



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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**NEVADA OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND EQUITY (NOMHE)  
Black Leadership Advisory Council (BLAC) Subcommittee Meeting  
February 21, 2024  
10:00 am to Adjournment  
Public Meeting Notice  
AGENDA**

The Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE) Advisory Committee held a public meeting on Tuesday, February 13th, 2024, beginning at 10:04 a.m.

*This meeting was held via Zoom.*

**I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Opening Statement**

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson of the NOMHE Advisory Committee called the meeting to order on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 10:04 a.m. for roll call, he asked Advisory Committee members to acknowledge their presence when they hear their name called by Karina Fox.

Following the roll call, a quorum was reached. The seven members in attendance were: Chair Dr. Samuel Hickson, Alisa Howard, Kamilah Bywaters, Will Rucker, Jewel Eldridge, Dr. Mary House who joined at 10:08 a.m. and Robert Bush who joined at 10:09 a.m.

The two interpreters and NOMHE staff were in attendance: Val (Sign Language Interpreter), Ben (Sign Language Interpreter), Karina Fox, Princette Bowling, , Evelyn Donis de Miranda, April Cruda, Carlos Ramirez Gomez, and Alexandra Neal.

Other members of the public included: Kelcey West, Anna Ladao, Belz & Case Government Affairs, Gabriella KDL, Janet Serial, Linda Anderson, Lisa Galan, Milan Devetak, Melissa Chanselle-Hary, Pearl Paulo, Sabrina Davis, Sabrina Schnur, Shyi Huang, Donielle DT Allen, Darlene Edwards, Aobodai, Camalot Todd, and Chris Thomas.

**II. Public Comment**

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

**Office of Minority Health and Equity**

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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 Black Leadership Advisory Council 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 346-248-7799 with and when prompted to provide the Meeting ID, enter 891 9906 2983, passcode 185677.

Melissa Chanselle-Hary stated that she works for Doula Co-op. They support birth workers and doulas. Her organization has been working to double the pay for doulas. She wanted to introduce herself and the organization that she represents. They support care for everyone. She wants to make connections with organizations that provide supports. She would like to share information with others.

**III. Approval of January 30, 2024, BLAC Minutes (For Possible Action):**

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

There were no comments or questions. Chair Hickson asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Dr. Mary House made the motion to approve the January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting minutes.

Alisa Howard seconded the motion.

All were in favor. Chair Hickson approved the minutes on 10:15 AM on 2/21/24.

**IV. Review and Approve Final Pulse Report (For Possible Action):**

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Jewel Eldridge, the Co-founder of the Nevada Black Deaf Advocates and Deaf People of Color Connecting wanted to report a few errors in the Pulse Report.

Chair Hickson acknowledge the corrections.

Karina Fox acknowledges the corrections.

Jewel apologized for not attending the last meeting. She needed some time to regroup. She wanted to thank everyone for speaking on her behalf during the last meeting. She wrote somethings down on her phone. She stated that she thinks the report should identify barriers in the Black and brown community, such as funding and health care coverage. So, people are informed of what is being offered. When they don't have interpreters, it is hard for people to learn. She sees improvements on that area. The report should include information on how people can afford healthcare services and how can policy be influenced. Everyone should have access to this opportunity. She would like to make contact with other community organizations. These are her overall goals. She wants to find ways to get interpreters in the community.

Chair Hickson thanked Jewel Eldridge for her comments and invited other subcommittee members to bring forward their comments.

There were no other comments. Chair Hickson asked for a motion to approve the Pulse Report.

Dr. Mary House made the motion to approve the 2023 BLAC pulse report.

Will Rucker expressed his thoughts about the report not being quite ready. He suggested scheduling another meeting. He also stated that not all the members were currently listed in the report.

Chair Hickson asked Karina to double check the Pulse Report.

Karina Fox stated that she had included only the names of the members who provided contributions to their section.

Chair Hickson suggested to list every subcommittee member with or without participation.

Will Rucker stated that everyone should be listed whether they were vocal or not. Alisa Howard was not included, and she provided input.

Karina Fox will ensure that all the members get added.

Alexandra Neal stated that the next NOMHE AC meeting will be on 5/14/24 at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Hickson asked members if they had any further questions or comments.

Kamilah Bywater stated that she is in line with Will Rucker. Also, she indicated that Dr. Robert Bush should be included with Adrienne Feemster Cobb because they have worked together.

Karina Fox will ensure that all names are included.

Jewel Eldridge stated that she forgot when the next BLAC Subcommittee meeting will be. Also, she was wondering what action will be taken then. She feels that this BLAC Subcommittee has been going on for quite some time. It seems that the subcommittee continues to postpone the finalization of the report and she asked how resolutions can be made on time.

Chair Hickson stated that “yes” the project has been ongoing for quite some time. A robust report is needed, considering the purpose of it. The BLAC Subcommittee members want the report to be perfect. He reminded that the Pulse Report will need a secondary level of approval by the NOMHE Advisory Committee. The items discussed during this meeting will be amended. Chair Hickson hopes that the report gets approved by the next BLAC meeting, which has not been scheduled just yet.

Alisa Howard stated that the Pulse Report is also a staple. Others will copy this format. So, it is important it is as good as possible. It will be used by others to enhance their population.

Chair Hickson asked for a motion to revise the report during another meeting.

Jewel Eldridge made the motion.

Dr. Robert Bush seconded the motion.

All were in favor. Chair Hickson approved the motion on 2/21/24 at 10:37 a.m.

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

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson proposed April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as the next meeting for the BLAC Subcommittee.

The next NOMHE Advisory Committee meeting will be on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and it cannot be moved. But the BLAC committee is flexible.

Will Rucker stated that he would like to meet sooner.

Chair Hickson proposed meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Dr. Mary stated that April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, does not work.

Kamilah Bywaters will not be available either.

Dr. Robert Bush stated he would not be available either.

Chair Hickson recommended April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 for the next BLAC Subcommittee meeting.

No one had any concerns about this date. Chair Hickson asked for a motion to approve April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 as the next BLAC Subcommittee meeting date.

Alisa Howard made the motion to approve.

Jewel Eldridge seconded the motion.

All were in favor. Chair Hickson approved April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as the next BLAC Subcommittee meeting date.

**VI. Public Comment**

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

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Janet serial stated that the AANCP focus on ending health disparities, inclusive culture and would like the committee to focus on health literacy.

Melissa Chanselle-Hary wanted to share another detail about her organization. They have a grant to get participants to participate in a study “Culture Congruency Matters”. That study exists and she would like to send information. They offer events in Reno as well.

Jewel Eldridge agreed with Janet Serial’s comment about advocating. People need help in the Black and brown community. That is very important. People do not know where to go.

Alisa Howard stated that Janet Serial and Dr. Robert Bush; could work together to provide awareness and education. She suggested getting together and discuss how to do that for the whole state. Discuss about a website or other resource.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Dr. Samuel Hickson, Chair

Chair Hickson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Robet Bush made the motion.

Kamilah Bywaters seconded the motion.

All were in favor. Chair Hickson approved the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 AM

**This meeting will be held virtually (via conference video & call). Notice of this meeting was faxed, emailed, 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
- State 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, 7090 Pollock Drive, 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, 400 King St, Suite 300, Carson City, NV 89703

**Agenda and meeting materials may also be viewed on the internet at:**

the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity’s website:

[https://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/CHA/MH/MH\\_Advisory\\_Committee/2024/NOMHE-AC2024/](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](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