



**Minutes (DRAFT)  
Of the meeting of the  
NEVADA OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND EQUITY (NOMHE)  
21st Quarterly Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

*The Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) Advisory Committee held a public hybrid (in-person and virtual) meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, beginning at 10:36 AM at the location of Renown Health System, 10315 Professional Circle, Reno, NV 89521. The meeting was also transmitted via Microsoft Teams.*

Program Officer, Tina Dortch welcomed all attendees to the August 15, 2023, Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity Advisory Committee meeting. She identified as a Black cisgender woman using, she/her pronouns. She was wearing a black dress with frills and small patterns and had her hair braided. She was one of NOMHE's staff supporting the meeting with Carlos Ramirez Gomez and Alexandra Neal in person and Evelyn Donis de Miranda virtually.

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

Alexandra Neal confirmed.

Tina Dortch stated that American Sign Language interpretation and closed captioning were available through the Teams platform. She reminded everyone to silence their phones and state their name each time they spoke to help with the transcription of the minutes.

Tina Dortch stated that members of the Advisory Committee who were joining virtually had to keep their cameras on for the duration of the meeting and stay engaged until the conclusion of the meeting. Non-advisory committee members were asked to share their cameras only when speaking.

Tina Dortch asked Legislative Advisory Patricia Spearman to read the Land Acknowledgement.

## **1. Land Acknowledgment**

Senator Patricia Spearman 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.

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

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Tina Dortch turned over the agenda to our Chair, Dr. Samuel Hickson.

Chair Hickson stated roll call would be performed by Program Manager Tin Dortch.

Following the roll call, it was confirmed that a quorum was reached.

- The members present virtually were Erick Jimenez and Crystal Lee who joined at 10:43 AM
- The members present in person were Samuel Hickson, Deborah Whitlock-Lax, Nancy Bowen, Dr. Karen Anderson, Nicholas Dunkle

Ex: Officio Member Present: Senator Patricia Spearman who joined in person.

Other NOMHE in-person staff were Alexandra Neal, Carlos Ramirez Gomez

Other individuals virtually present: ASL interpreters Amanda R. and Henry, Asma Awan, Kairi Pangelinan, Jewel Eldridge, Isabell Rowland-Santillan, Natalie E. Mazzullo, Robert Taylor, Brianna Konz, Keibi Mejia, Alisa Howard, Mona Lisa Paulo, Kerry Palakanis, Adela Victorio, Marisol Rivas, Vogue M. Robinson, Donna Laffey, Guy G. Puentes, Gesha Sanders, Jimmy Lau, Kathi Thomas-Gibson, Gemmy Domingo, Joseph Filippi, Faith Beekman, Brianna Konz, Anthony Davis, Donielle Allen, and Dr. Robert D. Bush, Jenna Berger, Marisol Rivas, Mary House, Adrienne Feemster Cobb, Chakhan Dews, Elyse Monroy-Marsala, Laurencia, Bishop Derek A. Rimson, Sarah A. Bradley, Jewel Eldridge, Michael Venton II,

Phone numbers that joined the meeting virtually: 725-244-7178, 775-772-821

Chair Hickson welcomed everyone and stated that it was good to address everyone again. The NOMHE Advisory Committee met in the morning to have breakfast. Chair Hickson stated that this meeting was a little bit of a bittersweet moment for him, as it was Mr. Erik Jimenez's last meeting as a board member. Chair Hickson took a moment to recognize the incredible accomplishments that Mr. Jimenez had done during his tenure, not just on the advisory committee but in his role and his professional life. He was instrumental in the creation of several things including legislative matters, baby bonds, tribal liaisons, and in the creation of diversity and inclusion liaisons.

Erik Jimenez was presented with a certificate of service.

