health disparity grant activity item has not been amended since the Advisory Committee last met. It is still approximately \$3.1 million. The amount is NOMHE’s operational budget for CDC health disparities activities. These funds allow NOMHE to retain five additional 5 staff people and six work orders with their related deliverables. These funds were to expire on May 31st, but NOMHE is actively in the process of either finalizing staffing extensions and contracts.

Tina Dortch anticipated being able to fully report what has been completed during August.

Furthermore, Tina Dortch stated that in August, she will be reporting any budgetary impacts that come out of the current 82nd legislative session.

Tina Dortch invited anyone to ask any questions at this time.

Chair Hickson thanked Program Manager, Tina Dortch. He asked Advisory Committee members if there were any questions about what has been presented.

Chair Hickson requested assistance from Alexandra Neil to help determine if there were any hands that he had missed or any unmuted lines.

Alexandra Neal confirmed that there were no Advisory Committee members who were unmuted or had risen their hands.

Chair Hickson thanked Alexandra Neal. After seeing or hearing no questions for Tina Dortch or himself, Chair Hickson moved forward with the next agenda item which was the report of NOMHE's activities, initiatives, and impacts.

Chair Hickson turned the agenda over to Program Manager Tina Dortch to present the report.

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 the following information was informational. She stated that the Advisory committee members still had the opportunity to ask questions for additional detail. She advised that she would be taking breaks in between sections of her report.

Tina Dortch started with the first section of the report entitled The Public Health Emergency Ending Scenario. She shared that It has been discussed quite extensively on various platforms, that the World Health Organization on an international level has recognized that the pandemic still exists. Officials have nonetheless downgraded the status of this pandemic to not emergency at this point. Because of that designation, people will see the ending of many of the vaccination requirements for federal workers and masking protocols for those who are traveling internationally and throughout the country, especially in Nevada. Through an executive order, many of the emergency-level protocols have been relaxed. While these changes are occurring, it is important to take note that Medicaid is rolling back the qualifying income levels to those pre-pandemic levels.

Tina Dortch stated that public health officials should focus on equitable access and service delivery for those who are most at risk and are identified as underserved populations so that they're not going to experience any negative impacts during this public health unwinding. She advised that everyone should take it upon themselves to advocate for underserved communities and to promote resources.

Tina Dortch stated that if anyone needed additional support there is the health insurance exchange or the health link. If people are looking for prescription drug assistance, the ArrayRX program is available.

Tina Dortch also stated that another way to engage with the community is to recognize activities such as Minority Health Awareness Month.

Tina Dortch shared with the audience that NOMHE was engaged in four major events in the month of April. One was called the "I'm Here and I Count" initiative. This is related to the state departments of government that are going to begin collecting racially stratified data. They will start asking questions across sexual orientation and gender identity demographics as well. This change is going to be effective as of January 2024. NOMHE has begun discussing this statutorily required change with LGBTQ communities in advance of the deadline. There are two reasons why NOMHE started to discuss this topic. One is to alert the community of the pending changes and when they engage with service-providing agencies to expect it and to contribute data. The Department of Welfare and Supportive Services will be changing its intake forms to ask these types of questions. And secondly, NOMHE wants to obtain information from the community that will be useful to personnel who are going to be serving as that first line of contact when people approach for service. NOMHE has been engaging with "The Gathering Place" and "Silver State Equality" on 2 occasions

April 19th and April 22nd. This engagement was hosted by the Horizon Ridge Clinic. NOMHE had a conversation about these changes. NOMHE will continue tabling throughout the year. NOMHE's next engagement opportunity will be on May 10th. The LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce has invited NOMHE to discuss this conversation.

