

Joe Lombardo  
*Governor*



Richard Whitley,  
MS  
*Director*



Cody Phinney,  
MPH  
*Administrator*

Ihsan Azzam,  
Ph.D., M.D.  
*Chief Medical Officer*

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 17, 2023  
TO: Jon Pennell, DVM, Chairperson, State Board of Health  
FROM: Cody Phinney, MPH, Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
RE: Appointment Approval for New Members of the Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board (MCHAB)

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In accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 442.133(2), it is the responsibility of the State Board of Health to appoint members of the Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board.

This memorandum is a request to the State Board of Health for three (3) new members to join the Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board. Attached please find resumes or curricula vitae and letters of interest for each person requesting to join.

For your consideration, Mario Gaspar de Alba, MD, Elika Nematian, MPH, and Roshanda Clemons, MD, FAAP, are recommended for appointment. They would be valuable appointees given the wide range of expertise held in developmental-behavioral pediatrics, public health nutrition, pediatric medicine, and Medicaid, respectively. These appointees would provide expertise and insight to ensure all Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board objectives outlined in NRS 442.137 are met.

Thank you for your consideration.

### PRESENTER

Tami Conn, MPH, Section Manager, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Section, Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness

Dr. Gaspar de Alba



**GRANT A GIFT. AUTISM FOUNDATION  
ACKERMAN CENTER**

In Alliance with UNLV Medicine  
630 S Rancho Dr STE A, Las Vegas, NV 89106  
Phone: (702) 998-9505 Fax: (702) 527-5353

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
4150 Technology Way  
Carson City, NV 89706

To Whom It May Concern;

As a developmental-behavioral pediatrician, I am keenly interested in the health and welfare of the children in our state. My experience and education have made it clear that it is impossible to separate the welfare of children from their parents. My interest in becoming a member of the Advisory Board on Maternal and Child Health is driven by these to facts. I would like to make my experience and expertise available to the board with the goals of improving the access to appropriate care and the health of persons who are pregnant, by this improving the health of infants and children, and preventing handicapping lifelong physical, behavioral, and mental health problems. Additionally, I want to work to facilitate the early identification, understanding, and treatment of these problems in order to improve the outcomes for these children and their families.

I am currently the Medical Director of the Grant a Gift Autism foundation Ackerman Center where I work in a multidisciplinary clinic to identify and treat a variety of neurodevelopmental disorders. We also have a monthly clinic dedicated to the identification and treatment of children with problems associated with fetal drug and alcohol exposures. I am a member of the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition Advisory Board where our goal is to identify priority issues that help build capacity, inform policy, and drive research surrounding social determinates of health. I am also executive faculty of the Nevada Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (NvLEND). The goal of NvLEND is to improve the health of infants, children, and adolescents with various disabilities by preparing practicing professionals, parents, and graduate trainees from diverse professional disciplines to assume leadership roles in their respective fields and by developing high levels of interdisciplinary clinical competence.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mario J. Gaspar de Alba, MD  
Associate Professor of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics  
Kirk Kerkerian School of Medicine at UNLV  
Medical Director, Grant a Gift Autism Foundation Ackerman Center

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Mario J. Gaspar de Alba, M.D.

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### PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Home address:** [REDACTED]

**Professional address** Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine  
1001 Shadow Lane, Suite 260A  
Las Vegas, NV 89106  
Phone: (702) 895-0340

**Social Security number:** by request

**Date of Birth:** [REDACTED]

**Place of Birth:** [REDACTED]

### EDUCATION

**Fellowship:** University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill 2007-2010  
Department of Pediatrics,  
Behavioral and Developmental Medicine

**Residency:** University of New Mexico Children’s Hospital 2002-2005  
Department of Pediatrics

**Medical School:** New York Medical College 2001-2002  
Fifth Pathway Program certification and MD degree

Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara 1997-2001  
Medico Cirujano

**University:** Brigham Young University 1989-1996  
B.S. Zoology, Emphasis in Human Development

### CLINICAL and ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; 03/2016-present  
Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV (KSOM)