Erik Jimenez thanked Chair Hickson. He apologized for being virtual during the meeting. He thanked the body for the recognition. He stated that it has been an honor to serve on the NOMHE Advisory Committee for the last few years. Once, Erik Jimenez was chair of the board. He reminded everyone that some of the previous leaders were the late Sam Lieberman, and Mr. Andre Wade, who continues to do great things with Silver State Equality.

Erik Jimenez stated that everyone has worked so hard to make the board a little bit more equitable including Tina Dortch and Alexandra Neal. There is still more work to do. It is encouraging that the legislative session gave a lot of equity-focused pieces of legislation, but there is still a lot more work to do. Erik Jimenez is confident that the current NOMHE Advisory Committee chair and the rest of the board will continue to do that.

Chair Hickson thanked Erik Jimenez and stated that Senator Spearman would like to say some words.

Senator Spearman thanked Erik Jimenez. She said that Erik was one of the primary people who helped her elevate the deaf and ask for students to be recognized. This helped establish a statute to help foster care children. When they aged out of the system, they could have some type of financial support. The current system of public assistance is not designed to get people off assistance. It's designed and keep them on generationally. Erik Jimenez helped the

Senator behind the scenes trying to make sure that the underserved are always at the forefront of every piece of legislation.

Chair Hickson thanked Senator Spearman, for those comments. And stated that Erik Jimenez will certainly be missed. With Erik's leaving and the position recently vacated by Dr. Ezhuthachan, there will be 2 new members, both Board of Health appointees who will be coming on to the committee effective with its November 2023 meeting.

### **3. Public Comment**

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. To provide public comment telephonically, dial (775) 321 – 6111 any time after the Chair announces the period of public comment. When prompted to provide the Meeting ID, enter 415 026 977#.

Chair Hickson announced that there were no public comments. Also, he acknowledged that Dr. Crystal Lee Advisory Committee member had joined telephonically.

### **4. Approval of May 9, 2023, Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)**

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson stated that the minutes were from the May 9, 2023, meeting. They were posted to the NOMHE website as required by statute as well as forwarded to Advisory Committee members via email. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Reverend Debra A. Whitlock Lax made the **motion** to approve the NOMHE Advisory Committee's May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, minutes.

Nancy Bowen seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **5. Discussion and Review of NOMHE Advisory Committee Bylaws (For Possible Action)**

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair, and Tina Dortch, Program Manager

Tina Dortch stated that once a year the advisory committee reviews the bylaws so that new members get oriented to the responsibilities and the incentives of joining the advisory committee.

Materials were provided in their board packet before the meeting and posted on the NOMHE webpage.

Tina Dortch wanted to discuss a couple of sections of the bylaws. The first section focused on the reiteration of the purpose of the organization and advisory committee duties of the Office of Minority Health and Equity.

According to the NRS 232.484 Advisory Committee: Duties. The Advisory Committee shall:

1. Advise the Manager on all matters concerning how the purposes of the Office are being carried out.
2. Review the way the Office uses any gifts, grants, donations, or appropriations to carry out the purposes of the

- Office and make recommendations; and
3. Review any reports to be submitted by the Manager, including, without limitation, the report required under NRS 232.479, and make recommendations.

According to the NRS 232.483 Advisory Committee: Salary; expenses; members holding public office or employed by a governmental entity.

1. To the extent that money is available for that purpose, each member of the Advisory Committee who is not an officer or employee of the State of Nevada is entitled to receive a salary of not more than \$80 per day, as fixed by the Manager in consultation with the Advisory Committee, for each day or portion of a day spent on the business of the Advisory Committee. Each member of the Advisory Committee who is an officer or employee of the State of Nevada serves without additional compensation. To the extent that money is available for that purpose, each member of the Advisory Committee is entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally. A claim for payment under this section must be made on a voucher approved by the Manager and paid as other claims against the State are paid.
2. Each member of the Advisory Committee who is an officer or employee of the State of Nevada or a local government must be relieved from his or her duties without loss of regular compensation so that he or she may prepare for and attend meetings of the Advisory Committee and perform any work necessary to carry out the duties of the Advisory Committee in the most timely manner practicable. A state agency or local governmental entity may not require an employee who is a member of the Advisory Committee to make up time or take annual vacation or compensatory time for the time that he or she is absent from work to carry out his or her duties as a member of the Advisory Committee.

