

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

**[DRAFT] MINUTES**

**JANUARY 27, 2022**

**1:00 p.m.**

The Advisory Council on the State Program for Wellness and the Prevention of Chronic Disease held a public meeting on 1/27/2022, beginning at 1:02 p.m., held over Zoom.

**Board Members Present**

Tom McCoy, MA, JD, Chair  
Andrew Snyder  
Caitlin Gatchalain  
Chris Syverson  
Stacy Briscoe, MS  
Tina Dortch, MPA, NOMHE  
Laura Valley  
Maria Azzarelli  
Dr. Amber Donnelly  
Michelle Gorelow, MA  
Dr. Ihsan Azzam

**Board Members Not Present**

Georgia Dounis, DDS, MS, FICD

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

Lily Helzer, MPH, Section Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP), Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)  
Kayla Samuels, Office Manager, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Lynsie Powell, Administrative Assistant, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Emily Sanchez, Administrative Assistant, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Mitch DeValliere, DC, Quality Improvement Manager, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Max Moskowitz, Nutrition & Wellness Analyst, CDPHP, CDCF, DPBH  
Kathrine Wright, Food Security Coordinator, CDPHP, CDCF, DPBH  
Patricia Segura, Prevention & Wellness Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Sarah Rogers, Nutrition Unit Manager, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

**Others Present**

Kelli Goatley-Seals, Public Health Supervisor; Washoe County Health District  
Nicki Aaker  
Jimmy Lau, Vice President, Ferrari Reeder Public Affairs  
Tyler Shaw, FRPA  
Erica Olsen  
Jeanette Belz, Belz & Case Govern, on behalf of Mayor Hillary Schieve  
Elliot Malin  
Stacye Brim  
Lois Ann Porter, The Blueprint Collaborative

Cindy Vallette  
Larry Lehrner  
Dominique Seck, Program Coordinator, Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE)  
Lea Case  
Sarah Karlen  
Amanda Haboush Deloye  
Chris Needham  
Franco Reyna  
Melisa McEwen  
Senator Pat Spearman  
Keibi Mejia  
Kelly Goss

**1. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken, and it was 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.

Chair Tom McCoy noted that members of the public may speak for public comment shortly and at the end of the meeting. Chair McCoy noted public comment has a five (5) minute limit to speak, no action will be taken by the Board at this time.

**2. Public Comment**

Kayla Samuels called for Dr. Larry Learner's comment.

Dr. Learner supported and urged the board to create a Kidney Care Taskforce for the following reasons: Approximately fifteen (15) percent of Americans have chronic kidney disease and only about three (3) percent know they have it. The lack of awareness amongst patients and healthcare professionals leads to an unnecessary morbidity and mortality to patients and imposes tremendous financial burden on society. Early detection and treatment are imperative to reduce both human suffering and financial burden.

Ms. Samuels called for Franco Reyna's comment.

Mr. Reyna agreed with Dr. Learner. Mr. Reyna stated kidney disease has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and has become increasingly pervasive and costly, and warrants an appropriate, comprehensive response from government at every level. Mr. Reyna stated The Kidney Care Taskforce will serve as a launchpad for ideas that will directly lead to policy and legislation that will benefit every Nevadan with and at-risk for kidney disease.

Ms. Samuels called for Dr. David St. Jules' comment.

Jeanette Bells commented Dr. St. Jules was unable to join.

Ms. Samuels called for Ms. Belz's comment.

Ms. Belz spoke on behalf of Mayor Hillary Schieve with a written testimony. Ms. Belz read, “By being proactive and developing a Nevada Kidney Disease Task Force, we can help save people from kidney failure. Not only will this save human lives, but it will also relieve the healthcare system of astronomical costs that arise when we are reactive with kidney disease care. As Reno Mayor, I support the creation of a Nevada Kidney Disease Task Force and have full faith this would prevent devastating health impacts for Nevadans. I speak from my own personal experience with kidney failure resulting in end-stage kidney disease. Through this Task Force, we have the opportunity to reverse course.”

Ms. Samuels called for Elliot Malin’s comment.

Mr. Malin comments a personal story of donating a kidney to a family member and is in strong support of establishing a kidney disease task force.

Ms. Samuels called for Jimmy Lau’s comment.

Mr. Lau stated colleague Tyler Shaw will be giving the comment.

Mr. Shaw commented that kidney disease in Nevada disproportionality affects minority communities, especially those in the BIPOC (black, indigenous and people of color) community. Mr. Shaw was agreeance for establishing a kidney disease task force.