Tina Dortch stated that being health literate and policy literate is a very important concept. On April 25th, NOMHE held an educational event. This event was designed to let individuals know that there are resources throughout all DHHS. Also, this event was created to achieve two purposes. One of those purposes was to provide informational opportunities where attendees were able to discuss their needs and their experiences with actual on-site, community health workers and DHHS agency reps, and NOMHE team members. The second purpose was to assist attendees in the learning of strategies to achieve continuity of care, while also removing barriers to that care. During those discussions, the Consumer Health of the Office of Consumer Health Assistance, OCHA, and the Office for Adult Protective Services. Medicaid was involved alongside with eligibility workers from the Department of Welfare, and Supportive Services. Resiliency Ambassadors from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health were present. This took place at the local Clark County Library on Flamingo. As a result of that event, NOMHE was invited to come back to the Library on August 29th, where they expected about 150 individuals to attend. This event is called the spring event that is focused on those who are considered elderly individuals. That would be a great, great opportunity to continue talking about health literacy. The last two things that Tina Dortch wanted to talk about were additional outreach events. One of those events was "Healthy Kids Day" at the YMCA. That was on April 29th and NOMHE partnered with Latino Outdoors, STEMbotics, and Health Plan of Nevada, which is also a Medicaid-driven program. This was supposed to be an event that allowed people to do membership drives at the Y, but it aligned with NOMHE's emphasis on the importance of outdoor recreation and diversifying that because of the health benefits. Lastly, on that same day in the evening, NOMHE was invited by the Nevada Donor Network to put together an event in recognition of the April observation of donate life. That's another observation month that aligns with NOMHE's efforts to diversify clinical trials.

Tina Dortch paused to see if anyone had any questions before moving on.

Chair Hickson stated that he had a question. His question was about the "I'm Here and I Count" initiative. According to Tina Dortch's count of events, there was a conversation about the fact that health organizations will be required to obtain sort of demographic information for the LGBTQIA plus community or SGM community.

Chair Hickson asked, how are providers being prepared for this statutory change and what is the NOMHE Advisory Committee doing to initiate any protective mechanisms that can exist for vulnerable populations in the likely chance that they may start to receive discriminatory or stigmatizing experiences in healthcare following the disclosure of their orientations.

Tina Dortch thanked Chair Hickson for the question. She stated that at this time, she can only speak specifically from the Department of Health and Human Services perspective. She stated that DHHS has been preparing for quite some time. They have done an inventory of all the departments or the divisions that have intake forms to make sure that as they modify those forms the questions meet federal standards and are culturally sensitive. Additionally, those questions would be voluntary. An individual does not have to provide that information, and nor can they be denied service because they did not provide those questions and answer those questions.

Tina Dortch stated that if individuals feel that they have been or have come up against something that was a nonproductive engagement or discriminatory experience to reach out to NOMHE to ensure that their concern gets moved through the proper channels.

Tina Dortch also shared that a variety of cultural competency training components and modules have been developed for DHHS including the “Making Health Happen” portal, which is a website NOMHE’s staff has been getting training on cultural competency sensitivities.

Tina Dortch said that if anybody wants to reach out to NOMHE’s staff to have this conversation with their clients and their staff, NOMHE can assist between now and January 2024.

Chair Hickson thanked Tina Dortch and asked if anybody had any questions about what was just heard.

Nancy J. Bowen had a follow-up question about Tina Dortch’s comment regarding if somebody feels that they were discriminated against, they could contact NOMHE. She asked if that information would be readily available so. She stated that she wanted to make sure that clients know to contact NOMHE when they have a concern.

Tina Dortch stated that the opportunity to contact NOMHE is an informal form of change. According to Tina Dortch, NOMHE will become a liaison between the division and question and the Community. NOMHE it's an informal pipeline. When reading the statute, there's no formal form of quality control or a designated, let's say, a hotline to report these instances. NOMHE recognizes that that could happen.

Nancy Bowen thanked Tina Dortch.

Chair Hickson asked if there were any other questions from committee members.

Erik Jimenez stated that he had a comment and a question. The legislative session is 27 days away from being done. He asked if there are any bills recognizing that the situation can change over the next 27 days.

Tina Dortch thanked Erik Jimenez for the question. She stated that the topic was not in the agenda, but she would like to answer. She suggested answering the question at the end of the existing content for the program manager report. She asked for permission for the Chair.

Chair Hickson allowed Tina Dortch to circle back to that question. He advised Tina Dortch to continue with the presentation for time’s sake.

Tina Dortch thanked Chair Hickson and continued with the presentation. She stated that the National Association of State Offices of Minority Health invited NOMHE and three of NOMHE’s collaborative partners to join them in Atlanta at the CDC headquarters between April 24th and 26th. Those partners were the maternal health representative, which ended up being Vicky Ives from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health. The other partner was the Nevada Minority Health and Equity coalitions Representative Jose Melendrez.

