



**Minutes (FINAL)
Of the meeting of the
NEVADA OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND EQUITY (NOMHE)
Quarterly Advisory Committee Meeting
May 14, 2024**

The Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) Advisory Committee held a public meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, beginning at 10:05 a.m.

This meeting was held via Microsoft Teams

Tina Dortch welcomed everyone to the May 14, 2024, Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) Advisory Committee meeting. She introduced herself as NOMHE's Program Manager. She identified herself as a Black cisgender woman using, she/her pronouns. She was wearing a navy dress and had her hair in braids. Her background was white with a virtual NOMHE tag line over her head. She was one of NOMHE's staff supporting the meeting along with Evelyn Donis and Alexandra Neal. Before beginning she asked for confirmation that recording had begun for the meeting.

Alexandra Neal confirmed that the recording had begun.

Tina Dortch stated that the meeting was being supported by professional American Sign Language interpretation and that closed captioning was available. She reminded everyone to silence all phones and for anyone speaking, to state their name – each time – before speaking. When not speaking, Tina Dortch advised everyone to mute themselves. Members of the Advisory Committee were asked to keep their cameras on for the duration of the meeting and to stay engaged until the conclusion of the meeting. For non-Advisory Committee members, specifically presenters or those providing remarks during Public Comment joining virtually were advised to only engage their cameras while speaking.

Tina Dortch stated that Chair, Dr. Samuel Hickson, was absent and that Vice Chair, Nicholas Dunkle, were going to manage the meeting agenda. She turned the agenda over to Vice Chair.

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

Nicholas Dunkle, Vice Chair

Vice Chair Nicholas Dunkle called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. He advised committee members to speak once called by program manager.

Tina Dortch stated roll call.

Following the roll call, a quorum was reached. The seven members in attendance were: Vice Chair Nicholas Dunkle, Dr. Reimund Serafica, Reverend, Dr. Karen Anderson, Reverend Dr. Debra Whitlock Lax, Margarita Salas Crespo, Dr. Rozanne Bentt, and Nancy Bowen.

The two interpreter and NOMHE staff were in attendance: Tory (Sign Language Interpreter), Jamie Jaramillo (Sign Language Interpreter), Karina Fox, Alexandra Neal, Tina Dortch, Carlos Ramirez-Gomez, Princette Bowling, and Evelyn S. Donis de Miranda.

Other members of the public included: Senator Patricia Spearman, Terri McBride, April Cruda, Norma, Will Rucker, Adela Victorino, Ana Gonzalez, Steve Messinger, Cinthia Moore, Alletha Muzorewa, Blessing Imade, Refat Srejon, Sohail UNLV, Susan Dakwa, Patricia Gallimore, Asma Awan, Agena Gyawu, Janet Serial and Alisa Howard. Furthermore, there were three individuals who joined by phone.

Vice Chair Dunkle stated that important changes had taken place withing the Advisory Committee. He asked if both legislative advisors were present.

Alexandra Neal stated that at this time only Senator Patricia Spearman was present.

Vice Chair Dunkle, stated that Tina Dortch would go over some important updates.

Tina Dortch stated that there were three changes to report. First, Tina Dortch wanted to recognized Dr. Raimund Serafica for completing his first two terms. He will not be renewing for his second-year term, due to some increase in his responsibilities. He accepted an appointment as the Director for the Community Engagement Core at the Mountain West Clinical and Translational Research Infrastructure Network. Likewise, he will continue to be a faculty member at the UNLV School of Nursing. Tina Dortch thanked Dr. Reimund Serafica for his consistency and his reliable allyship. He will be receiving a virtual certificate at the end of the meeting.

The second change presented was that Advisory Committee member Dr. Roseanne Bent's position will be vacant. She will be taking a position with Southwest Medical Associates. She is deciding if she will remain in the state. Tina Dortch thanked Dr. Bent and expressed appreciation for her expertise and dedication on maternal health related matters. Likewise, Dr. Bent will be receiving a virtual certificate.

Lastly, Tina Dortch informed the group that Dr. Crystal Lee had completed her maximum obligation, which means that she did two two-year terms. She has been with the office for four years and she has to roll off of the committee, effectively on this day. Unfortunately, she was not present during this meeting for very noble reasons. She was invited to present at the Health Summitt in Abu Dhabi.