Ms. Samuels called for any other public comment.

None heard. Chair McCoy concluded public comment.

### **3. Approve Minutes from the September 30, 2021 Meeting**

Chair McCoy asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the September 30, 2021 meeting. There were none.

**Chair McCoy entertained a motion to approve the minutes as is. A motion to approve was made by Chris Syverson, and Chris Needham seconded the motion to approve the minutes which passed unanimously. No public comment was made.**

### **4. Present CDPHP State Plan**

Chair McCoy called on Lily Helzer to deliver the agenda presentation.

Ms. Helzer clarified that there are two (2) separate agenda items, agenda item number four (4), the presentation of the State plan and agenda item number six (6), updates from Chronic Disease.

Ms. Helzer introduced Lois Ann Porter with The Blueprint Collaborative to present the CDPHP State Plan.

Ms. Porter introduced Erica Olsen to present the team and overall project.

Ms. Olsen introduced The Blueprint Collaborative and delivered the presentation. Ms. Olsen outlined the intention and purpose of the survey planning process structure and introduced partner Stacye Brim.

Ms. Brim delivered the second part of the presentation and showed a list of partners the survey was intended to be distributed to. Ms. Brim asked the committee if any key partners are missing from partner list.

Nicki Aaker suggested Partnership Carson City, Carson City Health and Human Services, and Dr. Lyons, the Carson City Health Officer.

Chris Syverson asked about defining partners and the inclusion of private or public employers.

Maria Azzarelli commented local health district Health Officer Kevin Dick from Washoe County had asked that Ms. Azzarelli requested the committee develop a task force or committee to form the strategic plan.

Senator Pat Spearman commented Faith Based Communities Organization, Veterans Administration or organizations that work with veterans would be great partners to add to the list.

Chair McCoy asked Ms. Helzer if the partners being considered are external organizations that deal with chronic disease.

Ms. Helzer affirmed Chair McCoy was correct.

Chair McCoy suggested Nevada Chronic Care Collaborative.

Ms. Helzer called for comment from Chris Needham.

Chris Needham suggested partnership be added with the those who provide funding for Chronic Disease-like health plans and insurance payers, such as Medicaid.

Ms. Helzer called for comment from Dr. Ihsan.

Dr. Ihsan Azzam suggested categorizing the partners by state, local, private or non-profit, and to have each partner list what they believe they can offer as a partner.

Ms. Helzer called for Amber Donnelly's comment.

Amber Donnelly suggested rural Nevada agencies in Humboldt, Lander, and Eureka. Ms. Donnelly suggested examples such as White Mountain General Hospital and Humboldt General Hospital. Ms. Donnelly also included the physicians that represent those areas for public health, suggesting Dr. Stringham for Humboldt, Dr. T Ross for Lander County, and Dr. JJ. Goicoechea representing Eureka.

Ms. Helzer called for comments in chat from Tina Dortch.

Ms. Dortch offered Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity as a partner and brought attention to federally qualified health centers because they are uniquely situated in the community and often have individuals who bear an undo portion of chronic disease diagnoses. Ms. Dortch also brought to the committee's attention tribal communities and the health districts embedded in those as well to consider including as partners.

Ms. Helzer called for comment from Stacye Briscoe.

Ms. Briscoe thanked Ms. Dortch for the mention of tribal communities and brought attention to Community Health Alliance as a partner.

Ms. Helzer recognized Ms. Azzarelli seconded the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition. Ms. Helzer called on Amber Donelli for additional comment.

Ms. Donelli mentioned Patricia Taylor for Indian Health Services and Jesse Jones from Owyhee Reservation as partners.

Ms. Brim delivered the remainder of the presentation with slideshow. Ms. Brim asked if there were any other topics not covered in the presentation that should be asked of the partners.

Senator Spearman commented the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity would be an excellent partner because they have direct access to the Legislator and recommended including a review of session information to see where committee work would be helpful.

Ms. Azzarelli questioned Ms. Brim about the terms of assessment and how it will be conducted with individuals representing certain agencies.

Ms. Brim responded yes to Ms. Azzarelli and that is what is envisioned.

Ms. Helzer called for comment from Ms. Syverson.

Ms. Syverson commented to define chronic disease for the group and how to determine proactive or reactive. Ms. Syverson recommended looking at audits.

Ms. Brim asked for other thoughts or recommendations. Ms. Helzer called on Ms. Dortch for comment.