Associate Professor of Pediatrics/Developmental Behavioral; KSOM 03/2016-present

Medical Director Grant A Gift Autism Foundation Ackerman Center 07/2016-present

Executive Faculty in the UCED NVLEND Program; UNR Reno 07/2013-present

Section Head of Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics; KSOM 07/2017-present

Assistant Professor of Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics; UNSOM 12/2012-03/2016

Section Head of Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics; UNSOM 12/2012-03/2016

Director of Pediatric Residency Developmental Behavioral Rotation; UNSOM 12/2012-03/2016

Assistant Professor of Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics; TX Tech HSC 09/2010-11/2012

Division Head of Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics; TX Tech HSC 08/2011-11/2012

Director of Pediatric Residency Developmental Behavioral Rotation 08/2011-11/2012

Clinical Fellow in Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics; UNC Chapel Hill 2007-2010

General Pediatrics at Tri County Community Health Center, part time	2008-2009
Faculty and Clinical Instructor; Department of Pediatrics Texas Tech HSC	2006-2007

**CERTIFICATIONS and MEDICAL LICENSURE**

Fellow American Board of Pediatrics	██████████
Board Certified in Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics	
Board Certified in Pediatrics	
Nevada Medical License	██████████
North Carolina Medical License (inactive)	██████████
Texas Medical License (inactive)	██████████
Fifth Pathway Certification	

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Annual Premedicine Conference KSOM	2017-present
Annual Lecture series for NVLEND (3-4 lectures/yr)	2018-present
GME Intradisciplinary Grand Rounds Presenter "Implicit Bias"	2/18
Latino Youth Leadership Conference	7/17
CampMed	6/17
Pediatric Grand Rounds Renown Hospital Reno	5/15
Pediatric Grand Rounds UMC Children's Hospital	2/15
Nevada AAP Chapter Annual Conference	8/14
"Fragile X Update"	
Paul L Foster Medical School/El Paso County Children's Hospital	8/14
Pediatric Grand Rounds – "Fragile X Update"	
Children's Heart Foundation 17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference	
"Neurodevelopmental Assessment"	10/2013
Nevada AAP Chapter Annual Conference	08/13
"Autism Screening and Referral"	
"ADHD Update"	
Presentation at Paso Del Norte Children's Developmental Center	04 & 09/12
"Definition and Diagnostic Process of Autism"	
Presentation at Ysleta Independent School District	04/12
"Autism; Co Morbid Medical Issues and Their Management"	
Member of Planning committee/moderator of 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Pediatric Symposium:	12/11
"A sensible Diagnostic and Treatment Approach to Children with Autism"	
Presentation at Region 19 Speech and Language Conference	07/11
"Language Disabilities in Specific Genetic Syndromes and Select Disorders: Why a Multidisciplinary Approach is Best"	
Presentations at area Migrant Community Health Center	
"Importance of Developmental Screening"	10/08
"Early Screening for Autism"	10/09
North Carolina Area Health Education Centers Lecture	01/08
"Focus on Improved Outcomes in the Child with ADHD"	
Presenter at the Latin American Women's Club/Mental Health Association	11/07
5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference "Maternal Depression Affects the Whole Family"	
Presenter at the XX Binational Pediatric Conference, Juarez, Mexico	2/06
"Early Stimulation and Brain Development" &	
"Role of Behavioral Therapy in the Pediatric Office"	

**GRANTS**

“Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disorders Training Program”. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration, Grant #T73MC19940. Total approved annual budget \$528,126.00 (Direct costs \$489,005.00, Indirect costs \$38,121.00).  
Co-Principal Investigator: **Mario J Gaspar de Alba, M.D. (0.15 FTE)** 5/16-6/21

**PUBLICATIONS**

“Putting the Pieces of Autism Together; Diagnosis, Management, and Family Support Services” – Vegas Inc Health Care Quarterly Volume 10, 2015 10/15

Hazlett, H., Gaspar de Alba, M., & Hooper, S.R. Klinefelter’s Syndrome. In G. Goldstein, & C.R. Reynolds (Eds.), Handbook of neurodevelopmental and genetic disorders in children (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York: Guilford Press.