Tina Dortch stated that she expects all three positions to be filled by the next Advisory Committee meeting in August.

Vice Chair Dunkle thanked Tina Dortch for all the updates and continued with the agenda. Vice Chair Dunkle recognized this month as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. He advised individuals present to take a moment to become more involve in this celebration. As his opening statement, Vice Chair Dunkle shared that the Commonwealth Fund would be release. This is a report with detailed health disparities within different racial ethnic groups. Unfortunately, Nevada ranks 40 in this report. He wanted to take the time to highlight the importance of NOMHE and the work that is being done. This report exams different factors that affect minorities, such as lack of health care access. He encouraged individual to review this report. More importantly, this report recognizes health disparities which should be considered when advocating.

Vice Chair Dunkle invite attendees to add their names and titles in the chat box. He turned the agenda back to Tina Dortch.

Tina Dortch notified Vice Chair Dunkle that his audio was sounding garble and she asked him to address it. She asked for confirmation if Senator Nguyen had arrived.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Tina Dortch

Tina Dortch delivered the land acknowledgement.

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.

3. Public Comment

Nicholas Dunkle, Vice 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 668 085 169#.

There were no comments.

Vice Chair Dunkle advised that attendees have another chance to provide their comments at a later time in the meeting.

4. Approval of February 13, 2024, Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)

Nicholas Dunkle, Vice Chair

Vice Chair Dunkle referenced that the minutes were posted to NOMHE website as required by statute. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Reverend Karen Anderson made the motion to approve the February 13th, 2024, NOMHE Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

Nancy Bowen seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

5. Presentation of NOMHE Budget (For Information Only)

Nicholas Dunkle, Vice Chair

Tina Dortch stated that the budget as reported had been reconciled through March 31, 2024. The budget reflected 2 components. General funded components were shown at the top of the report. And grant funded components were at the bottom. Of the total General Fund awarded amount of \$318,785, NOMHE is projected to end the State Fiscal Year on June 30, 2024, with a balance of about 180,000. Since that time, NOMHE was able to reconcile all outstanding invoices and it looks like NOMHE will end this particular grant cycle with only \$16,000 unobligated dollar amount. This was a \$3.7 million grant over three years. She wanted to point out that many offices of minority health and equity received dollars through the CDC Health Disparities Grant. Tina Dortch believes that the office did a great job of administering those dollars. The funds went towards the retention of five employees. Furthermore, there were 7 contracts that produced many products. Tina Dortch expressed here excitement and feels proud of the work being done.

Tina Dortch looks forward to the August NOMHE Advisory Committee meeting as more updates regarding upcoming grant activities will be shared. That concluded the report.

Vice Chair Dunkle acknowledge members for comment.

Nancy Bowen stated that this was excellent budget work. She was wondering if any funds would be carried over and if the office would do a no-cost extension. She congratulated the office on getting so close to being 100% spent. Furthermore, she stated that it would be great if the office could use the extra 16, 18 or \$24,000.

Tina Dortch thanked Nancy Bowen for her comment. Tina Dortch stated that the office tried to spend the funds and that the office is running against the clock as the deadline is approaching. She tried to provide the money to the host agency, which is the Division of Public and Behavioral Health. Unfortunately, there are no unassigned scopes of work. Those dollars could not be obligated, but again it is a nominal percentage of the \$3.7 million. NOMHE did its best.

Vice Chair Dunkle thanked Nancy Bowen for the question and Tina Dortch for the clarification.

Tina Dortch acknowledged that Senator Patricia Spearman had issues joining the meeting. She advised if the Senator should speak at this time.

Vice Chair Dunkle, stated he would shift the agenda. The Senator will be transitioning out of the committee.

Tina Dortch stated that there was a virtual certificate for Senator Patricia Spearman. Tina Dortch invited the Senator to provide any remarks. Tina Dortch shared that Senator Patricia Spearman's advocacy has been boundless. She is an equity champion and that the Office of Minority Health and Equity has benefited mightily from her support. Tina Dortch attempted to name the specific ordinances and executive statements and litigate laws that she had advocated for to benefit the community, but they are too numerous. Instead, Tina Dortch stated that the Senator has been a global partner in this work in the sense that she has touched every aspect of the work that the offices do from financial stability to programmatic abilities. This is the last meeting were the Senator serves as a legislative advisor.