Chair Hickson asked if members wished to revisit any sections of the Bylaws for revision.

No Advisory Committee members indicated any revisions.

Chair Hickson stated that he would like to identify sections and explain the rationale for revision. The sections were:

- a. Article 11.1 to be revised to add a subsection
  - i. Raising only 1 Subcommittee at a time
  - ii. Proposed language: (a) The Committee shall not vote to action more than one subcommittee at a time.
- b. Article 11.1 to be revised to add a subsection
  - i. Limiting # of appointed persons to a Subcommittee to a total of 9 (including Chair and Vice Chair) to mirror the full AC composition.
  - ii. Proposed language: (b) The composition of a subcommittee shall not exceed 9 persons (including its chair and vice chair).
- c. Article 11.3 to be revised to add a subsection.
  - i. When a Subcommittee is established, naming a Vice Chair in addition to the Chair
  - ii. Proposed language: Subcommittees shall be supported by the vice chair; this person does not have to be a member of the Committee.

Chair Hickson stated that If the motion passes to update the bylaws, the next step would be to present the proposed language to the Deputy Attorney General (DAG) for review and approval. Chair Hickson asked for a vote.

Reverend Debra Whitlock Lax asked why to one subcommittee.

Chair Hickson stated that there is a justification for that. The reason to allow one subcommittee is due to the NOMHE staff capacity. The rules of engagement need to be solidified based on the resources available.

Reverend Debra Whitlock Lax wondered if the language was limiting. She assumed that if staff increases would also increase the creation of other subcommittees. She would like to reflect this in the language.

Tina Dortch stated that modifying the language is in order based on Reverend Debra Whitlock Lax's explanation. The creation of other subcommittees will be predicated on NOMHE staff.

Chair Hickson asked if anyone else had other questions. Also, he stated that Reverend Debra Whitlock Lax's comment would be taken into consideration.

Chair Hickson asked Reverend Debra Whitlock Lax if she approved of the language that Tina Dortch proposed. She stated that she would let Chair Hickson address the language as he sees fit.

Tina Dortch stated that the proposed language "At least one (1) Committee member shall serve on each subcommittee" along with Reverend Debra Whitlock Lax's suggestion "The creation of other subcommittees will be based on NOMHE's staff capacity" will be submitted to the DAG.

After hearing no other questions, Chair Hickson requested a motion to present the proposed language and the concerns for the language to the Deputy Attorney General.

Nancy Bowen made the following **motion** "At least one (1) Committee member shall serve on each subcommittee. The creation of other subcommittees will be based on NOMHE's staff capacity".

Nicholas Dunkle seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **6. Election of NOMHE Advisory Committee Chair and Vice Chair (For Possible Action)**

Tina Dortch Program Manager

Tina Dortch explained that each year the NOMHE Advisory Committee identifies through voting a chair and a vice chair. The chair's position is to be in place for one year and is responsible for supporting the program manager and developing agendas, putting together some event activity from time to time, and being responsible for just a leadership role with management of the entire advisory committee.

Tina Dortch asked if there were any self-nominations for the position of Chair.

Chair Hickson indicated his self-nomination for the Chair position.

Tina Dortch acknowledged Chair Hickson's self-nomination and asked if there were any other nominations.

No other nominations were made for the Chair. Tina Dortch moved to the position of Vice Chair. This is the person who basically would step in if the Chair is not available and perform the duties and functions that were just described.

Tina Dortch asked if there were any nominations for Vice Chair.

Nicholas Dunkle self-nominated for Vice Chair.

Debra Whitlock made a **motion** to approve the nominations of Samuel Hickson for Chair and Nicholas Dunkle for Vice Chair.