Gaspar de Alba, M., Bodfish, J., Addressing Parental Concerns at the Initial Diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder, *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders* 5 (2011), pp. 633-639

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

Top Doctors Desert Companion 2021, 2022  
 Top Doctors Las Vegas – Castle Connolly 2016, 2017  
 Top Doctors – Las Vegas Seven 2016, 2017  
 Anthem Health Care Heroes – Volunteer of the Year 2015  
 Autism Community Care Award Gant-a-Gift Foundation 2014  
 Best Faculty Educator – awarded by 3<sup>rd</sup> year Medical Students 6-10/2006  
 American Academy of Pediatrics Resident Scholarship 2003-2004  
 Outstanding Clinical Teacher- awarded by medical students 2003/2004

**DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

GME Diversity and Inclusion Committee 6/20-present  
 KSOM Strategic Plan People Subcommittee 6/19-present  
 Credentialing Committee KSOM 3/19-present  
 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee KSOM - Chair 5/16-present  
 Community Engagement Subcommittee KSOM 7/17-present  
 Scholarship Committee 10/17-10/19  
 Developmental-Behavioral Consultant UNLV Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders 12/12-3/16  
 Residency Recruitment Committee 7/13-3/16  
 Program Evaluation Committee 7/13-3/16  
 Texas Pediatric Society committee on Children with Disabilities and Mental Health 8/2011-11/2012  
 Paul L. Foster School of Medicine Student Health and Rehabilitation Committee 7/2011 – 11/2012  
 University Medical Center Ethics Committee Member 9/2010-11/2012  
 TTUHSC Pediatric Clerkship Steering Committee 7/2006-7/2007  
 Meet monthly to discuss medical student education and rotation within the Residency Program

Residency Training Committee 7/2002-7/2005  
Monthly meetings with Residency Program Director and other committee members  
to discuss the training/educational programs and formulate improvements

Intern Selection Committee 9/2002-6/2004  
Reviewed intern application files and met monthly with  
other committee members to select incoming class

**CLINICAL PRACTICE, INTERESTS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Behavior and Development; specifically, autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, and learning  
disabilities especially in Hispanic Children and the multi-disabled

**CIVIC ACTIVITIES**

Nevada Minority Health Equity Coalition Advisory Board Member	12/21-present
Medical Advisory Board Collaboration Center	11/20-present
Capability Health Board Member	3/19-present
Nevada Autism Commission – Chairman (appointed by Governor)	2/2016-2019
CDC LTSAE Ambassador to the State of Nevada 2 Year Term	06/14-06/2016
Advisory Board Member	
Grant A Gift Autism Foundation	1/2013-present
Families for the Effective Autism Treatment	3/2013-2018

**OTHER**

United States Citizen  
Spanish speaking, fluent

**REFERENCES**

Available upon request

Elika Nematian






EXTENSION

College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources

Clark County | Lifelong Learning Center | 8050 Paradise Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89123

  
702-222-3100 fax  
extension.unr.edu

LETTER OF INTEREST

May 19, 2023

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
RE: Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board (MCHAB)

Dear Desiree Wenzel and Kagan Griffin,

Please accept this letter and attached Curriculum Vitae for consideration for the vacancies of Title V Maternal and Child Health Program Advisory Board member. My educational background includes a Bachelor's of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics and Master's in Public Health from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Much of my professional experience and expertise has been through successful federal nutrition program implementation, advocacy, evaluation and education.

Many of these programs have served low-income families, schools with high percentage of students receiving free or reduced-price lunch, women and children with unique nutritional needs, incarcerated youth and women, rural communities, older adults, and families experiencing food insecurity, poverty, and homelessness. More specifically, during the COVID-19 pandemic, I lead the efforts in Southern Nevada for the implementation of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) online shopping and grocery delivery pilot. In my current leadership position, at the UNR Extension Department of Health and Nutrition, one of my public health priority goals is to implement Maternal and Child Health programming, through client, provider, and professional education and trainings. I have also sought out funding for a marketing campaign to increase awareness and utilization of WIC benefits in Southern Nevada. Lastly, I currently serve as a Community Advisory Board Member on UNLV's School of Public Health West Las Vegas Promise Neighborhood Maternal and Child Health National Institute of Health grant project.