Senator Patricia Spearman stated that it has been a joy and a pleasure being part of this body, made up of the community, especially community members who take time out of their busy schedules to help with this work. She hopes that someone else will pick up the work and move on with it. She will always be around for help or support in anything. She is unsure what is next in her journey, but she is waiting on God to tell her. She hopes that her work has not been in vain. She asked people to stay on top of the legislation that passed in the 21-session requiring equity and disbursement of funds for the marginalized communities. They depend on everyone's voices.

Tina Dortch thanked the Senator. Tina Dortch indicated that for the duration of the meeting and for future agendas, people will be able to notice that NOMHE updated the reference to its new senator. The new legislator advisor is Senator Rochelle Nguyen. She was not present during the meeting.

6. Report on NOMHE Activities, Initiatives, and Impacts (For Information Only)

Tina Dortch (NOMHE - Program Manager)

a. NOMHE's Strategic Plan

Amanda Annan (NOMHE - Management Analyst)

Tina Dortch stated that unfortunately, the first presentation on this agenda item was not going to take place. The staff person who was assigned to present was under the weather and unable to participate. This informational item will be saved for future agenda.

b. NOMHE Health Literacy Outreach, Collaborations and Product Development

Alexandra Neal (NOMHE - Minority Health and Equity Specialist)

Alexandra Neal introduced herself and stated that she was wearing a black and white polka dot blouse and a black sweater. She identifies as a black, cisgender female. She expressed her happiness about presenting NOMHE's health literacy outreach collaboration and product development. Alexandra Neal indicated that as part of her presentation she would discuss what NOMHE did for Minority Health Awareness Month, which happened in April. She started by giving a brief overview of past action steps by the office. In 2021, the office requested a proclamation identifying the month of April within the State of Nevada as Minority Health Awareness Month. This aligns with the national recognition. NOMHE has been doing that every year. The proclamations can be found in the NOMHE website <https://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/CHA/MH/Toolkit/procs-recognitions/>. In 2022, NOMHE planned three outreach and education events and activities. Two of those were fully virtual and one of them was an in-person resource fair hosted at one of the local clinics in North Las Vegas. In addition to that, NOMHE tabled at a farmers' market to pass out COVID-19 tests and offer people to receive their COVID-19 vaccine. This was performed in partnership with Immunize Nevada. In 2023 NOMHE planned 4 outreach and education activities as well as distributing a virtual newsletter called NOMHE news. In 2024 NOMHE had three activities that focused on various social determinants. The first event was called "Plan for your Health. Protect Your Family: A Health Protection Forum and Legal Clinic". NOMHE received assistance from Advisory Committee Margarita Salas Crespo. Also, NOMHE planned another event called "Brain Health Family Field Day" and a rights workshop completely in Spanish. The title for all the events were being shared on the screen. In addition to this events, NOMHE interns created a Minority Health awareness digital media toolkit for community serving organizations. The toolkit is pending final edits. Once the toolkit is complete, it will be brought back to the Advisory Committee. The toolkit includes custom sharable social media graphics as well as resources and tools that fall under five key areas including healthcare advance, healthcare planning and protection, minority health awareness, the importance of safe, secure, and enjoyable neighborhood, and built environment. Furthermore, NOMHE had the assistance of volunteers from UNLV School of Public Health, Healthcare Administration program and Physical Therapy School.

Alexandra Neal provided more context about the different events that NOMHE participated in.