Nancy Bowen seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **7. Presentation of NOMHE Budget**

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson stated that the NOMHE Budget has 2 components which are general funded, and grant funded. He turned it to Tina Dortch to provide more details.

Tina Dortch made the following remarks regarding the NOMHE budget:

- The CDC Grant has been extended into May of 2024.
- The budget is reflecting \$3,177,000, which helps NOMHE maintain 5 staff persons but also a series of CDC-funded grant subordinates
- The budget's General Fund supported revenue line item continues to support the Project Manager expense and usual operational expenses at \$139,500 + the Health Program Specialist I position at \$90,638.95
- The \$3,177,037 CDC Health Disparity Grant supported revenue line item will be increased to approximately \$3,737,500. It will represent a \$560,467 increase.

There were no further questions

## **8. 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 Program Manager and NOMHE Staff

Tina Dortch provided the following updates regarding contracts.

- Social Entrepreneurs, Inc (SEI)
  - They will continue to provide Project Management support to assist NOMHE with actioning of the DHHS DEI Action Plan. They will also provide project support and technical assistance in the facilitation of the existing Steering Committee, divisional Advisory Groups, and Administrator workgroup. Furthermore, SEI will be supporting NOMHE with conducting the next round of Climate Surveying and processing of its findings. The work has been going on since 2020.
- UNR
  - The NOMHE team was able to extend the Faith-Based Initiative (FBI). This extension will end on 5/31/24. Deliverables to be accomplished in this extension include:
    - Continued recruitment and training of CHW I's, including those in Northern Nevada.
    - Prepping CHW I's to become level II
    - Creation of a 6-module Health Promotion Training on Emerging Best Practices
    - Development of an evaluation system
    - Develop interest-based pipelining opportunities for senior CHW (Douglas, phlebotomist)

Tina Dortch shared details about other activities that are being done by the NOMHE team. Those activities include:

- Strategic Planning
  - This will be done to establish a comprehensive framework for NOMHE that guides decision-making, resource allocation, and actions to achieve specific goals and objectives to strengthen and sustain long-term success. This will be done by NOMHE's internal staff.
  - The Strategic Planning Team (SPT) composed of April, Cruda Amanda Annan, and Evelyn Donis de Miranda, will initiate the strategic planning process by conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the organization's context and process of strategic change procedures. This involves identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in collaboration with internal staff and key external partners. Through a synthesis of common themes derived from analysis, the SPT will identify strategic issues, and subsequently formulate strategies and objectives to effectively address these issues. The next step entails the creation and adoption of the strategic plan which will establish an effective organizational vision for the foreseeable future. The roadmap will be

geared towards implementation over the next two years (2024-2026). To ensure ongoing relevancy and efficacy, the strategic plan and process will be reevaluated on an annual basis thereafter.

- The NOMHE teams anticipate the planning process and data collection to happen between now and February 2024. The results will most likely be presented to the Advisory Committee during its February meeting for input.
- Internships
  - This initiative involves partnerships with both UNR and UNLV. The NOMHE team has now the capacity to bring on interns. Currently, NOMHE has an intern who just completed her first project. She worked on the following:
    - Strengthen partnerships by updating the NOMHE Contact Directory list, including eliminating non-deliverable email contacts and procuring fresh contacts through direct communication with designated organizations.
    - Conduct extensive research and literature reviews on public health matters, including the influence of social determinants on population health, thereby contributing to the formulation of interventions and educational panel discussions to tackle these issues.

Tina Dortch spoke about an important component of NOMHE's work, which is health literacy. NOMHE will continue to collaborate with the library system. They are tracking the efforts. Moreover, NOMHE is always trying to achieve culturally sensitive service delivery. A NOMHE staff member was conducting a training for all DHHS staff. This is to augment some of the other statutory required training.