Serving the community for more than a decade has allowed me to explore and understand the unique needs of some of the most vulnerable and underserved populations. I would also provide a sound voice for efforts towards Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity (DI&E), through personal lived-experiences as a person of color and first-generation immigrant and through professional experiences working with a variety of diverse communities.

Sincerely,  
Elika Nematian



## 2023 Elika Nematian Biographical Sketches

Name	Position Title
<b>Elika Nematian</b>	<b>Extension Educator/Lecturer II Health &amp; Nutrition Department Lead</b>

Education/Training (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, and include postdoctoral training.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	FIELD OF STUDY
<b>University of Nevada, Las Vegas (Las Vegas, NV)</b>	<b>Bachelor's of Science (B.S.); 2015</b>	<b>Nutrition Science</b>
	<b>Master's in Public Health (M.P.H); 2020</b>	<b>Public Health</b>

**A. Positions and honors.** List in chronological order previous positions, concluding with your present position. List any honors.

**Positions:**

2014 – 2016 Community-Based Instructor III, University of Nevada, Reno – Extension  
 2016 - 2017 Post-Baccalaureate Dietetic Internship  
 2017 – 2019 Program Officer II, Univeristy of Nevada, Reno – Extension  
 2019 Child and Adult Care Food Program Grant Manager, Nevada Department of Agriculture  
 2019 – 2021 Advocacy & Compliance Manager II, Three Square Food Bank  
 2021 – 2022 Health Educator, Southern Nevada Health District  
 Current Extension Educator, Lecturer II, Univeristy of Nevada, Reno Extension

**B. Professional Service:**

2022 West Las Vegas Promise Neighborhood Maternal & Child Health Community Advisory Board Member (UNLV NIH EARN-FS Grant)  
 2019 – 2021 Nevada Governor's Council on Food Security, Food Rescue & Policy Subcommittee  
 2021 Southern Nevada Food Council Board Member  
 2020 State of Nevada 2020 Census Complete Count Committee

**C. Research support.** List selected ongoing and completed (during the last three years) research projects. Begin with the projects that are most relevant to the research proposed in this application. Briefly indicate the overall goals of the project and your role in the research project. Do not list award amounts or percent effort in the project.

**Nematian, E. (Principal),** Helm, M.M., Elgeberi, N., 2023. "Applying the Transtheoretical Model of Behavior Change to Increase WIC Enrollment and Engagement in Southern Nevada" Sponsored by Food Research & Action Center (Submitted).

- Served as Principle Investigator and project lead for University of Nevada, Reno – Extension. Ensure compliance with confidentiality, data management and data-sharing management plan; develop presentations and manuscripts to support the national WIC Outreach Toolkits. The intent

of the project is to increase WIC participation, enrollment and redemption amongst eligible populations in Nevada.

**Nematian, E. (Principal)**, Piccinini, S., 2020. "Nevada Pandemic-EBT" Sponsored by Food Research & Action Center.

- Served as Principle Investigator and project lead for Three Square Food Bank and Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Oversee all award activity, data management, scope of work implementation and reporting; report best practices and lessons learned to funder. The intent of the project was to inform eligible families of Pandemic EBT benefits available and increase redemption.

**Nematian, E. (Principal)**, Tyson, J., 2020. "Nevada Women, Infant, and Children CARES Shopping and Delivery Program", Sponsored by Nevada Department of Health and Human Services.

- Serve as Principle Investigator and project lead for Three Square Food Bank and coordinate activities in Southern Nevada. Oversee all award activity, data management, scope of work implementation and reporting. The project received national recognition for being one of the first states to implement WIC online ordering to maintain WIC participation and create a more equitable shopping experience for WIC families.

**Nematian, E. (Principal)**, Peterson, A., 2020. "Golden Groceries On-the-Go" Sponsored by Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division.

- Served as project lead for Three Square Food Bank to address issues of food insecurity in Southern Nevada.

**Nematian, E. (Principal)**, 2020. "Nevada SNAP Capacity Building Building", Sponsored by Feeding America/ Walmart Foundation.

- Served as project lead for Three Square Food Bank to address issues of food insecurity in Southern Nevada, through increased SNAP enrollment.