- Tenancy Rights Workshops: This was actually the beginning of a series that NOMHE is planning to have over the next year. This event happened thanks to the partnership with local organizations including Puentes, Leaders in Training, Nevada Legal Services, the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition, and Senator Edgar Flores. The Senator was one of the guest speakers. This event was especial because it was completely in Spanish. NOMHE staff who are bilingual in Spanish and English and community members present found the information very useful and helpful.
- Plan For Your Health: Protect Your Family: This event was hosted in partnership with the Asian Community Development Council, the Dignity Health Saint Rose Dominican Hospital, and AARP in Nevada. In this event NOMHE received the assistance of Advisory Committee Margarita Salas Crespo. NOMHE was able to plan a free legal clinic where the Nevada Legal Services and Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada were available with their attorneys on site to answer questions and help people create advance directive.
- Brain Health Family Filed Day: This was the last event of the month. It happened outside of elementary school. This was in partnership with sponsors of AARP Nevada, the Nevada Black Legislative Caucus, Cleveland Clinic, Outdoor Recreation, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the YMCA of Southern Nevada, the Southern Nevada Health District, Dignity Health, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, the Division of Aging and Disability and many others. The YMCA actually hosted the event at their Heinrich YMCA location. This location is across the Meadows Mall. There were free vision screenings. AARP sponsored a Cumbia class. There was also Yin Yoga, Pilates, chair Yoga, and a boxing movement class. These classes were accessible for all kind of individuals.

Alexandra Neal also shared that NOMHE will participate in a school health and education resource fair in September. NOMHE is hoping to bring some component from the field day event to that resource fair.

Alexandra Neal also shared information about NOMHE's partnerships and collaboration contributing to NOMHE's health literacy efforts.

- Clinical Trial Diversification: This is predicated on a law that passed in 2017 during the legislative session by then Assemblywoman Neil. This law tells the state of Nevada that they need to prioritize clinical trial diversification. This was tasked to DHHS and NOMHE was identified as a cornerstone office to uplift these efforts and make sure that the information is being provided throughout the state. NOMHE is currently working with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) within DHHS to update the clinical trial diversification website and web page. This is also shared in the NOMHE webpage https://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/CHA/MH/Office_of_Minority_Health/. This is being done to ensure that it is user friendly for Nevadans and for researchers within Nevada. Furthermore, NOMHE's long standing partnership with the "All of Us Program" funded by the National Institute of Health will continue and they are coming back to Las Vegas, Nevada this summer.
- Public Health Workforce Initiative: This is partnership with DPBH. NOMHE volunteer to do activities under the Public Health Improvement Plan, especially a section referencing public health career days in the state of Nevada. This is an initiative were NOMHE will seek feedback from the Advisory Committee.
- Outreach opportunities: NOMHE's outreach partnerships have expanded. NOMHE's flyers now contain some new integrations such as NOMHE's interns, and legislators. For example, the Nevada Black Legislative Caucus helped sponsor "Brain Health Family Field Day". They paid for the music. Additionally, Senator Flores participated in the "Tenancy Rights Workshop". He participated because he is an immigration attorney as there is a complicated intersection between immigration and rental rights. NOMHE continues to expand its partnerships within the state of Nevada. Along this topic, NOMHE established intern pipelines and projects with UNR and UNLV. NOMHE is still working on stablishing partnerships with other institutions within higher education field. Also, NOMHE is trying to expand its connections not just organization wise but expand programs outside public health.

Alexandra Neal advised everyone to be part of NOMHE's email list as important updates are send through there. She also stated that NOMHE will be in Clark County for the most part of, but they will also be going to other areas such as Mesquite.

Alexandra Neal provided an update on NOMHE intern related projects. One of the products that an intern created is a health literacy or health disparity topic. Another project focused on social determinants and the intersectional impacts on the build environment and economics for differently able people in Nevada. These projects were created by some of the undergraduate interns. Another project developed was a clinical research trend snapshot looking at the diversity of type 2 diabetes clinical research for Hispanic and Latino women. All projects are being reviewed and will be shared widely. Furthermore, NOMHE recent UNLV interns were developing a digital medial toolkit. This toolkit will be available for all organizations. One of the things discussed in the toolkit is public health related work field. One of the things that people are not familiar with is where they can work and what are all the different degrees. Another topic in the toolkit is advanced protective planning for people's health and protecting their families. This includes securing your sensitive documents. Something to note about the toolkit is that it integrates accessibility as much as possible. NOMHE utilized accessibility tips from non-profit organizations and the federal government into the toolkit. For example, captioning is widely use.