Ms. Dortch expressed concern whether there should be a question regarding stratified data collection since it is a public health conversation.

Ms. Helzer called on Ms. Azzarelli for comment.

Ms. Azzarelli agreed with Ms. Syverson about defining chronic disease.

Ms. Helzer read chat concerns, relaying that Senator Spearman agreed with the data and that it is key in the decision-making process and Kathrine Wright had commentary on addressing inequity within the organization.

Ms. Azzarelli suggested direct questions about funding should be added to the item list and said this information could help in future legislation.

Ms. Brim asked for any other considerations or comments.

None heard.

Chair McCoy thanked contributors and presenters for their input.

## **5. Discussion and possible action to establish meeting dates for 2022**

Chair McCoy reviewed the suggested dates and asked for objections concerning the quarter two (2) meeting dates.

Ms. Syverson stated April 28<sup>th</sup> is better.

Mr. Snyder stated neither date will work.

Ms. Dortch preferred a May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and suggested a poll creation for staff to decide.

Ms. Helzer created a live poll in the meeting. Quorum was established for the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting date.

Ms. Syverson requested meeting dates for the year be sent out now.

Chair McCoy established Ms. Samuels will send a poll to the board for future meeting dates after the meeting.

**Chair McCoy began an action to adopt April 28, 2022 as the next meeting date and called for those in agreeance to signify. The action was supported unanimously by the board.**

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

Ms. Helzer presented the report. ([CDPHP Report 1.27.22](#))

Ms. Helzer concluded new positions have been added in the Health Equity unit and are now fully-staffed, as well as other vacancies filled. Ms. Helzer stated continued efforts by submitting worksheet to the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) to continue surveillance efforts through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and the Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System. Ms. Helzer asked for any questions.

None heard.

## **7. Present Local Health Authority (LHA) Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Program Reports**

### **Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD)**

Chair McCoy called for SNHD representative, Maria Azzarelli.

Ms. Azzarelli presented the updates, noted that the last quarter while working with the US Department of Health and Human Services, SNHD had conducted ten (10) events reaching over 3,600 people with opportunities to participate in physical activity. ([SNHD Report 01.27.22](#))

Chair McCoy commented on the smoke-free policy for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and the lasting impact it will have on the future.

### **Washoe County Health District (WCHD)**

Chair McCoy asked for a representative from WCHD.

Kelli Goatley-Seals noted an organizational chart had been included to provide a better idea of new staff and vacancies. Ms. Goatley-Seals introduce Amanda Santos as their new health educator working on physical activity and nutrition areas. ([WCHD Report 01.27.22](#))

Chair McCoy asked for questions or comments for Washoe's report.

None heard.

### **Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS)**

Chair McCoy asked for representative from CCHHS.

Nicki Aaker presented the report. ([CCHHS Report 01.27.22](#))

Mr. Needham asked what the hesitancy was for smoke-free campuses.

Ms. Aaker responded that at the other campuses they cater more to older adults, and that is where some of the hesitancy from the committee exists.

Chair McCoy asked for any thoughts or comments for the CCHHS report.

### **Elko County Health Board (ECHB)**

Chair McCoy asked for a representative from ECHB, none came forward.

Ms. Helzer confirmed the absence of a representative from ECHB.

Chair McCoy referred to the report for individual review. ([ECHB Report 01.27.22](#))

### **Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP)**

Chair McCoy asked for representative from NICRP.

Amanda Haboush-Deloye presented the report. ([NICRP Report 1.27.22](#))

Chair McCoy asked for any questions or comments. Chair McCoy asked how youth are doing with physical activity as a state.

Ms. Haboush-Deloye responded it is hard to tell, especially with new challenges, such as COVID-19, surge. Ms. Haboush-Deloye commented it is safer to be outdoors, but public parks were too crowded and turning visitors away. Kindergarten health survey provided some data as far as children's physical activity.

## **8. Present Kidney Disease Advisory Committee Reports**

Chair McCoy called for Ms. Helzer to deliver the report.

Ms. Helzer stated a provision from Senate Bill 341 that amended Chapter 439 in the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) that “Allow the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to establish and consult with an advisory committee, to plan to increase education regarding kidney disease.” Ms. Helzer explained the division is not mandated to create an advisory committee, but is authorized to do so if council approves.

Ms. Helzer stated the purpose of establishing a sustainable plan to increase education concerning and bring awareness of kidney disease must be supported through grants when they are available. Ms. Helzer stated should this avenue be pursued, the Nevada Revised Statutes would require future legislative sessions be updated.