Tina Dortch described the event. She stated that participants were separated into a three-part cohort. All participants were from every state of the country. That invitation was extended so there were about 60 participants. Participants began developing and designing a national network that is going to be capable of equitably responding to the nation's most systemic public health challenges faced by diverse populations and, if necessary, the next public health crisis. For the two days, participants were sponsored. Much good content came out of it. Some of the discussion topics were:

- Creating an onboarding guide for directors, like herself, and what to do and know during their first

90 days on the job.

- Acting on equitably empowering community-level responses, and what a resilient network infrastructure looks like.
- Sustaining DEI work

The CDC has been identified as a financial supporter of this network to make sure that it's sustainable. This initiative is early stages. Tina Dortch expressed her excitement about participating.

Tina Dortch invited individuals to visit NOMHE's website because the final version of the Health Equity Action Plan is posted. April Cruda is the point of contact, and she is ready, willing, and more than able to discuss in an in one on one basis more about the action plan.

The Health Equity Plan was developed throughout many points in the community, public and private health providers are academic institutions. The tribal and rural partners also participated. Tina Dortch stated that it is important to note that NOMHE got feedback.

Tina Dortch spoke about another resource internally that NOMHE is proud of, which is the Core Value Assessment project. It is now hit a critical milestone where DHHS internal divisions have identified ways to improve and maintain culturally competent service delivery. She stated that Evelyn Donis de Miranda and Princess Bowling provided one on one technical support in actioning the results of that report. The Core Values Assessment is for DHHS internal distribution but it's important to let the community know that DHHS is intentional about improving service delivery.

Tina Dortch stated that NOMHE will be in Northern Nevada due to NOMHE's commitment to diversification of clinical trials and partnering with the "All of Us program". This was made possible through a couple of partners. The event will be hosted by "High Sierra AHEC". NOMHE will be working with Bethel AME Church (an event host location) and the Reno Sparks NAACP Sparks, Renown Health Care Systems, and the UNR for School of Medicine. Furthermore, NOMHE will be partnering with the Healthy Nevada project. Fountain of Hope Church in Southern Nevada to amplify its annual back-to-school community event by extending back-to-school preparedness to include preventative health care resources for the entire family to ensure general wellness for the young people and their families going forward. Tina Dortch discussed an item that was not on the agenda and on the slide. NOMHE is responsible for appointing members to the state's advisory committee for Resilient Nevada. That is the ACRN and they're responsible for helping administer the state's opioid settlement dollars. NOMHE pointed several positions to that body. There's an opening and NOMHE has been circulating the process and asking for recommendations and interested people who want to serve.

Tina Dortch asked if there was anyone interested in that or know someone, to please drop a comment in the chat. Recruiting for that opening would be going through until May 19th, 2023.

Chair Hickson thanked Tina Dortch for such a robust list of activities that NOMHE has been participating in. He stated that he had a question. Chair stated that NOMHE often serves as a pipeline between the community and other departments within DHHS. He asked Tina Dortch to talk a little bit about the capacity of NOMHE to manage a lot of these pipeline questions, particularly regarding health equity and access to healthcare.

Chair Hickson restated his question and asked Tina Dortch to talk about NOMHE's capacity to answer concerns or address concerns adequately and efficiently from the public regarding access to healthcare or equitable healthcare.

Tina Dortch thanked Chair Hickson for the question and said that she appreciated the thought and the consideration for NOMHE's bandwidth. To answer Chair Hickson's question about the ability to maintain and respond to concerns, Tina Dortch stated that those duties correspond to NOMHE's mission-driven expectations. Other tasks are statutorily required. NOMHE works very mightily to maintain staffing levels and monitor where and when those capacities and those bandwidths are somewhat under stress or in need of advancement or adjustment. At this point in time NOMHE is managing, but it is only because they have enough staffing.

Tina Dortch stated that she was going to discuss some of the legislative reports or respond to Mr. Jimenez's question. As of right now, NOMHE doesn't know fully what might be on their plate come the next year because of the legislative activities. At this time, NOMHE has two state-funded positions and six that are grant funded.

Chair Hickson asked Advisory committee members if they had any questions. He asked Alexandra Neil for assistance in identifying any persons that he may have missed.