Furthermore, Tina Dortch provided an update on recent events involving NOMHE. Those include:

- NIH Funded All of Us Program in Northern Nevada. This work of moving the needle for clinical trials. NOMHE panel discussion happened at Bethel AME Church hosted by Advisory Committee Member Debra Whitlock.
- Southern Nevada Health District Collaboration on Barbershop. This initiative recently promoted men's self-care. Chair Hickson took his turn in the barber chair.
- Back to School Health Fair (July 2023)
  - Approximately 95 families attended representing approximately 350 individuals.
  - Of 95 families, the largest numbers came from the 89120-zip code where a school is located. It is near Harry Reid Airport. Forty of the families identified as Hispanic or Latino.
  - 60% of attendees surveyed spoke English as their primary language
  - 29% of attendees surveyed spoke Spanish as their primary language
  - 6% of attendees surveyed spoke Tagalog as their primary language
  - 48% of attendees surveyed identified as Hispanic/Latino
  - 30% of attendees surveyed identified as African American/Black
  - 10% of attendees surveyed identified as Asian American/ Pacific Islander
  - 13% of attendees surveyed identified as Caucasian
  - 8% of attendees surveyed were between the ages of 50-59
  - 29% of attendees surveyed were between the ages of 40-49
  - 46% of attendees surveyed were between the ages of 30-39
  - 13% of attendees surveyed were between the ages of 22-29

Tina Dortch shared that some events are still pending, including:

- Senior Focused Health Literacy (August 29, 2023)
- Southern Nevada Health District Collaboration on Childhood Obesity (Sept 2023)
- The National Institute of Health (NIH) Funded the All of Us Program in Southern Nevada (Oct 7, 14, 17, 21 of 2023).

Dr. Crystal Lee had a question. Her question was about NOMHE garnering internship opportunities. Dr. Lee wanted to know if the internships were under NOMHE. Or if NOMHE had a list of community-based partnerships as to where the interns could also be a pipeline through NOMHE.

Tina Dortch stated that NOMHE works with the Minority Health and Equity Coalition. They have an endowment fund that allows members of the coalition to benefit from an intern. The only requirement is that you are a member of the coalition.

Dr. Crystal Lee had another question. As a committee, what's the protocol to recommend an organization or clinic or some type of entity to be considered as a partner to where interns might consider interning?

Tina Dortch advised Dr. Crystal Lee and anyone else interested to drop their information in the chat as NOMHE staff can make a connection. The most important step would be to become a member of the coalition.

Senator Spearman had a comment and stated that when thinking about internships, usually people think very traditionally. It is important to note that demographically in Nevada, most of the population by the year 2040 will be seniors. Many are moving to Nevada due to the cost of living. Senator Spearman asked if there was a way to create a program where seniors could be interns. Someone should be advocating for the senior community. She suggested engaging the faith-based communities. She also stated that many schools are in food deserts. Also, there is a high concentration of addiction or substance abuse. Perhaps an intern could look at the data and plot how many intersections exist. In the senior community mental health is important to address their needs. There are many cases where individuals have depression and possibly suicide ideation because of the isolation. It is important to consider this community.

Tina Dortch stated that NOMHE is an advocate for the senior community. Also, the internship process is being institutionalized. It will be important to include individuals from that community as part of this process. Tina Dortch made a note of Senator Spearman's comment.

Chair Hickson stated that he had a question about the clinical trials initiative. He asked how NOMHE assesses the ability of the community members to understand the actual process that's involved in clinical research studies versus the promotion of clinical research trials and why it's important to be able part of them.

Tina Dortch stated that they track participation. Also, NOMHE collaborates with the All of Us Research Program. This program is not a research initiative, but it is a program that promotes the opportunity of being involved in research. They can track individuals who become part of their database. Their database is the largest and most diverse in the country. Participants can find resources by going to this program. Another way to ensure comprehension is to ensure that materials are being developed at reading level CLAS deems acceptable. That means that they are using more than words. They could be using instructional videos and infographics. The state also has a website that provides information.

