

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATE PROGRAM FOR WELLNESS AND THE  
PREVENTION OF CHRONIC DISEASE**

**MINUTES**

**January 19, 2023**

**1:00 p.m.**

The Advisory Council on the State Program for Wellness and the Prevention of Chronic Disease held a public meeting on 01/19/2022, beginning at 1:00 p.m., held over Microsoft Teams.

**Board Members Present**

Chair Chris Syverson

Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow, M.E.D

Vice Chair Amber Donnelly, RN, Ph.D., CNE

Andrew Snyder, MAT, NDE

Cari Herington, MBA, Nevada Cancer Coalition

Tina Dortch, MPA

Laura Valley, SHAPE NV

Georgia Dounis, DDS, MS, FICD

Maria Azzarelli, EMHA, CHES

Ihsan Azzam, Ph.D., MD, MPH

Steven Shane, MD, MS, FAAP, ABOM-Nevada AAP Obesity Prevention Chair

Caitlin Gatchalain, Nevada Government Relations Director

Kagan Griffin, MPH, RD

**Board Members Not Present**

Senator Dina Neal, JD

**Division of Public and Behavioral Health Staff Present**

Lily Helzer, MPH, Section Manager, (CDPHP), Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)

Mitch DeValliere, DC, CDPHP, DPBH

Emily Sanchez, Administrative Assistant, CDPHP, DPBH

Lynsie Hood, Office Manager, CDPHP, DPBH

Rebecca McKnight, Administrative Assistant, CDPHP, DPBH

Sara Knight, Systems & Reporting Analyst, CDPHP, DPBH

Amber Hise, RD, Clinical and Community Engagement Manager, CDPHP, DPBH

Mickena Butler, Health Equity Analyst CDPHP, DPBH

Eric Eakin, DC, Tobacco Program Coordinator, CDPHP, DPBH

Kathie Taylor, APR, CAPM, Public Information Officer, CDPHP, DPBH

Sarah Motts, Synar Coordinator, CDPHP, DPBH

Jacie Peters, MPH, Fiscal Staff, CDPHP, DPBH

Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles, Comorbidity Coordinator, CDPHP, DPBH

Vickie Ives, MA, CFCW, DPBH  
Allison Gonzalez, MD, MPH, Youth Tobacco Prevention Evaluator, CDPHP, DPBH  
Troy Lovick, MS, Heart Disease & Stroke Coordinator, CDPHP, DPBH  
Godwin Nwando, MPH Health Equity Manager, CDPHP, DPBH  
Michelle Harden, MPA, Population Health & Wellness Manager, CDPHP, DPBH  
Kathrine Wright, Ph.D., MPH, Health Equity Evaluator, CDPHP, DPBH  
Journey Baham, MPH, Health Equity Coordinator, CDPHP, DPBH  
Esmeralda Chavez, Health Equity Coordinator, CDPHP, DPBH  
Sarah Rogers, MPH, NDTR, CLC Nutrition Unit Deputy Chief, DPBH, CFCW  
Max Moskowitz, MPH, Nutrition & Wellness Analyst, CDPHP, DPBH  
Elleni Rioja, Food Security Analyst, CDPHP, DPBH  
Andrea Rivers, MS, Health Program Manager, DPBH  
Allison Oestreich, Accounting Assistant, CDPHP, DPBH  
Yanyan Qiu, Ph.D., Cessation Coordinator, CDPHP, DPBH  
Cindy Cohen, RDN, Nevada WIC Program