Alexandra Neal stated that NOMHE is currently planning activities for 2025. NOMHE is requesting and promoting for volunteers because NOMHE cannot do all of this work on its own. NOMHE is relatively a small office, and it is supposed to interact with the whole state. In the screen, Alexandra Neal shared a flyer asking for volunteers. NOMHE can document volunteers' hours whether it is in high school or higher education. Flyers offer information on how to remain engage with NOMHE. Flyers have a QR code which links people to a Microsoft Forms where people can sign up to volunteer with NOMHE or sign-up to stay in contact with NOMHE. The link to the Microsoft Office form is https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=5kCj5J64aE6OqhVE0nA5gKEw-T3JwFhJqqAee_uR3V9UMFQ5QIRLVU4yOE9USFpUQ0xFR0sySTNRRQCQIQCN0PWcu.

Vice Chair Dunkle thanked Alexandra Neal for the presentation. He commended how NOMHE has been managing all of these events and for considering people with disabilities and so forth. He asked if there were any remote or rural events happening.

Alexandra Neal stated that yes, absolutely. NOMHE is currently planning events and activities in Northern Nevada. The Advisory Committee members will travel to Northern Nevada for the annual meeting in August. NOMHE staff will be staying longer than the one day for the meeting to do outreach activities. NOMHE is also trying to plan more virtual opportunities for engagements. Plans to engage rural Nevada within the next year are in the works.

Alexandra Neal wanted to point out that travel budget for the office is very limited. All of NOMHE's staff is located in Southern Nevada. It would be easier if NOMHE had staff located in other parts of the state. Alexandra Neal stated that NOMHE is always happy to collaborate with any of the Advisory Committee members or organizations. She pointed out that last year Reverend Dr. Debra Whitlock Lax was very gracious to host NOMHE. She turned it over to Tina Dortch for further information.

Tina Dortch stated that Alexandra Neal was correct as to whether reaching the whole state is challenging. Regardless, NOMHE does it best and make most of its resources. NOMHE partners in a lot of ways. For example, NOMHE through the "Transformation Transfer Initiative (TI) grant has been doing some work. This is held through the Division of Public and Behavioral Health. They have engaged NOMHE to assist with outreach and particular grant scope of work that is impactful. This is to amplify the existence of the 988 resources to more rural and tribal communities. This work is in the early lift stages. Another example is the utilization of NOMHE's platform across the state is a recent training that was conducted with the Family Resource Centers. These centers are embedded around the state, probably 13 of them. Princette Bowling, a NOMHE staff member was the point person on that project bringing them together to do some cultural competency training. Also, they came together to develop a universal DEI statement about how they would treat their resident and partners. Those are just some examples.

Senator Patricia Spearman congratulated Alexandra Neal for the presentation. She encouraged NOMHE to look into the following constituents for volunteers, the seniors in Clark County, especially those 65 plus communities. They meet like once a month for lunch and talk to discuss different things. The Senator has attended some of those meetings and they are always trying to get involve. When organizations involve seniors in activities, it expands their quality-of-life opportunities. She encouraged NOMHE to look into military installations in rural areas, the National Guard, and Greek organizations.

Alexandra Neal thanked Senator Patricia Spearman for the recommendations. Alexandra Neal indicated that she would work with NOMHE's Community Outreach Liaison Carlos to find the best ways to distribute the flyers for volunteering to the senior centers and the contacts for the Coast Guard, General Barry. Alexandra Neal did state that some integration had happened as NOMHE partner with the AARP Nevada.

Reverend Dr. Debra Whitlock Lax congratulated Alexandra Neal for the wonderful presentation. She asked if the remainder budget money \$17,000 could be distributed and use for travel purposes to Northern Nevada.

Tina Dortch stated there was a "yes" and a "no answer to the question. The budget is compartmentalized between grant funded dollars and general fund dollars. The general fund budget operationally speaking is less than \$30,000 and there is a lot that comes under operational expenses, not just travel. Grant dollars offer an opportunity for travel, but it is very limited. It has to be specific to the scope of work of the grant.

Vice Chair Dunkle had some issues with his audio. He thanked Alexandra Neal for the presentation. He asked what the intended audience for the Public Health Workforce Career initiative is.