Alexandra Neal confirmed that there were no questions at this time.

Chair Hickson asked Tina Dortch to proceed with responding representative Jimenez to his previous question.

Tina Dortch stated that whatever she was going to discuss could change as these bills move from one house to the Senate. She indicated that currently there is a bill intended to modify the amount of cultural competency training that healthcare facilities and their behavioral and mental health staff must complete over the course of a period of time. It is currently provisioned, some of the other content of the bill does have NOMHE identified, and the role that NOMHE would serve is to basically curate and maintain a list of these approved courses and to maintain that list on NOMHE's website. NOMHE would also have the responsibility of ensuring that the list is proactively distributed to medical facilities across the state. Another bill that aligns with NOMHE is AB 312. It is provisioned to create an environmental Justice Advisory Council. It has gone under an amendment, so the name has changed. NOMHE is going to be providing information to the Department of Natural Resources when it comes to environmental concerns and the equity component of it. Then, AB168 is a bill that is going to be establishing a fetal and infant mortality review program within the Department of Health and Human Services. NOMHE's role is still somewhat not clearly defined, but it looks like the advisory committee will have a role in reviewing incidents and trends in the death of fetuses and infant problems across the state. Lastly, it would be AB164. This would create an outdoor education advisory work group through the Department of Outdoor Recreation, and it's going to investigate ways to incorporate outdoor recreation into the preschool and K through 12 public school curriculums.

Erik Jimenez stated that Tina Dortch answered all his questions. He indicated that previously NOMHE Advisory Committee under the leadership of Mr. Wade focus on engaging with the LGBTQ community. He stated that there are several bills that would increase access to care for the trans community in the inmate setting in the health insurance space. He asked if NOMHE would continue to engage in those paths especially with the trans community to make sure that those new avenues for access to care are known about advertised and those sorts of things.

Tina Dortch thanked Erik Jimenez and stated that NOMHE may not be named in the legislation that Mr. Jimenez had mentioned, but NOMHE does monitor for the purposes of the communities that they advocate for. Tina Dortch mentioned that in August, the advisory committee will have a more formal presentation

about what bills have been approved and passed and accepted, and signed off on by the governor. And at that point in time, if those bills have made the final cut, NOMHE will be giving a fuller report on those.

Tina Dortch acknowledged that Advisory Committee Member Nancy Bowen stepped away from the meeting. She asked Alex Neal for confirmation.

Alexandra Neal stated that she had to leave due to technical difficulties, but she was back online.

Tina Dortch stated that concluded her program manager report.

Chair Hickson thanked Tina Dortch and stated that he still had follow-up questions.

- The first one was related to a bill right now that is currently looking at sort of the guardianship process for seniors, which also impacts access to care, particularly for family members getting their seniors who may lack the capacity or competence into adequate healthcare. It appears that there is a pushback right now on that particular bill, which also diminishes the power of the family. He wanted to understand, although NOMHE is not mentioned in this bill if that is something that NOMHE does track.
- Second of all, when family members are caught between a rock and a hard place, is that something that NOMHE is looking at, tracking any bills pertaining to the senior population?
- Is there a month or is there a time in which NOMHE plans on condensing this into one recognizable month or one recognizable action? So rather than scatter it throughout the years, there's something that highlights bringing communities together.

Tina Dortch stated that those were astute questions. Nationally, April is recognized as minority health month and what other communities and other states have done is to codify that and to make it observed at the state level. She advised that members of this body raise that question with NOMHE's legislative advisor.

Chair Hickson thanked Ms. Dortch for the answer and asked if there were other questions.

There were no other questions or comments. Chair Hickson moved to the next section of the agenda.

A. Presentation Summarizing the Process Evaluation Findings for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevent (CDC) Public Health Disparity Grant in Nevada

Dr. Manoj Sharma (UNLV Principal Investigator) and Dr. Asma Awan (UNLV Evaluation Coordinator)

Asma Awan introduced herself and started the presentation. She stated that she would be talking about the social determinants of health, which have affected health outcomes under the CDC public health disparity grant for COVID-19 recovery activities. The framework utilized for this project focused on process evaluation that is, reach quality, fidelity, satisfaction, and management. This framework was proposed by Doctor Sharma and Potosi in 2014 and refined further in 2023. Asma Awan stated that her team had tested this framework in all their activities. She stated that 24 organizations are currently on board with them. Also, they monitored whether the minorities have been reached. They ensure this through uniform quarterly reports, descriptive demographics, and focus group discussions with the community members. For quality control purposes, they also have targets and methods. They have also done observations for different meetings and events. There was a silent observer for the advisory committee meeting. They also do interviews for all the organizations. She explained that they do all

this tracking for quality. They want to ensure that participants receive the intended amount and quality of service. They have developed proper instruments to capture all their data.