#### **Others Present**

Pierron Tackes, Deputy Attorney General  
Zarmish Tariq, Health Educator at Washoe County Health District  
Vanessa Dunn, Belz & Case Government Affairs  
Doris Lew, National Kidney Foundation Community Outreach Coordinator  
Nicole Chacon, Nevada Tobacco Control and Smoke-free Coalition  
Charles Olander, Ferrari Reeder Public Affairs  
Pamela Zielske, Dialysis Patient Citizens, Western Region Advocacy Director  
Larry Lehrner, MD, Nephrologist Las Vegas  
Adrienne DeLucchi, NV WIC Program  
Krista Schonrock, MD, MMM- Senior Medical Director Select Health  
Malcolm Ahlo - Southern Nevada Health District, Tobacco Control Coordinator  
Brooke Conway Kleven, DPT, Ph.D.; Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy  
Kelli Goatley-Seals, MPH; Public Health Supervisor; Washoe County Health District  
Keibi Mejia, Public Affairs Analyst of The Ferrato Company  
Kyle Matthews, dialysis patient  
Marcia Garcia, Fresenius Medical Care

#### **1. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken and determined a quorum of the Advisory Council on the State Program for Wellness, and the Prevention of Chronic Disease (CWCD) was present, per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 439.518

#### **2. Public Comment**

Chair Chris Syverson opened the meeting and asked for public comment.

None heard.

#### **3. For Possible Action- Approve Minutes from the November 10th, 2022 Meeting.**

Chair Syverson asked for a review of the minutes and a motion to approve the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

**Maria Azzarelli made a motion to approve the minutes. Andrew Snyder seconded the motion, which**

**passed unanimously.**

#### **4. Informational- Overview of CWCD legal obligations and authorities**

Chair Syverson introduced Deputy Attorney General, Pierron Tackes to discuss open meeting law. Ms. Tackes provided an overview of Nevada Open Meeting Law and Ethics in Government Provisions.

[\(Nevada Open Meeting Law & Ethics Presentation\)](#)

Chair Syverson queried about several members of the board being on different councils together and requested clarification that this is not prohibited.

Ms. Tackes replied that for a violation to occur, there must be discussion or deliberation involving topics specifically pertaining to this council outside of the designated meeting times.

#### **5. Informational- Present Policy Priorities for Tobacco Control and Health Equity**

Chair Syverson introduced Zarmish Tariq to present Policy Priorities for Tobacco Control and Health Equity. [\(NTCSC Presentation\)](#)

Chair Syverson questioned what the noted \$145.2 million cigarette tax income noted is being used for and where the funding is coming from.

Ms. Tariq noted it is assumed that revenue goes to the General Fund to be used at the program's discretion.

Mr. Snyder inquired about the focus for middle school education interventions and what those educational efforts may look like.

Ms. Tariq responded the educational efforts for tobacco prevention are being targeted at middle schools and high schools, as well as adults. Ms. Tariq expands on the Youth Advisory Board at Washoe County Health District for the purpose of initiating discussions for cessation and prevention among student's social circles.

Malcom Ahlo added that the money from cigarette tax income is used in the General Fund and more funding is necessary to achieve the same level of outreach in middle schools across Nevada as the efforts being implemented in high schools. Mr. Ahlo mentioned the importance of education rather than penalization in schools, and added that a discussion in favor of an alternate to suspension program with the Department of Education would be beneficial for Tobacco Cessation.

Chair Syverson asked for any additional questions.

None heard.

#### **6. For Possible Action- to recommend a new Board Member for Appointment**

Chair Syverson opened the discussion for board members to review and discuss the resume for Dr. Krista

Schonrock.

No comments heard.

Chair Syverson questioned the applicants ties to Nevada and applicability of experience to the board.

Krista Lane explained Ms. Shonrock's position as Senior Medical Director at Select Health, overseeing health quality and prevention programs that provide support to Nevada citizens and communities.

Dr. Steven Shane asked how involved Select Health is in the State of Nevada.

Dr. Schonrock noted Select Health currently serves Clark County and Nye County but looking to expand throughout the state.

Chair Syverson addressed board members to decide if a motion can be made at this time, or if more information and deliberation is needed.

**Dr. Shane makes a motion to approve the application. Dr. Georgia Dounis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

## **7. Present Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP) Section Update and Program Reports**

Lily Helzer directed board members to the meeting packet for a full review of the program report.