Chair Hickson asked How is NOMHE looking to promote the idea of Health Equity when thinking about multiple majority statuses and navigating the system, particularly with mental health, because it's one thing to be afflicted with one minority status and must endure the mental health components of that status. And then coupled with additional minority statuses. There is a reduction of resources within the community that's already resource-void. So how does NOMHE promote events that specifically target minority groups that are afflicted with multiple minority status?

Tina Dortch stated that the health literacy events were designed for that reason. NOMHE works very diligently to provide resources that cross multiple categories of service. Also, NOMHE is very mindful of what the needs are. They were working closely with Mr. Hernandez in lifting a particular piece of legislation. The Diversity and Inclusion Liaisons (DILs) are a resource within state government agencies to help individuals navigate the system. They can make referrals to other agencies as well.



Dr. Crystal Lee had another question regarding the Super Bowl that is going to be happening in Las Vegas in February 2024. She is sitting on the Super Bowl committee and would like to open the discussion about any opportunities that NOMHE might be engaging in. She asked how the NOMHE Advisory Committee can engage in those activities, especially in the health sector.

Tina Dortch stated that it was a great opportunity, and they were very lucky to have her voice at the table. Tina Dortch stated that Dr. Jacobs works in the mental and behavioral health space. NOMHE has not been invited to those tables just yet, NOMHE stands ready to amplify and create opportunities.

Dr. Crystal Lee wanted to ask before extending the invitation. Both, Dr. Lee, and Tina Dortch will connect separately to discuss that matter.

Senator Spearman expressed her excitement as well. She also stated that this could be an opportunity to partner with other organizations, especially those who assist individuals who have been sexually assaulted. She also asked about how closely is the statute related to this topic being followed. She would like to make sure that it is being followed. She also stated that often the money is not being invested on things that matter.

Tina Dortch agreed and stated that sometimes there are many excuses around that topic. She is not aware of the tracking of that bill.

Revered Debra Whitlock Lax stated that Senator Spearman touched on some points that she wanted to talk about. She spoke about the increase in human trafficking. She would like to see some type of involvement in that area, especially with the upcoming Super Bowl.

## **9. Presentation and Discussion of AB 267 from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session**

Tina Dortch, NOMHE Program Manager

AN ACT relating to health care; revising provisions relating to the requirement that certain medical facilities conduct training of certain agents and employees in cultural competency; requiring the Office of Minority Health and Equity of the Department of Health and Human Services to establish, maintain and distribute a list of courses and programs relating to cultural competency that certain medical facilities are required to use to conduct training of certain agents and employees; increasing the number of hours of instruction relating to cultural competency that certain health care professionals are required to complete; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Tina Dortch stated that AB267 passed, which is about cultural competency training for individuals and organizations that seek professional licensure. It also has a sub-component that requires the Office of Minority Health and Equity to establish, maintain, and distribute a list of courses and programs relating to those training. However, the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance, referred to as HCQC has the larger responsibility. They were appointed as a contact during the last session and in this session, that role was pretty much maintained.

Chair Hickson thanked Tina Dortch for the summary. He stated that he had a question. As many know, this legislative session increased the number of hours to take certain courses. Unfortunately, oftentimes, legislation doesn't always recognize the impact that it has on the community. Chair Hickson asked if NOMHE knows if these courses that are being distributed to the healthcare facilities are approved by the state boards.

Tina Dortch stated that the boards will play a role in this process. The courses will be certified and recognized as a response to the statute.

Chair Hickson thanked Tina Dortch. He asked other Advisory Members if they had any questions before proceeding.

Chair Hickson acknowledged that Representative Erik Jimenez had left the meeting.