Asma Awan said that the satisfaction of the participant is important. They have an annual survey for 2021 to 2022 and then from 2022 to 2023. Now, they are compiling the second survey. The first survey was the rating satisfaction survey. They also performed focus groups with community members from the organizations that serve the community. They were looking at whether the participants have utilized those services. Also, if community members are aware of those services.

Asma Awan spoke about their program evaluation methods. Such methods have been improved by NOMHE and by the Department of Health and Human Services. Before the launch of the activities previously mentioned, which are part of the COVID recovery plan, the protocols included community member interviews and focus group discussions. For the project, they employed a mixed-method approach, but particularly they didn't apply any research methods or the inferential statistics for that. They develop simple demographic quarterly reports that were submitted to NOMHE and all the organizations, and ultimately to CDC. The report is around 250 pages, which includes everything that has been submitted every quarter starting since July 2021 and up till now.

Asma Awan spoke about their partner organizations from July 2021 up until July, August, and September. They started with five organizations, but steadily the organizations became a big coalition. Including major organizations and the sub-awardees, there are about 25 organizations, which are collecting data every quarter.

Asma Awan said that their data collection phase took place from July 2021 to March 2023. They were able to accomplish:

- There was a total of 53 process observations, and 61 personal interviews repeating in every cycle.
- They conducted about 79 community member interviews. Quarterly uniform reports were collected, which comes to a total of 106 since March 2023.
- They have conducted 26 focus group discussions. These were in person and virtually.
- They have employed 25 strategies and 25 activities. All the activities have been increasing and more organizations are employing different strategies to each the populations.
- They also engaged the populations and that increased up to about 7,000,000 media impressions.

Asma Awan spoke about the annual data that they collected from July 2021 to June 2022. The racial-ethnic population has been served, and it is pretty much in alignment with the population of Nevada. They saw that the Hispanic community that has been served, which comes under 41.5%. Also, geographical distribution is also an alignment with the Nevada population. They are getting data on urban and rural populations and simulating gender distribution. SOGI data has not been collected extensively and the CDC has not given any guidelines. The data shows that females are being served at a higher number at 52% compared to 41% of males. They are still reaching more the female population who are in more need or who are under the high-risk category also as well. They also collected data from individuals who fall between the ages of 35-65 years of age or maybe people.

Other results show that:

- About 45% of the population who are aware of the grant are satisfied with the services of the

CDC public health disparity grant efforts.

- About 75% of people with disabilities.
- Around 65.2% and most of the service providers were through the local health department.
 - 56% of the people responded that they have got the services from the local health departments.
 - 45% of participants were satisfied with the overall program activities, followed by highly satisfied at 33%, somewhat 17.27%, and not satisfied at 3.6%.
 - Overall satisfaction level, we can see the ranges between 17.27 to 45.45 Asma Awan1:09:33
 - This again is just to give an idea of how the satisfaction scale was done.

Chair Hickson thanked Doctor Sharma and Asma Awan. He asked if any of the Advisory Committee members had any questions about the presentation.

Dr. Raymond Serafica indicated that he had a question.

Chair Hickson asked Dr. Serafica to proceed.

Dr. Raymond Serafica stated that this was very, very important information. This is data needed for the implementation of science and interventions for the citizens of Nevada. He asked if the presenters could highlight one of the biggest challenges in doing this almost at the CBPR approach. He restated his question: What are those challenges that organizations still need to work on to get meaningful data?

Mnaoj Sharma stated that one of the challenges has been the rapid turnover of the staff. It is a big challenge in organizations.

Asma Awan agreed and stated that most of the services that were under the grant have been very much aggregated towards the government entities. Most of the organizations in Northern Nevada, in rural areas, are working really with the communities. They are linguistically attached to them and it is better if funds are directly dispersed to those organizations, maintaining all the audits and everything. Some undocumented populations are there, but they do trust the people who are not from their communities.