[\(CDPHP Combined Program Reports\)](#) Ms. Helzer noted that CDPHP is actively looking to fill vacancies for Women's Health Connection Coordinator and Tobacco Coordinator positions. Ms. Helzer added that this will be her last meeting with this board, announcing her new position with the Nevada Cancer Coalition.

Chair Syverson asked for information as to what is happening to Ms. Helzer's position.

Ms. Helzer responded there is active recruitment efforts being made by Human Resources to fill the vacancy.

Chair Syverson requested an update on the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).

Ms. Helzer invited Sarah Rogers to elaborate further.

Ms. Rogers explained SNAP is undergoing reductions to benefits beginning April 2023. Ms. Rogers stated that the Department of Health and Human Services is contemplating ways to combat the losses of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) that requires more data analysis to predict the impact on Nevada citizens. Ms. Rogers highlighted an increased need for food pantry services and added that a further update will be provided at the next meeting. Chair Syverson asked about the correlation between funding for benefits and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Rogers confirmed additional funds were provided by the Federal Government during this time, stating those funds will no longer be available beginning this year. Ms. Rogers stated the Division of Welfare is working to develop strategies that will ease the transition.

Ms. Helzer drew attention to significant challenges regarding the Preventative Health and Health

Services (PHHS) block grant and included a breakdown of expenditures at the next meeting.

Dr. Shane asked if other federal programs would have reductions going back to pre-pandemic funding levels.

Ms. Rogers responded that currently, SNAP is the only federal program that will be losing funding.

Andrew Snyder questioned if there has been contact made to the school nurse coordinator at the State to support the efforts made by Nevada Wellness and Prevention Program in height and weight data collection in schools.

Ms. Helzer confirmed collaboration with the chief school nurses and school nurse coordinator, including a recently published operating procedures manual for height and weight data collection.

Kelli Goatley-Seals commented Washoe County Health District received additional funds through the PHHS grant, which were used to provide equipment to schools in Washoe County to help reduce the barrier of proper equipment when analyzing height and weight data.

Maria Azzarelli stated the Southern Nevada Health District was awarded a public health infrastructure grant which would allow additional funding to support Clark County in purchasing necessary equipment once the budget is finalized.

#### **8. Present Local Health Authority Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Program Reports**

Chair Syverson invited Ms. Azzarelli to present updates for Southern Nevada Health District. ([SNHD Report 1.19.23](#))

Ms. Seals provided a program update for Washoe County Health District (WCHD) ([WCHD Program Report](#)). Ms. Seals added a data report for chronic disease and injury prevention will be made available on the Washoe County Health District website (<http://www.washoecounty.gov>) and informs the board of advancing efforts made in various areas relating to substance abuse, school programs, and injury prevention.

Ms. Seals asked for any questions.

None heard.

Chair Syverson invited Nikki Aaker to provide updates for DHHS.

Ms. Helzer stated Ms. Aaker appeared to be unavailable for the presentation.

Chair Syverson reminded board members the full program report is available to view in the meeting packet provided.

Ms. Helzer invited a representative from Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy ([NICRP Program Report](#)) to provide the update.

Dr. Brooke Conway Kleven provided the update, stating a major focus this past quarter was regarding a survey distributed to all licensed early childcare providers to gain insight on possible implications related

to amendments of the health and wellness regulations and codes.

Tina Dortch asked if the health and wellness summit mentioned in Ms. Kleven's program update is referring to the health impact summit.

Dr. Kleven asked Dr. Shane to reaffirm.

Dr. Shane apologized and was unable to confirm.

Ms. Dortch requested Ms. Kleven find out more information, then provide a date for the summit to ensure coordinating efforts of both parties.

Dr. Kleven responded with potential dates at the end of August or beginning of September to coordinate with Breastfeeding Awareness Month and childhood obesity prevention.

