



# DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



## Minutes

### Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity Quarterly Advisory Committee Meeting

**August 12, 2025, at 11:30 am**

**Time: 11:30 AM – 2:19 PM**

**Location: Hybrid (Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno, NV & Microsoft Teams)**

**Facilitator: Tina Dortch, Program Manager, NOMHE**

**Chair: Nicholas Dunkel**

**Vice Chair: Dr. Samuel Hickson**

#### **I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Opening Statement — Nicholas Dunkel, Chair**

- Meeting called to order at 11:32 AM.
- Quorum confirmed with full advisory committee participation.
- Chair Dunkel acknowledged National Wellness Month and highlighted key health observances including:
  - International Overdose Awareness Day
  - National Immunization Awareness Month
  - National Minority Donor Awareness Day
  - National Breastfeeding Month

#### **II. Land Acknowledgement**

Land Acknowledgment presented by Vice Chair Dr. Hickson.

### **III. Public Comment — Nicholas Dunkle, Chair**

- Comments from Gwen Taylor (ACCEPT), Lawanda Jones (Dept. of Native American Affairs), Mario De Laros (Latino Art & Culture), and Jayne Rovianik (Foster Kinship).
- Topics included HIV prevention, opioid outreach, Hispanic Heritage Month, and kinship caregiver support.

### **IV. For Possible Action: Review and Approval of June 4, 2025, Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes — Nicholas Dunkle, Chair**

- June 4, 2025 minutes approved with one correction (Dr. Hickson's name spelling).
- Bishop Bonnie Radden motioned first, Whitlock second.

### **V. For Possible Action: Review and Approval of NOMHE Advisory Committee Bylaws — Nicholas Dunkle, Chair, and Tina Dortch, NOMHE Program Manager**

- Tina Dortch reviewed member duties and compensation policies.
- Motion passed to retain current bylaws without changes.

### **VI. For Possible Action: Election of NOMHE Advisory Committee Chair and Vice Chair — Tina Dortch, NOMHE Program Manager**

- Nicholas Dunkel re-elected as Chair.
- Dr. Samuel Hickson re-elected as Vice Chair.
- Motion passed unanimously.

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

- NOMHE's FY25 budget: \$327,918 (state-funded via tobacco settlement).
- No current grant funding; exploring future opportunities.
- Budget transparency and streamlined reporting praised by members.

**VIII. 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/initiatives and status of actioning its Strategic Plan, and funding by Program Manager and NOMHE Staff

- Carlos Ramirez-Gomez presented on outreach efforts:
  - Back-to-School Resource Fair (1,000+ attendees, 111 immunizations)
  - Lead testing revealed high levels in household items
  - Partnership with Nevada Donor Network
  - Dr. Siddharth Raich presented NOMHE's 20th Anniversary website updates and testimonial campaign.
- a. **NOMHE's Outreach Efforts** — Carlos Ramirez Gomez, NOMHE Program Officer I  
Overview of NOMHE's most recent activities conducted in service to Nevadans, per NRS 232.475.
- b. **NOMHE's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Related Efforts** — Dr. Siddharth Raich, NOMHE Program Officer II  
Presentation of partner testimonials, demonstration of webpage improvements and introduction to new informational / educational products.

**IX. For Information/Discussion Only: Community Wellness-Related Impacts of Legislation Passed During Nevada's 83rd Session**

- a. **Legislative Outcomes and Impacts on Nevada's Tribal Communities** — Angela Wilson, Executive Director of Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Health Clinic and NOMHE Advisory Committee Member
- b. **Legislative Outcomes and Impacts on Community-Level Access to Care** — Nancy Bowen, Chief Executive Officer of Nevada Primary Care Association and NOMHE Advisory Committee Member
- Angela Wilson (Reno-Sparks Tribal Health Center):
- SB 312: Established Nevada Tribal Health Authority Council
- SB 97: Added tribal representation to Silver State Health Insurance Exchange
- Nancy Bowen (Nevada Primary Care Association):
- Reviewed key bills impacting access to care, workforce development, and Medicaid expansion
- Highlighted PACE program, loan repayment expansions, and GME funding

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

- November 18, 2025
- February 10, 2026
- May 12, 2026

**XI. Public Comment — Nicholas Dunkle, Chair**

- Gwen Taylor inquired about ACRN eligibility.
- No additional public comments.

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:19 PM.