Mnaoj Sharma added that sustainability it is another issue because this is a time-bound grant and it has been extended for one more year. After May 24 they would need to explore more areas for funding, to sustain these projects because some of their partner organizations are wondering what will happen to them after one year.

Dr. Raymond Serafica praised their research team for creating that sustainability as there is a disconnect between organizations and the community in CBPR. He appreciated what has been done in this project.

Mnaoj Sharma that they have already written several grants with their partners. They are waiting to hear from another CDC grant in July.

Chair Hickson asked if there were any other comments. After hearing nor seeing any, he thanked Doctor Sharma and Asma Awan for their wonderful presentation.

7. Report on Black Leadership Advisory Council (BLAC) Subcommittee Meeting Outcomes

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson moved to the next item agenda, the Black Leadership Advisory Council or Black Subcommittee meeting on May 3rd, 2023. According to his understanding, it is one of the first of its

kind in the history of advisory committees. The complete and current roster of the subcommittee members appointed by the NOMHE Advisory Committee was present. In addition to this, there were over 20 community members that logged on to listen to the subcommittee. The full meeting minutes will be made available within 30 business days. The major items of the subcommittee's agenda included approval and adoption of the subcommittees, mission, and purpose statement, and the establishment of the subcommittees, objectives, and future activities, which were very robust. Also, this meeting resulted in the identification of objectives, and the proposal to generate a pulse report which would understand the needs of the community. This will assist the subcommittee in intervening in assessing and understanding the subcommittee's next steps which will be presented to the full NOMHE Advisory Committee for approval.

Chair Hickson stated the subcommittee's mission approval and adoption were completed during the meeting. The subcommittee unanimously approved and adopted the mission and purpose statement, as well as the related objectives. The statement outlines the subcommittees, primary objectives, and values, and will serve as a guiding principle for the activities. Filling the subcommittee roster was another area that needed to be addressed, as there are 4 remaining seats that are vacant on the subcommittee. The categories include business, economics, technology and entrepreneurship, safety, preparedness, communication, arts and culture, and the environment. The subcommittee members agree to identify individuals who may fulfill the vacant categories and submit the names to NOMHE, staff member Karina Fox. This list will be presented to NOMHE Advisory Committee for consideration and appointment in its August 2023 quarterly meeting. This will be very similar to what was done at the last meeting for the committee members that are currently serving during the meeting. It was also agreed that a pulse report needed to be generated. Traditionally, Pulse reports provide a concise and informative update on the status and progress of a topic, project, initiative, or organization. This type of report typically provides a snapshot of key performance indicators, recent accomplishments, upcoming milestones, and any challenges or issues that need to be addressed. The Pulse report to be created by the subcommittee will include an evaluation based on vetted and recently completed assessments that will serve to identify areas of improvement and promote discussion of potential impacts within the Black and African American communities in Nevada. During the subcommittee meeting, it was also discussed and agreed upon the following next steps, which again is the preparation of the Pulse report, the development of a BLAC Subcommittee work action plan that outlines specific mission-supported actions supported by the findings of the Pulse report, a submission to NOMHE a list of potential individuals to fill the vacant subcommittee seats to develop a plan for engaging relevant community stakeholders to gather feedback, input, and support on the work conducted by the BLAC Subcommittee. It was also mentioned that the BLAC subcommittee's next meetings are going to be on July 12th and October 11th of this year. Unfortunately, those meeting dates are non-negotiable.

Chair Hickson stated that this was a very beautiful and robust inaugural meeting with all of the Members present that currently serve on the BLAC Subcommittee Board. There is room for open seats with four vacant seats. Hopefully, there would be representation from the north of Nevada to include the voice of the Black and African American communities in the north.

Chair Hickson asked if anyone from the Advisory Committee had any other questions. And again asked for assistance from Alexandra Neal to help identify anyone who may have a comment.

Alexandra Neal said that Tina Dortch was having some technical difficulties, but she joined by phone. She stated that two members had unmuted questions. The first was pastor Whitlock-Lax and the second is Nicholas Dunkle.

Chair Hickson asked Pastor Whitlock-Lax to proceed.

