



Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Minutes - DRAFT

Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity
Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

May 12, 2026 at 10:04 a.m. to 12 pm

Click here for the Recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StHi2yc64Ys>

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Opening Statement —
Nicholas Dunkle, Chair

Roll Call

Members Present:

- Nicholas Dunkle, Chair; Dr. Samuel Hickson, Vice Chair; Tiara Flynn; Dr. Andrew Reyes; Nancy Bowen; Bishop Bonnie Radden; Margarita Salas Crespo

Ex-Officio Legislative Advisor:

- Assemblymember Erica Mosca

Staff Present:

- Tina Dortch, Program Manager; Karina Fox, Health Program Specialist; Alexandra Neal, Management Analyst

A **quorum was established** with full participation of all seven voting members.

Chair Dunkle Opening Statements

- Announced that recruitment efforts will continue for two vacant Advisory Committee seats.

- Recognized Dr. Samuel Hickson, who was attending his final meeting after four years of service.
- Welcomed Assemblymember Erica Mosca as NOMHE's new non-voting legislative advisor.

Dr. Hickson thanked the committee and emphasized the importance of health equity and unity throughout Nevada.

Chair Dunkle highlighted several May health observances including:

- Better Hearing and Speech Month; Hepatitis Awareness Month; Lupus Awareness Month; Mental Health Awareness Month; Stroke Awareness Month; National High Blood Pressure Education Month; National Women's Health Week; HIV Vaccine Awareness Day; Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; Jewish American Heritage Month; and Older Americans Month

II. Land Acknowledgement

Assemblymember Erica Mosca read the Land Acknowledgement recognizing Nevada's Indigenous peoples and tribal partners.

III. Public Comment — Nicholas Dunkle, Chair

Senator Rochelle Nguyen: The Senator requested that the Advisory Committee consider examining the disproportionate burden of diabetes among Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities and suggested recognition during National Diabetes Month.

Tina Dortch: Program Manager Dortch thanked Senator Rochelle Nguyen for her comments and noted that NOMHE and the Office of Analytics are updating the Minority Health Report and will incorporate additional review regarding chronic disease disparities such as that noted by the Senator.

IV. For Possible Action: Review and Approval of [February 10, 2026, Advisory Committee Meeting Draft Minutes](#) — Nicholas Dunkle, Chair

Motion: Dr Samuel Hickson
Second: Bishop Bonnie Radden
Motion carried unanimously

V. For Information/Discussion Only: Presentation of NOMHE Budget
— Nicholas Dunkle, Chair

Highlights included the following information, reconciled through April 30, 2026:

- Total Award: **\$442,867.00**
- Total Expended: **\$395,264.47**
- Current Balance: **\$47,602.53**
- Projected Expenditures through FYE (June 30, 2026): **\$36,645.54**
- Projected Year-End Balance: **\$10,956.99**

Program Manager Dortch reported that NOMHE remained financially stable and positioned to meet all mission-driven obligations. During the presentation, staff noted that the Budget Report provided to Advisory Committee members and posted on the NOMHE website was correct. However, the fourth item displayed on the presentation slide inadvertently contained the previous reconciliation date of January 30, 2026, rather than the correct reconciliation date of April 30, 2026. Program Manager Dortch clarified the discrepancy for the record and confirmed that the underlying financial information and figures presented were accurate.

Motion: Dr Samuel Hickson
Second: Dr Andrew Reyes
Motion carried unanimously

VI. For Information/Discussion Only: Report on NOMHE Activities, Initiatives, and Impacts — Tina Dortch, NOMHE Program Manager

Updates on NOMHE’s mission-driven activities; strategic partnerships or initiatives; actioning of its Strategic Plan; and funding.

a. Public Health Infrastructure Resource Update — Karina Fox, NOMHE Health Program Specialist I. Discussion included:

- Presentation on NOMHE’s new HiAP-based Repository containing actionable examples of resources from across health determining sectors, created to aid organizations addressing the improvement of Nevada’s public health infrastructure.
- Ms. Fox announced a convening of potential end users to demonstrate

the Repository for their feedback and possible refinement. Also mentioned she would be offering 1:1 technical support for organizations.