## **10. Black Leadership Advisory Council (BLAC) Subcommittee Meeting Updates and Actions**

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

### **A. Discussion and Approval of Pulse Report Outline (For Possible Action)**

Chair Hickson stated that the BLAC Subcommittee members were required to produce information that rendered a pulse. Information was needed to understand how the specific problem existed within the state of Nevada. Each member was to produce information about what they saw as the problem, what resources were available or lack thereof, and to produce opportunities for recommendations. That information was then submitted to program manager Tina Dortch and her team to produce a wonderful layout of the report.

Chair Hickson asked for the approval of the layout of the report and to offer any recommendations on how to adjust the layout of this report. He stated that this was not a vote to approve the language of the report, it was solely to approve the layout of the report.

Reverend Debra Whitlock-Lax asked if the data represented all of Nevada including the north and south.

Chair Hickson stated that indeed the report encompasses all of Nevada and that it is not specifically to any city. According to Chair Hickson, the report was specifically designed to address the issues that were recommended or recognized in the state of Nevada, because the purpose of the BLAC Subcommittee is to not focus on a specific city within Nevada, but on Black Nevadans and African American Nevadans throughout the entire state.

Nancy Bowen suggested that the report could have a summary of everything. A paragraph that summarizes things so that people can evaluate the texture.

Tina Dortch stated that one of the things that the BLAC Subcommittee is trying to do is to format the report displaying the eight categories previously discussed in the BLAC Subcommittee meeting. For each of the 8 categories, there should be some observation that has been noted that is supported by data and then there should be a recommendation to address that observation.

Senator Spearman stated that it would be good to engage the Chair of the Health Youth Services Committee. Every Chair has resources.

Chair Hickson asked for a motion to approve the layout of the BLAC Subcommittee Pulse Report.

The **motion** to accept the formatting of the future Pulse Report to be approved as presented was made by Nicholas Dunkle.

Crystal Lee seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **B. Request to Approve Members to NOMHE's Black Leadership Advisory Council (BLAC) Subcommittee (For Possible Action)**

Chair Hickson stated that there are four (4) categories/seats that remain vacant on the B.L.A.C. Subcommittee. The categories include (1) Business, Economics, Technology, and Entrepreneurship; (2) Safety Preparedness; (3) Communication, Arts and Culture; and (4) Environment. Subcommittee members agreed to identify individuals who may fulfill the vacant categories and submit the names to NOMHE staff member, Tina Dortch.

Chair Hickson reminded everyone about the BLAC Subcommittee's purpose. The purpose of the Black Leadership Advisory Council, or BLAC, is to engage community members in the decision-making process to improve the quality of life for Black and African American citizens in the state of Nevada. Chair Hickson reminded everyone that the BLAC Subcommittee was created in November 2022.

Chair Hickson stated that the term for the member is not to exceed 12 months, but there is a possible renewal option for an additional 12 months, provided that the subcommittee continues to work and exist. The final BLAC composition will be a total of 11 members. The slate for the number of members may change as the Bylaws will most likely be updated.

Chair Hickson stated that for the category of "Business, Economy, Technology, and Entrepreneurship" there were no representatives put forward. Likewise, there were no representatives for the category of "Safety Preparedness". There were two representatives for the "Communication, Arts, and Culture" category. The two representatives were Vogue Robinson an author and teacher and Jewel Eldridge a sign language instructor and black advocate. Under the category of "Environment," there was Dr. Mary House the CEO of Caring, Helping, and Restoring Lives.

Chair Hickson asked other Advisory Group members if they had any names that they would like to put forward.

Senator Spearman stated that she had a name to propose.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Senator Spearman.

Senator Spearman stated that she would like to put a name down for the category of "Business, Economy, Technology, and Entrepreneurship". The name was Mr. Nathan Atkins (muffled / not clear) a veteran business owner.

Chair Hickson reminded everyone that at this time only the NOMHE Advisory Committee members could put names forward. He also stated that Subcommittee members were required to put forward their names by the deadline. Also, nominees must be present to accept or decline their nomination. Nominees were asked to accept or decline their nomination.

Chair Hickson called on Vogue Robinsons.