Alexandra Neal stated that it was grades K through 12 and higher education, especially for those who may be interested in career transitions. NOMHE is currently in the planning stages for this project. The first career day will be in Northern Nevada. The logistics have still been worked on. The idea is to start in high school or college and

then expand from there. Personally, Alexandra Neal would like to expand this opportunity to adults. Locations have not been set yet, so Advisory Committee members can provide their opinion on what age groups to target.

Vice Chair Dunkle thanked Alexandra Neal for her consideration on the many different age groups.

7. Black Leadership Advisory Council (BLAC) Subcommittee's Pulse Report (For Possible Action)

Karina Fox (NOMHE - Public Health Resource Officer)

Karina Fox started presenting on the Black Leadership Advisory Council (BLAC) Pulse Report. She stated that transparency is key in what NOMHE does. The BLAC Pulse Report was made available online right alongside the meeting announcements. This was done to give the advisory committee members a chance to review the details before the meeting.

Karina Fox stated that she was excited to present the most recent updates on the report. She expressed excitement about the role that the subcommittee played within NOMHE. This was a very diverse group that brought their own experience to tackle health inequities head on. Minor adjustments were made to ensure that individuals' titles and names were captured accurately. The pulse report was created by subject matter experts across six categories shown on the slide. These individuals were appointed by the NOMHE Advisory Committee. The members were Chair Dr. Samuel Hickson, a social worker at Intermountain Health, Mr. Will Rucker, Chair at Community Partners for Better Health, Alyssa Howard, community health worker (CHW) instructor and consultant and founder of Minority Health Consultants and Co-founder of the CHW Mentorship Network. Both Will Rucker and Alyssa Howard developed the health and wellness section. Kamilah Bywaters, president of Las Vegas, Alliance of Black School Educators developed the public safety and educational environment category. Adrian Feemster Cobb, community advocate and organizer at Feemster Legacy, and Robert D. Bush, president of the National Action network, Las Vegas Chapter developed the public policy, law, and government section. Jewel Eldridge, executive president of the Nevada Black Deaf Advocates developed the section of communications, arts, and culture. Dr. Mary House, co-founder of Caring, Helping and Restoring Lives, Inc developed the section on environmental challenges in vulnerable communities. Bishop Derek Rimson, CEO and president of Derek Rimson Ministries developed the section on faith-based communities.

Karina Fox stated that after a year with the term ending in February, many changes have been implemented and streamlined for the final revision of the report. For example, the health and wellness category was streamlined to ensure clarity and focus. The goal is to make sure that efforts have the maximum impact. Some of the additions in this category include adding more details to the following references:

- a. systemic inequities in healthcare access: collaborate with community organizations focused on the well-being of Black and Brown communities to help address systemic inequities by providing culturally relevant support, advocacy and resources tailored to the community's needs.
- b. geographic isolation: this focuses on the geographic isolation from medical facilities and healthcare resources and compounds existing disparities in access to care. Limited transportation options and infrastructure further restrict individuals' ability to seek timely medical attention, exacerbating health outcomes and widening disparities.
- c. pre-existing conditions: Black Nevadans often face a higher prevalence of pre-existing health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension. These conditions significantly increase the risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19.

These are just some examples of some changes made to the report. Also, some standardized formatting changes have been made. However, the report is being formatted to ensure a consistent layout. Each of the six sections includes the following component 1) observations which briefly describe the issues being addressed in the category 2) underlying risk factors that contribute to the main issue 3) conclusion summarizing the key takeaway or findings from the observations 4) risk factors and 5) resource materials listing the sources used to support the conclusion. It is believed that this structure format will make it easier for the community partners to use the report.

Karina Fox stated that under potential next steps related to the utilization of the pulse report a few take aways were discussed:

- a. Find and fix missing laws that are unfairness and that affect the growth of the economy and build wealth in the Black

community.

- b. Collaborate with NOMHE, the Black community and other supporters to promote legislation and regulation that ensures equitable treatment of all Nevadans and seeks to address structural inequities in the state.
- c. Serve as a resource for the community groups on issues, programs, sources of funding, and compliance requirements within the state to advance the interest of the Black community.
- d. Promote the cultural arts within the Black community through coordinated efforts, advocacy, and collaboration with the NOMHE, the Black community, and supportive partners.