Chair Syverson commented the Nevada Obesity Collaborative is discussing an October date for an employer forum, which may help with the collaborative efforts.

Ms. Dortch questioned if there would be added value in reporting or tracking activities like this, so the members of this board are aware of upcoming events.

Chair Syverson questioned the timeliness as this board meets quarterly.

Ms. Helzer stated it was a possibility, should the committee want to see a list of bills as that it is at the board's discretion to reconvene before April.

Chair Syverson asked if a list of bills can be sent out via email.

Ms. Tackes explained when supporting material goes out to members of the board, it needs to be available to the public at that same time and reminded the board to refrain from discussing topics outside the designated meeting time.

Ms. Helzer reminded council members of utilizing Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System (NELIS) to search and track legislation information.

Chair Syverson stated it would be beneficial to get a report out for the next meeting and queried Ms. Dortch's comments about tracking events.

Ms. Helzer requested clarification for the type of events being discussed.

Chair Syverson confirmed public events or healthcare related events that may be of interest to the board.

Ms. Helzer noted as the division is aware of events, the topics can be included in future updates.

**9. For Possible Action- To add non-voting members to Kidney Disease Task Force, as a subcommittee of CWCD**

Kyle Matthews made an introduction and thanked the board for the opportunity to become an advocate for kidney disease.

Chair Syverson asked for a motion to add Kyle Matthews to the Kidney Disease Task Force (KDTF).

**Ms. Azzarelli moved to add Mr. Matthews to the KDTF.**

**Dr. Shane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Chair Syverson called for a motion to close the CWCD meeting and convene the Kidney Disease Task Force.

**Ms. Dortch moved to temporarily close the Chronic Disease Advisory Committee to initiate the Kidney Disease Task Force Meeting.**

**Ms. Herington seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.**

#### **10. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Chair Syverson calls the KDTC to order. Lynsie Hood took roll for the CWCD board and determined quorum was still met. Ms. Hood took roll for the KDTF and confirmed attendance of all three members.

#### **11. Public Comment**

Chair Syverson asked for public comment.

Doris Lew with the National Kidney Foundation (NKF), also a kidney patient thanked Mr. Matthews for the comments and highlighting the importance of creating the task force. Ms. Lee added that the NKF is a resource and will support the task force.

Chair Syverson called for additional public comment.

None heard.

#### **12. For Possible Action- Discussion and possible recommendations regarding Council's Role in increasing education concerning and awareness of kidney disease**

Ms. Helzer addressed the task force for possible recommendations.

Mr. Matthews shared personal experience regarding kidney disease and lack of information that was available.

Rocko Graziano thanked Mr. Matthews for the comment and added that many patients are uninformed on kidney health and the causes of kidney failure. Mr. Graziano added the different items that can help empower the community and the patients prior to diagnosis to obtain a better understanding.

Chair Syverson noted Mr. Snyder got disconnected and that the agenda item could be revisited upon returning. Chair Syverson proposed to move the presentation on Burden of Kidney Disease, taken out of order of the agenda.

Ms. Helzer read off Ms. Dortch's comment from the chat directed to the task force: "is part of the disconnect language access? For example, would having educational materials available in various languages including videos in American Sign Language be impactful?"

Mr. Graziano responded there is an opportunity to include additional languages to add to the education aspect.

Mr. Matthews agreed with Ms. Dortch's comment regarding the disconnect.

Mr. Snyder commented that any educational materials for K-12 students, Mr. Snyder would be happy to

pass that along to the districts across the state. Mr. Snyder added that health teachers are always looking for guest speakers to health classrooms for youth education.

#### **14. Informational- Presentation on Burden of Kidney Disease**

Mickena Butler presented the presentation. ([Burden of Kidney Disease](#))

Ms. Dortch commented the topic is complex; content and material should be capped at certain comprehension levels. Ms. Dortch added that to utilize infographics, the flesh Kincaid readability score is a good resource to ensure materials are easily understood.