Vogue Robinson accepted her nomination.

Chair Hickson called on Jewel Eldridge with the assistance of the ASL interpreter.

According to the ASL interpreter, Jewel Eldridge accepted her nomination.

Chair Hickson called on Dr. Mary House.

Dr. Mary House accepted her nomination.

Tina Dortch stated that these new nominees must provide their data during the October 11 BLAC Subcommittee meeting.

Chair Hickson stated that Mr. Atkins would present himself during the next BLAC Subcommittee meeting for consideration.

Voting started, and Chair Hickson indicated that the person with the highest number of votes would be elected. NOMHE Advisory Members raise their hand to show their vote.

Chair Hickson asked members to raise their hand for Vogue Robinsons. No votes.

Chair Hickson asked members to raise their hand for Jewel Eldridge. There were 4 votes for Jewel Eldridge. Chair Hickson congratulated Jewel Eldridge for the appointment in the “Communications, Arts, and Culture” category.

Chair Hickson asked members to raise their hand for Dr. Mary House. There were 5 votes for Dr. Mary House, the only representative under the category of “Environment”. Chair Hickson congratulated Dr. Mary House for the appointment to the “Environment” category.

Chair Hickson encouraged individuals who were submitted for nomination but were not selected to return to the next BLAC Subcommittee meeting.

Chair Hickson asked for a motion to approve the new BLAC Subcommittee appointees, Jewel Eldridge, and Dr. Mary House.

The **motion** to approve new members Jewel Eldridge and Dr. Mary House to the BLAC Subcommittee was made by Reverend Debra Whitlock Lax.

Seconded by Nicholas Dunkle.

All were in favor and the motion passed.

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

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson stated that some future meeting topics include senior internships. He asked for any other recommendations.

After hearing no other recommendations, Chair Hickson put forward the following future meeting dates:

- November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 10:00 AM. During this meeting, the Annual Diversity, and Inclusion Liaison (DIL) report will be shared by the NOMHE staff.
- The next date will be February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 AM. Some of the topics for this meeting will include the NOMHE Strategic Plan.
- May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 AM will be another future date for the NOMHE Advisory Committee meeting. During this meeting, members will most likely be approving the Strategic Plan.

Chair Hickson asked for a motion to approve all the three days for future meetings.

Debra Whitlock Lax made the **motion** to approve topics and future meeting dates.

Nicholas Dunkle seconded the motion to approve topics and future meeting dates.

All were in favor and the motion passed.

## 12. 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. To provide public comment telephonically, dial (775) 321 – 6111 any time after the Chair announces the period of public comment. When prompted to provide the Meeting ID, enter 415 026 977#.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Dr. Robert D. Bush for public comment.

Dr. Robert D. Bush expressed his excitement with Dr. Mary House's selection to the BLAC Subcommittee. He also expressed his disappointment as he submitted Robert Taylor in "Business, Technology, and Entrepreneurship" on July 26<sup>th</sup> and he wasn't included in the agenda. Regardless, he thanked everyone for the meeting.

Chair Hickson thanked Dr. Bush and asked him to keep in mind that his potential nomination can still attend the next BLAC meeting for which we may consider the nomination. He asked Dr. Bush to not feel discouraged, but he understood the disappointment.

Alisa Howard stated in the chat: Is there an opportunity for training to be put together from the office on how to be on a professional board? I think this is important as we start bringing in community people who are not in public health. We want this subcommittee to be represented in the best light, which is professional, as it also serves a purpose to be a conduit for future other subcommittees.

Chair Hickson acknowledged Alisa Howard's comment and stated that her comment was a good suggestion and that he would investigate it.

ASL interpreter stated that there was no way of knowing if anyone who was deaf had any comments at this time.

### 13. Adjournment

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Nancy Bowen made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting.

Reverend Dr. Debra Whitlock Lax seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

All were in favor and the motion passed.

**This meeting will be held in person and 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/](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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

DRAFT