Karina Fox stated that some points of distribution focus on public safety officials, such as the Las Vegas Metropolitan Black Leadership Alliance. Karina Fox encouraged BLAC Subcommittee members to share their thoughts or proposed ideas during the Q&A section.

Vice Chair Nicholas Dunkle thanked Karina Fox for sharing such a wonderful presentation.

Senator Patricia Spearman stated that there might be some options coordinating with the community groups or community organization in relation to funding. She encouraged members to look at those funding opportunities within their cities. Funding is proportional to the census report and that is a plug when the 2030 census comes around. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding could be another avenue to help get the job done.

Vice Chair Dunkle thanked the Senator for her valuable input.

Alexandra Neal informed Vice Chair Dunkle that Alisa Howard wanted to comment.

Alisa Howard introduced herself as one of the BLAC Subcommittee members. She stated that she had a great time on this year-long project with the fellow community members which belong to different careers and fields. She thinks that this has not been done before. She had never seen people work so well together in these committee calls. She wished that the public could have been part of it. The community knows what it needs. She hopes that the report shows that. She plans to share the report wide and far. She believes that everyone throughout the state of Nevada needs to know what is going on with the Black community. She would like to see other ethnic groups have their own subcommittees.

Vice Chair Dunkle acknowledged Tina Dortch for comment.

Tina Dortch thanked Alisa Howard for her comment. Tina Dortch shared that this was the office's first subcommittee since its opening in 2005. She became manager in 2018. This was the first subcommittee that she has lifted. The subcommittee meetings were public, but more promotion needs to happen. NOMHE's staff put a lot of thought and took this project very seriously. It can be difficult to put this information into the right hands. Sometimes these meetings are not exciting to the general public as certain protocols have to be followed. She thanked all the BLAC Subcommittee members for their participation. Promoting the pulse report is part of the next steps. NOMHE plans to do a good job in amplifying the work once it's done.

Vice Chair Dunkle acknowledged Dr. Rozanne Bentt for comment.

Dr. Rozanne Bentt wanted to make an observation. Sometimes the community is not aware of these projects, they are likely not to engage. They don't take advantage of these opportunities. She asked if anyone on the committee has thoughts or ideas on how to improve engagement uptake? She provided an example for Medicaid patients; they have transportation options that are available. So, they let them know of these opportunities. But often they don't take advantage of that.

Vice Chair Dunkle acknowledged Reverend Dr. Debra Whitlock Lax for comment.

Reverend Dr. Debra Whitlock Lax stated that it is critical to have more programming in the north of Nevada. She is concerned about the lack of programming. This makes it difficult to inspire people to get involved. She offered her church for programming opportunities. She is involved in the Nevada Interstate Interfaith Association, which is primarily

Caucasian, but she is involved in other faith-based organizations within minority communities. She believes it will be great to connect them. She encouraged everyone in the north to collaborate.

Vice Chair Dunkle acknowledged Senator Patricia Spearman for comment.

Senator Patricia Spearman shared that she was very emotional after hearing the conversation. This is what Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson envisioned when he sponsored the bill. She wasn't sure what session, but certainly his vision was coming to fruition.

Vice Chair Dunkle thanked the Senator. He circled back to Dr. Bentt's question and asked if anyone had any additional thoughts in terms on how to increase uptake of information in the community. He asked for a motion to approve the BLAC Subcommittee Pulse Report.

Reverend Dr. Debra Whitlock Lax made the motion Nancy Bowen seconded the motion All were in favor.

8. Presentation of Nevada's Division of Child and Family Services Language Access Plan (For Information Only)

Terri McBride (Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services – Management Analyst II) The Division of Child and Family Services presents its Language Access Plan for feedback and comments.