**Nematian, E. (Principal)**, 2019. "Addressing Hunger In Southern Nevada", Sponsored by City of Henderson.

- Served as project lead for Three Square Food Bank to address issues of food insecurity in Southern Nevada.

Lindsay, A. (Principal), **Nematian, E. (Co-PI)**, 2018. "Innovation In Rural nutrition Programs and Services" sponsored by Nevada Department of Aging and Disability Services Division.

- Served as UNR – Extension statewide coordinator to provide nutrition and physical activity education and Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) interventions for older adults.

Lindsay, A. (Principal), **Nematian, E. (Co-PI)**, et.al., 2017. "Extension Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)" Sponsored by Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services.

- Served as UNR – Extension statewide coordinator to provide nutrition and physical activity education and Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) interventions for older adults.

Dr. Roshanda Clemons, MD.,FAAP

July 10, 2023

Board of Health  
Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
4150 Technology Way, Carson City, Nevada 89706  
Ph: (775) 684-4200

RE: Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board

There is a national crisis of steadily increasing maternal mortality rates that has brought unwanted but undoubtedly warranted attention to the medical and government bodies. As many ideas circulate about why. A popular thought, with growing evidence, is that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a direct causal effect, where the maternal mortality rates are now equivalent and possibly surpassing the maternal mortality rates of 1965. How can that be? How can the US now be rated as number one of developed countries for having the highest maternal mortality rates, especially considering over the last five or so decades the US has been heavily involved in global MCH efforts?

When we have some of the highest costs per capita for medical care, many people wonder why so many women are still dying during the perinatal period in the US? When we offer some of the most modern and technologically advanced healthcare, how are these dismal outcomes possible at such alarming rates? This is the United States of America.

As a board-certified pediatrician with decades of experience, with both the professional and personal passion and lengthy demonstrable career dedicated to providing, enlightening, and assisting families in attaining optimal healthcare, it would be an honor and obligation to serve as a member of the Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board. It's an obligation professionally, ethically, and morally. While many are left aghast and dumbfounded, some are mentally catatonic about serious MCH matters, whereas others are simply participating in intellectual banter about the problem. I am categorically in the group of those who welcome challenges and anticipate active participation particularly in solving this problem. Considering that the inconceivable extreme maternal morbidity and mortality proportions have become a social and humanity wound for this country, development of innovative and unconventional effective ideas will be required to solve this dire and pressing community health issue. Unquestionably, it will take a distinctive approach, one that includes a conglomerate of perspectives offering a variety of lenses, to develop practical and implementable solutions.

Albeit it would be very easy to sit on the periphery and expect others to fix these problems, I welcome the idea of jumping in and serving on a team that devotes their time, efforts, and intellectual energy to developing services and programs to structure better healthcare benefitting the community at large, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable.

Sincerely,

Roshanda Clemons, MD, FAAP

# **Roshanda R. Clemons, MD, FAAP**

(702) 668-4200 (office)

Rclemons@dhefp.nv.gov

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## **EDUCATION**

**Pediatric Residency, Children's Hospital Oakland (CHO)**  
**Doctor of Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM)**  
**Bachelor of Science-Chemistry, Spelman College**

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## **AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS**

**Multicultural Health Fellowship**  
Academic Scholarship, Accreditation Committee, Dean's List, Mortar Board, Mathematics  
Honorary Society

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## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Fellow of American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Medical Association  
National Medical Association  
Rebecca Lee Society

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## **INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES**

Social Media/Podcasts  
ABC News (featured physician)  
Oprah Winfrey Show guest  
Dr. Drew interview  
Pediatric Obesity trainings  
Blue Ribbon Panel

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## **LICENSES/CERTIFICATES**

Board Certified in Pediatrics  
Nevada Physician's and Surgeons Certificate  
California Physicians' and Surgeons Certificate

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## **POSITIONS HELD**

**Medicaid Medical Director**  
**Medical Director/Senior Physician:** Nevada Early Intervention Services  
**CEO, Compassionate Children's Care**  
**Community Health (FQHC, Sr disability), Traditional, Hospitalist & Attending Pediatrician**  
**Indian Health Services**  
**Multicultural Health Fellow**  
**Health Officer, Boy Scouts of America**

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