Ms. Helzer asked for any questions.

Chair McCoy asked how creating a subcommittee would impact staffing.

Ms. Helzer responded the division would have to require administrative staffing.

Chair McCoy asked the section for questions or comments.

Ms. Dortch asked if bylaws allow a subcommittee to extract members from the general public, or if they must be CWCD members only.

Chair McCoy responded the advisory members do not have to fit the statutory position and though they would be non-voting, they would still be a part of the council.

Ms. Syverson asked what the expected outcome of this advisory committee is.

Chair McCoy responded the expected outcome is to make recommendations and provide guidance to the council.

Ms. Helzer clarified that the Senate Bill 341 authorizes the creation of another advisory committee, the purpose of which would be to assist the division in establishing a sustainable plan to increase education and awareness of kidney disease. Ms. Helzer added that the outcome referred to would be advising on a plan.

Ms. Briscoe suggested a breakdown of smaller programs in order to raise awareness.

Chair McCoy requested recommendations on how to move forward with creating subcommittees.

Ms. Azzarelli asked if health providers and required members could be added to the sub-committee, and if they could be counted as voting members if so.

Chair McCoy responded they could not be voting members and if medical professionals are to be involved, there must be an understanding and commitment that they can meet and satisfy Open Meeting Law provisions.

Ms. Azzarelli asked if individuals that provided testimony today were eligible to be on the subcommittee.



Chari McCoy responded yes, stating that Chair McCoy would look for recommendations from the community, and explained that recommendations for policy and legislation may be brought through this council.

Dr. Azzam expressed preference for creating a subcommittee for kidney disease.

Chair McCoy requested to know how the state is offering assistance with kidney disease.

Mr. Needham responded stating there are services for those who are in a further phase of kidney disease, but would like to work towards changing the trajectory to early diagnostics.

Chair McCoy asked Ms. Helzer for feedback moving forward.

Ms. Helzer responded stating that creating a committee is at the discretion of the committee. Ms. Helzer explained that there should be further investigation done with the Attorney General. Ms. Helzer added that Senate Bill 341 requires the need to add a voting member and that the added member would need to be updated to the bylaws and Nevada Revised Statutes.

Chair McCoy stated the subject of creating a subcommittee will be tabled and urges staff to reach out to the Attorney General's Office in order to receive proper direction on how to form this sub-committee. Chair McCoy added that the subject of creating a new sub-committee will be revisited during the next meeting, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Ms. Azzarelli expressed support for Chair McCoy's statement for further investigation.

#### **9. Present update on diabetes in Nevada**

Ms. Helzer presented agenda with slideshow presentation. ([Diabetes Control Brief 1.27.22](#)) Ms. Helzer emphasized that diabetes is a major known comorbidity of COVID-19, and that some preliminary evidence suggests that there is a bidirectional relationship. Ms. Helzer added that diabetes is on a trajectory of growth and that one of the biggest barriers is that low-income households cannot get direct services. Ms. Helzer asked the section for advisement on how to make direct services available through the department.

Chair McCoy opened the floor to discussion.

Ms. Syverson suggested the 1815 grant made available by the CDC, in order to provide the Diabetes Prevention Program and the Diabetes Self-Management Education Program to state employees.

Ms. Helzer responded that the grant is very restricted.

Dr. Azzam suggested controlling direct services by creating a goal with certain entities, such as reducing in-office visits by giving regular phone check-ups.

Ms. Syverson asked if there is a steering program.

Ms. Helzer responded there is an indirect steering program through education and promotion and community health workers.

Ms. Briscoe stated that the Renown Community Benefit grant has shown that Spanish co-part classes have better attendance than English counterparts.

Ms. Azzarelli agreed with Ms. Briscoe and commented that resources are limited. Ms. Azzarelli stated that with additional funds, a more strategic approach could be taken to bring awareness to the priority population.

Dr. Azzam suggested starting with a data assessment from individuals such as: high A1C levels, gender, age and ethnicity groups.

Chair McCoy called for additional thoughts.

Ms. Akker suggested a satellite televised class for those who cannot attend in-person.

Chair McCoy stated budget, funding, and recommendations will be discussed on the next meeting, scheduled for April 28, 2022.

#### **10. Public Comment**

Chair McCoy thanked the Board for their commitment and efforts to the prevention of chronic disease and wellness in the State of Nevada and asked for public comment.

None heard.

**Chair McCoy entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Azzam and an unidentified board member seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.**