Pastor Debra Whitlock-Lax stated that the meeting was absolutely fantastic. She stated that she could no longer participate in the BLAC subcommittee as a member due to her current responsibilities. She expressed excitement about the subcommittee and its plans.

Chair Hickson thank thanked Pastor Debra Whitlock-Lax and asked representative Dunkle, to put his question/comment forward.

Nicholas Dunkle had a question regarding the fact that the BLAC subcommittee is looking for representatives from Northern Nevada. He asked about where he might grab some of this information so that he can potentially put it out to community members who might be interested and how we might go about that. He stated that he had a few folks that maybe would be interested in terms of looking at these seats.

Chair Hickson stated deferred the question to Tina Dortch and Alexandra Neal.

Tina Dortch indicated that the BLAC subcommittee is supported by Karina Fox of the NOMHE staff. Tina Dortch and Karina Fox are putting together a recruitment package to make sure that it is an inclusive effort to reach out to individuals across the four open categories and there is an emphasis on promoting Northern Nevada representation. She stated that she would make sure that the recruitment information gets to Nicholas Dunkle. She appreciated his assistance.

Chair Hickson stated that he would like to ask for a motion to adopt the next steps of the Black Subcommittee.

Pastor Debra Whitlock-Lax made the motion to adopt the next steps of the subcommittee.

Nicholas Dunkle seconded the motion.

All were in favor of adopting the next steps for the Black Subcommittee.

Chair Hickson, chair for the Advisory Committee of the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity adopted the next steps of the Black Subcommittee.

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

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson asked the advisory Committee members if there were any agenda topics that they would like to bring forward for their next meeting.

Chair Hickson moved forward with meeting dates for consideration and approval. The first date was August 15th, 2023, which is the annual meeting. During this meeting, there would be board elections. There will also be an examination of the bylaws for revisions related to the subcommittee process. This meeting will have a presentation on adopted 82nd session legislation involving NOMHE and or the Advisory Committee members. The meeting will be held in Northern Nevada to cultivate NOMHE's commitment to statewide engagement.

Chair Hickson asked Advisory Groups members if August 15th, 2023, was a good date to host the next NOMHE Advisory Group meeting.

Pastor Debra Whitlock-Lax stated that the date was good and that she could host the event at her church.

Chair Hickson thanked Pastor Debra Whitlock-Lax and stated that there would be another meeting on November 14th, 2023, at 10:00 AM. The topics for this meeting will be looking at a review of the statutorily required diversity and inclusion liaisons or the DIL annual report that will be prepared by the NOMHE staff summarizing their second year of activities. For February 2024, Chair Hickson stated that he would like to propose February 13th at 10:00 AM. He asked if there were any objections to the proposed date being February 13th at 10:00 AM.

Chair Hickson asked for a motion to adopt the three dates of August 15th, 2023, November 14th, 2023, and February 13th of 2024.

Pastor Debra Whitlock-Lax made a motion to adopt those three dates.

Dr. Raymond Serafica seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Chair Hickson chair for the Advisory Committee of the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity adopted August 15th, 2023, November 14th, 2023, at 10:00 AM, and February 13th, 2024 at 10:00 AM for the three meeting dates for the advisory committee.

9. Public Comments

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

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

Alexandra Neal acknowledged that Janet Cereal had a comment.

Chair Hickson asked Janet Cereal to proceed.

Alexandra Neal indicated that they couldn't hear Janet Cereal.

Janet Cereal could not make her comment due to technological issues.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Dr. Mnaoj Sharma for public comment.

Dr. Mnaoj Sharma from UNLV School of Public Health thanked their economy partner NOMHE, especially Tina Dortch, for the excellent support that she provided them for the last two years and they hope to continue this partnership for a long time.

Tina Dortch stated that she had a reaction to Dr. Sharma's comment. The team that Doctor Sharma represents has been stellar. Tina Dortch knows that it was a very intense presentation, but the importance is significant she wanted to make sure that it gets recognized. This team was able to demonstrate the impact of NOMHE's funded partners.

Chair Hickson acknowledged that there were no more questions.

10. Adjournment

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Pastor Debra Whitlock-Lax made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Raymond Serafica seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Chair Hickson, chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity called adjournment to the meeting this day, May 9th, 2023, at 11:38 AM.

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.