Chair Syverson thanked Ms. Butler for the presentation and asked if having this kind of website is what the task force is looking to have as an outcome.

Ms. Helzer stated the task force is charged with providing recommendations to improve education and that could be one way to move forward and added that the funds aren't available for that. Ms. Helzer added funds are always sought out where available to support larger projects, but implementation is not always immediate.

Dr. Larry Lehrner asked if the target audience has access to the internet to access the websites. Dr. Lehrner added that resources such as free seminars provided by Fresenius Kidney Care and DaVita Kidney Care, and that the National Kidney Foundation has information made available online that could be utilized.

Dr. Schonrock would be happy to try to contribute some resources and assist in coordination.

Kagan Griffin asked if there is a way to make the website more Nevada specific and suggested a connection to provider and nutritionist referral sources.

Mr. Matthews stated the task force should not reinvent the wheel, but the wheel should be critiqued.

Mr. Matthews added that getting people to understand the seriousness of the disease is critical and the importance of obtaining the information from patients personally.

Ms. Helzer determined quorum was still met, as some board members had to step off the meeting as it had gone over the allotted time.

#### **13. For Possible Action- Discussion and possible approval of Bylaws for Kidney Disease Task Force**

Chair Syverson asked Ms. Helzer who builds the bylaws.

Ms. Helzer answered that CWCD builds them.

Chair Syverson asked for suggestions on how often the task force should meet, the overall task, and if there is one or more advisory committee members that would want to be on the task force to be the conduit between the task force and the board.

Ms. Dortch recommended it is best to have an odd number of members on the task force, that the task force should meet when the advisory committee meets, and that one of the outcomes of this task force to be the work put in by this force be properly reflected in the Minority Health Report.



Chair Syverson added that an outcome that should be added is the outcome of what type of communication avenues and information should be seen.

Ms. Dortch asked about the statute guidance for member profiles for the task force.

Ms. Helzer summarized there are four position descriptions, but one individual may fill several of those descriptions. Ms. Helzer added that it does not restrict the task force to four members, just so long as they fit the descriptions.

Chair Syverson asked that these comments be put into some sort of bylaw documents for review at the next meeting.

#### **15. Public Comment**

Agenda item 15 was not presented by the Chair.

#### **16. For Possible Action- To Adjourn as the Kidney Disease Task Force**

Chair Syverson asked for a motion to adjourn the Kidney Disease Task Force.

**Ms. Azzarelli moved to adjourn.**

**Ms. Griffin seconded, which passed unanimously.**

#### **17. Reconvene as CWCD- Roll Call/Call to Order**

Chair Syverson asked for roll call to reconvene the CWCD meeting.

Ms. Hood took roll, and it was determined that quorum was still met. The advisory council was called to order.

#### **18. Informational- Discussion regarding future agenda items**

Ms. Helzer noted that a request was made to include a larger discussion regarding the SNAP-Ed or other impacts of possible rollbacks at a future meeting and added the WIC Program be able to do so.

Ms. Dortch added that the group consider the addition of the Minority Health Report and that a member of Ms. Dortch's staff could give a brief presentation.

#### **19. For Possible Action- Discussion and possible action to establish meeting dates for 2023**

Ms. Helzer stated the board has been sticking largely to the third Thursday every quarter, putting the next meeting in April.

Chair Syverson proposed April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Ms. Helzer asked Dr. DeValliere that the date would allow sufficient time to get all the federal standards provided.

Dr. DeValliere stated the 27<sup>th</sup> would work.

Chair Syverson asked that the future meeting date list be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **20. Public Comment**

Mr. Matthews thanked the board for the opportunity to share Mr. Matthews voice and journey with kidney disease.

Ms. Dortch suggested Mr. Matthews become a community health worker.

**21. For Possible Action: To Adjourn**

Chair Syverson asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Ms. Azzarelli entertained motion to adjourn. Dr. Georgia Dounis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**The meeting adjourned at 3:32 PM.**