



Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting Minutes **- DRAFT**

Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

August 18, 2026 at 11:34 a.m. to 1:53 p.m.

RECORDING: <https://youtu.be/qsMyd0Zyj3w>

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

Roll Call

Members Present:

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

Members Excused:

- Nancy Bowen

Ex-Officio Legislative Advisor:

- Assemblymember Erica Mosca (present)

Staff Present:

- Tina Dortch, Program Manager; Karina Fox, Health Program Specialist; Alexandra Neal, Management Analyst, Carlos Ramirez Gomez Program Officer

A quorum was established. Four members were required for quorum.

Chair Dunkle Opening Statements

- Welcomed newly appointed Advisory Committee member Amber Torres, a citizen of the Walker River Paiute Tribe, who shared her interest in representing Nevada's Indigenous communities and connecting tribal communities with resources.
- Highlighted August observances including National Wellness Month, National Immunization Awareness Month, National Multi-Ethnic Donor Awareness Month, Children's Eye Health Month, International Overdose Awareness Day, National Breastfeeding Awareness Month, Indigenous Milk Medicine Week, and International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

- Noted NOMHE activities connected to these observances, including an immunization initiative focused on migratory workers, an upcoming Nevada Donor Network event, and lactation-focused white paper. Announced that recruitment efforts will continue for two vacant Advisory Committee seats.

II. Land Acknowledgement

Amber Torres read the Land Acknowledgement recognizing Nevada’s Indigenous peoples and tribal partners.

III. Public Comment — Nicholas Dunkle, Chair

Chair Dunkle opened the first public comment period. No public comment was received.

IV. For Possible Action: Review and Approval May 12, 2026, Advisory Committee Meeting Draft Minutes Nicholas Dunkle, Chair

Motion: Tiara Flynn

Second: Bishop Bonnie Radden

Motion carried unanimously

V. For Possible Action: Annual Review of Advisory Committee Bylaws — Tina Dortch, Program Manager

Program Manager Dortch provided an abbreviated annual review of the Advisory Committee bylaws, including member authority and duties under NRS 232.482 and member compensation, travel, and employment protections under NRS 232.483.

- Bishop Bonnie Radden asked how recommendations to the Program Manager may be provided. Program Manager Dortch clarified that recommendations may occur during a properly noticed meeting or through one-on-one written communication, but not through a group email discussion that could conflict with Open Meeting Law requirements.

- Dr. Andrew Reyes recommended three terminology edits: revise “board member” in Article 4.8 to “committee member”; revise “Office of Minority Health” in Section 6.5 to “Office of Minority Health and Equity”; and revise “co-vice chairs” in Section 6.5 to “vice chairperson” for consistency with sections 6/2 and 6.6.

Approved revisions will be submitted to the Deputy Attorney General for review and returned to the Advisory Committee for formal adoption at the November meeting.

Motion: Tiara Flynn

Second: Bishop Bonnie Radden

Motion carried unanimously

VI. For Possible Action: Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair — Tina Dortch, Program Manager

Chair Dunkle noted that his term on the Advisory Committee will conclude in December 2026.

Program Manager Dortch facilitated the annual election process.

- Nicholas Dunkle nominated Tiara Flynn to serve as Chair. No additional nominations were offered.
- Nicholas Dunkle nominated Dr. Andrew Reyes to serve as Vice Chair. No additional nominations were offered.

Motion: Bishop Bonnie Radden

Second: Margarita Salas Crespo

Motion carried unanimously

Tiara Flynn accepted the Chair position and Dr. Andrew Reyes accepted the Vice Chair position.

VII. For Information/Discussion Only: Presentation of NOMHE Budget — Tina Dortch, Program Manager

Program Manager Dortch presented NOMHE's sustainability and budget status, reconciled through July 31, 2026 and projected through June 30, 2027. Highlights included:

- Total Award: \$456,482.00
- Total Expended: \$12,837.99
- Current Balance: \$443,644.01
- Projected Expenditures through FYE June 30, 2027: approximately \$415,057.57
- Projected Year-End Balance: approximately \$28,586.44, with no projected shortfall.
- NOMHE reported four funding streams supporting personnel and operations, including state/tobacco settlement funding, General Fund dollars, Department of Public Safety funding, and Division of Public and Behavioral Health funding.
- The Vulnerable Road User grant was reported as extended through September 30, 2027, and a new Division of Public and Behavioral Health grant supports NOMHE's immunization initiative.

Chair Dunkle highlighted upcoming Vulnerable Road User community events in Northern Nevada and a statewide virtual event. No action was taken on this informational item.

No action was taken on this informational item.

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

Program Manager Dortch and NOMHE staff provided updates on mission-driven activities, strategic partnerships, initiatives, and implementation of the Strategic Plan.