Terri McBride thanked the committee members for allowing her to be a guest speaker at the meeting. She felt honored to be present. She had forwarded the four-page language access plan over to the NOMHE office and she hopes everyone had the opportunity to read it before the meeting. She did not see it in the material for the meeting. She started her presentation by saying that a bill passed in 2021 that required all state agencies to develop a language access plan. She is from the Division of Child and Family Services, a sister agency of NOMHE. They provide child welfare and protective services, children's mental health services, and services to the juvenile justice system in the state. There are four main areas of services. The division recognizes that there are language limited English proficiency clients. With that in mind, they developed the language access plan. They want to make sure that they give full access to the services. The plan states that the division needs to provide individual with limited English proficiency oral language services. They need to provide translated written documents and other options for reading their website. They need to provide community outreach to limited English proficiency speaker so that they know that the division will collaborate with them in order to communicate with them and provide them with their services. The last piece of the plan focuses on providing notice that the language access services are available at all the facilities. So, they will need to post it in public areas where the public can access the plan. The plan can be access in the division's homepage <https://dcfs.nv.gov/>. The plan can be accessed on the right side of the page. People can click on the PDF. If anyone would like to provide a comment, please click on the orange banner with large font floating across the top of there we page that says click here to comment on the language access plan. It is a two-step process. You can read the plan and then leave a comment. They would love any feedback on areas that maybe we haven't thought about or some ideas for making their services more accessible to different language speakers.

Vice Chair Dunkle thanked Terri McBride for the informative presentation. He acknowledged Dr. Reimund Serafica for comment.

Dr. Reimund Serafica applauded this initiative, and he thinks it is helpful especially if they are taking care of children who are not native speakers of English. In his own practice, Dr. Reimund Serafica is translating several things. Translations are different when a family member does them. He believes that this type of initiatives will be more meaningful and would help more people. The point is to have professional translations instead of maybe a bilingual child trying to translate for their parents.

Terri McBride stated that in their language access plan the recognize the fact that it is on them to provide language access services and not utilize family members or friend of people who come to the facilities.

Vice Chair Dunkle acknowledged Tina Dortch for comment.

Tina Dortch stated that CLAS protocols frowns upon using children to translate. For adults it is a very difficult process, so to undue burden everyone should minimize this trend. The plan unfortunately wasn't uploaded on the NOMHE website. The document was shared on the chat, and it has been added to the NOMHE website.

9. Discussion and Approval of Future Meeting Dates, Agenda Topics

Nicholas Dunkle, Vice Chair

Chair Dunkle stated that the next NOMHE Advisory Committee will be in Northern Nevada on August 13th. At this time there will be an election to pick a new committee chair and vice chair. Likewise, there will be a networking breakfast and a cultural competency training opportunity for the Department of Health and Human Services employees. He encouraged advisory committee members to be on the lookout for travel arrangements. Also, three new advisory committee members will be expected. He encouraged members to bring forward any topics for discussion that could take place during the August meeting. During the November meeting, there will be a few presentations from the DHHS Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Childre, Family and Community Wellness Unit. The topic will be maternal mortality. He asked advisory committee members for suggestions of topics.

Nancy Bowen stated that she did not have any topics at the moment but would probably email some suggestions.

Vice Chair Dunkle stated that indeed members can send their suggestions.

10. Public Comment

Nicholas Dunkle, Vice 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 668 085 169#.

Janet Serial wanted to commend the BLAC Subcommittee on their public pulse report. They did an excellent job, and it is a much-needed report for the Black and brown communities in Nevada. She also wanted to commend DCFS for their large language access plan. It was a really good thing to do. As Tina Dortch said, class standards actually require that language access be provided to anyone accessing services that receive federal dollars. Lastly, she echoed what involving Greek letter organizations in activities. Like the "All of Us" research program, which has partnered with Black organization also known as Divine Nine.

No other comments

11. Adjournment

Nicholas Dunkle, Vice Chair

Vice Chair Dunkle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 AM on May 14.

Reverend Dr. Debra Whitlock Lax made a motion to adjourn.

Margarita Salas Crespo seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Vice Chair Dunkle made the motion to adjourn the meeting on May 14th, 2024, at 11:55 AM.

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

- Northern Nevada Public Health, 1001 E. Ninth St., Reno, NV 89512
- NV Dept of Public Safety – Capitol Police, 555 E. Washington Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89101
- Capitol Building, 101 N. Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701

- Community Based Care, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Ste 104, Elko, NV 89801
- Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706
- Aging Disability Services Division, 7150 Pollock Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89119
- Southern Nevada Health District, 280 S. Decatur Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89107
- Dept. of Health and Human Services, Director's Office, 1000 N. Division Street, Carson City, NV 89706

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/2024/NOMHE-AC2024/

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.