b. Outreach and Health Literacy Updates — Carlos Ramirez Gomez, Mr. Carlos Ramirez Gomez provided updates regarding NOMHE initiatives and collaborative projects. Discussion included:

- Mr. Gomez shared NOMHE’s ongoing partnerships with Southern NV Health District, City of Las Vegas, United Way, UNLV School of Public Health, NV Donor Network, The Obodo Collective, The Phenomenal Mama, Roseman University, Intermountain Health, and
- NOHME’s outreach efforts addressed health literacy and provided awareness raising on topics including tobacco cessation, suicide prevention, SNAP protocols, public health career paths, diversification of organ donation, language access, maternal health, food security, .

VII. For Information/Discussion Only: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) - Outreach to Underrepresented Communities — Janice Keillor, Deputy Administrator and Diversity Inclusion Liaison

Ms. Keillor presented information regarding Nevada's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which is required under the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program and guides priorities for outdoor recreation funding and investments. She explained that the plan:

- Identifies statewide outdoor recreation issues and priorities.
- Includes inventories of recreation resources and facilities.
- Uses public surveys and community engagement to determine recreation needs.
- Guides funding decisions and implementation efforts.
- Examines the physical and mental health benefits associated with outdoor recreation.

Ms. Keillor emphasized that survey responses received to date do not adequately reflect Nevada's diverse population and expressed concern regarding the underrepresentation of underserved communities in the data.

No action was taken on this informational item.

VIII. For Information/Discussion Only: NVax Introduction and the Current Vaccination Landscape of Nevada — Brian Labus, Associate Professor, UNLV School of Public Health and Executive

Director/Founder, NVax Dr. Labus provided an overview of NVax, a statewide immunization collaborative created to support vaccine education, improve access to reliable information, and strengthen partnerships among healthcare providers, public health agencies, and community organizations. He discussed the current status of child and adult immunization rates in Nevada and reviewed challenges affecting vaccine uptake throughout the state.

Topics discussed included:

- Current trends in childhood and adult vaccination rates.
- Medical and non-medical exemptions and their impact on immunization coverage.
- The importance of accurate immunization data and reporting systems.
- The role of healthcare providers as trusted sources of vaccine information.
- Public outreach and education strategies to improve vaccine confidence.
- Opportunities for advocacy and collaboration among community organizations and healthcare partners.
- Resources available through NVax, including social media channels, contact information, and a statewide needs assessment survey.

Dr. Labus emphasized that healthcare providers remain among the most trusted sources of information for the public and highlighted the importance of evidence-based communication in addressing vaccine concerns. He also discussed limitations associated with immunization data and noted that some vaccines administered through research settings or providers not participating in reporting systems may not be fully captured in statewide records.

Committee Discussion

Dr. Samuel Hickson asked questions regarding vaccine trials and the extent to which immunization data accurately reflect statewide vaccination coverage.

Discussion followed regarding reporting requirements, participation in immunization registries, and challenges associated with capturing complete vaccination data. Dr. Labus explained that not all vaccination events are necessarily reflected in state databases and that reporting practices may vary depending on the setting in which vaccines are administered. Chair Dunkle expressed appreciation for the establishment of NVax and stated that he looked forward to the collaborative's continued work and future impact in Nevada. Several members acknowledged the value of strengthening partnerships and improving public understanding of immunization issues.

No action was taken on this informational item.

IX. For Possible Action: Future Meeting Dates, Agenda Topics —
Nicholas Dunkle, Chair

X. Public Comment — Nicholas Dunkle, Chair

Chair Dunkle provided an opportunity for additional public comment. No comments were offered.

XI. Wrap-up and Adjournment — Nicholas Dunkle, Chair

Adjourned 12:15 p.m

Motion: Bishop Bonnie Radden

Second: Nancy Bowen

Motion carried unanimously