General remarks from Tina Dortch, Program Manager covered NEW NOMHE PARTNERSHIPS (citing renewed engagement with the Blind Center and a developing relationship with the Southern Nevada Crisis Center); and NEW NOMHE PRODUCTS

(citing its Health Impact Notes resource and the Health in All Policies (HiAP) Repository – noting Karina Fox was scheduled to provide an August 27 webinar on navigating and applying the Repository).

a. Vulnerable Road User Initiative Update — Alexandra Neal, Management Analyst II

- The initiative, supported through the Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety and Nevada Department of Transportation, focuses on inclusive traffic-safety protocols, analysis, multidisciplinary collaboration, health literacy, and community engagement in Carson, Clark, and Washoe counties.
- The project had entered its report-writing phase. The final report is expected to include an executive summary, background, systematic review and policy analysis, root-cause analysis, educational products, intersectoral collaboration, recommendations, references, and appendices.
- Educational postcards developed through the project are intended for translation into multiple languages following approval. Community forums and outreach have sought input from populations at increased risk, including people experiencing homelessness and people with disabilities.

b. Outreach and Health Literacy Updates — Carlos Ramirez Gomez, Program Officer

- NOMHE participated in the June 6 Beat the Heat Beach Bash in North Las Vegas, sharing 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline information and other resources with approximately 500 attendees.
- Mr. Ramirez Gomez completed two Spanish-language interviews with Latino Beats 99.3 FM to promote NOMHE, the Back to School Resource and Wellness Fair, and available community resources.
- The 2026 Back to School Resource and Wellness Fair served more than 700 attendees and connected families with immunizations, health screenings, sports physicals, vision screenings, school supplies, public-benefit information, and other health and human-service resources. Heat-safety planning included more than 2,000 bottles of water, additional shade, an early start, and emergency support.
- The fair distributed 423 backpacks and included significant in-kind support from community partners. Staff discussed the potential for similar efforts in Northern Nevada through strong local partnerships and “boots on the ground.”

c. Lactation Support White Paper — Siddharth Raich, Program Officer

- Mr. Raich presented an overview of the draft white paper, “An Analysis of Lactation Support and Services in Nevada,” focused on gaps in postpartum lactation support and Medicaid reimbursement pathways.
- Preliminary findings indicated that Nevada has fewer lactation consultants per capita than the national average and that all Nevada counties are designated shortage areas. The presentation also highlighted disparities in breastfeeding initiation and the importance of Medicaid because it finances nearly half of Nevada births.
- The proposed approach includes creating reimbursement pathways for IBCLCs and other qualified providers, supporting in-home and telehealth lactation care, and considering coverage from pregnancy through at least six months postpartum.
- Committee members discussed a combined legislative/regulatory and community approach. Tiara Flynn recommended engagement with community organizations including Heart and Soul Collective and the Doula Co-op of Nevada. Assemblymember Mosca offered to follow up on related legislative activity.

No action was taken on these informational items.

IX. For Possible Action: Maternal Mortality and Severe Maternal Morbidity Data Presentation and Recommendations for the December 31, 2026 Legislative Report — Vicki Ives, Tammy Kahn, and Colleen Barrett

Division of Public and Behavioral Health representatives presented the draft 2026 Maternal Mortality Report and requested Advisory Committee feedback for the report due December 31, 2026. Discussion reviewed maternal mortality terminology, statutory reporting requirements, disparities, and themes identified through Maternal Mortality Review Committee case reviews.

- Key themes included access to care, screening and risk assessment, continuity and coordination of care, clinical quality, mental and behavioral health, substance use, trauma, timely referrals, discrimination, housing, support, violence, and law enforcement.
- Tiara Flynn recommended stronger language recognizing traditional birth workers and doulas in continuity-of-care and care-coordination recommendations, and more proactive hospital policies supporting collaboration with doulas and lactation professionals.
- Dr. Andrew Reyes recommended reconciling language regarding risk-based versus universal mental-health screening and adding recommendations related to language access, qualified medical interpreters, translated maternal-health and warning-sign education, and culturally and linguistically appropriate care and navigation.

- The presenters confirmed that an updated draft would return to the Advisory Committee before the November meeting so members could further refine recommendations.

The Committee voted to accept the recommendations provided during the meeting.

Motion: Tiara Flynn

Second: Dr. Andrew Reyes

Motion carried unanimously

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

The Committee confirmed its next quarterly meeting for November 17, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., to be held virtually. Proposed agenda topics included:

- Public health infrastructure activities update.
- Potential legislative bills relevant to the Committee, to be compiled by Assemblymember Erica Mosca when publicly available.
- Updates on the Vulnerable Road User project and the lactation-support white paper.

2027 meeting dates will be developed with input from the incoming Chair and presented at the November meeting.

Motion: Dr. Andrew Reyes

Second: Tiara Flynn

Motion carried unanimously

XI. Public Comment — Nicholas Dunkle, Chair

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

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

Chair Dunkle thanked members, staff, presenters, community partners, and attendees and congratulated the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair.

Adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Motion: Bishop Bonnie Radden

Second: Margarita “Maggie” Salas Crespo

Motion carried unanimously