

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
February 2, 2024
9:00 AM

The Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board (MCHAB) held a public meeting on February 2, 2024, beginning at 9:00 A.M. at the following locations:

On Microsoft Teams

ID: 275 128 913 599 Passcode: uNGhJ8

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MWFKOWIxMzMtMzAyYy00MDU1LTk2N2UtODA4NjRiNDcyOWUw%40tHread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229b476170-b5e1-4835-891e-09045be3df7d%22%7d

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Melinda Hoskins, MS, APRN, CNM, BCLC

Keith Brill, MD

Marsha Matsunaga-Kirgan, MD

Lora Redmon, BSN, RNC-OB, C-FMC

Roshanda Clemons, MD FAAP

Mario Gaspar De Alba, MD

Elika Nematian, MPH

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Katie Hackler, BSN, RN, RNC-OB, CGN

Fred Schultz

Noah Kohn, MD

Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop

Assemblywoman Claire Thomas

Fatima Taylor, M.Ed., CPM

OTHERS PRESENT

Ghasi Phillips-Bell, ScD, MS, MCH Epidemiology Assignee to Nevada

Kagan Griffin, MPH, RD, Office of State Epidemiology, Operations Manager

Linda Anderson, Nevada Public Health Foundation

Dawn Yohey, CPP3, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Director's Office (DO)

Maricruz Schaefer, Senior Public Health Nurse, Northern Nevada Public Health

Rachel Mack, Associate Director EMPOWERED Program

Andria Peterson, Executive Director of the Roseman University EMPOWERED Program

Tracey Carver, Sr. Director, Community Health, Comagine Health

Debra DeCius, Management Analyst II, DHHS, DO

Jeanne Freeman, Interim Clinic Services Manager for Carson City Health, and Human Services

Kelly Verling, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, Northern Nevada Public Health
Amy Lucas, Health Program Specialist II, DHHS Office of Analytics
Michelle Berry, Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies
(CASAT), University of Nevada, Reno
Joan Waldo, Program Officer, DHHS, DO
Nicole Taylor, Improvement Advisor, Comagine Health
Natie Bladis, Biostatistician III, Office of Analytics, DHHS
Janice Enriquez, DNP, APRN, CNM. Assistant Professor School of Nursing, University
of Las Vegas
Ally Schenck, Evaluation Associate, Comagine Health
Joseph Filippi, Management Analyst, DO, DHHS
Farzad Kamyar, Psychiatrist, Roseman University EMPOWERED Program
Marricella Adams, LCSW, Roseman University EMPOWERED Program
Bard Coats, MD, Population Health, Comagine Health
Veronica Galas, Carson City Health and Human Services

1. Call to Order- Roll Call and Introductions- Melina Hoskins, MS, APRN, CNM – Vice Chair

Vice Chair Melinda Hoskins called the February 2, 2024, meeting to order at 9:05 A.M.

Roll call was taken, and it was determined a quorum of the board was present.

Desiree Wenzel requested attendees identify themselves in the Microsoft Teams chat box.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item unless the matter is included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. The chair of the MCHAB will place a five (5) minute time limit on the time individuals addressing the MCHAB. To provide public comment telephonically, dial 1-775-321-6111. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter 754 414 639#. Members of the public utilizing the call-in (audio only) number may raise their hand by pressing *5. Person making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name.

Vice Chair Melinda Hoskins read the above statement. No public comment.

3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of draft minutes from the Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board (MCHAB) meeting on May 5, 2023

MELINDA HOSKINS ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 5, 2023, MEETING MINUTES. DR. KEITH BRILL MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. MELINDA HOSKINS SECONDED.

Vice Chair Hoskins asked for public comment.

No public comment.

VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Overview of Congenital Syphilis in Nevada: Data, Public Health, and Clinical Perspectives, with possible recommendations regarding congenital syphilis prevention - Amy Lucas MS, Office of Analytics, Department of Health and Human Services; Ghasi Philips-Bell, ScD, MS, Nevada Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiologist; Roshanda Clemons, MD, FAAP, Medical Director, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy; Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH); Kagan Griffin MPH, Office of State Epidemiology; and Vickie Ives, MA, Child, Family, and Community Wellness (CFCW) Bureau Chief, DPBH

Vickie Ives introduced this series of presentations on an urgent issue around congenital syphilis (CS) rates in Nevada, stating the goal today is to present information on data, public health activities, best practices, and clinical perspectives in order to give you well-rounded sense of the issue, with the goal of getting recommendations for actions of the MCHAB. The MCAHB can make recommendations to the Administrator of DPBH for action to prevent the 100% preventable, very urgent issue. Ms. Ives stated it should be a never event and that each congenital syphilis case is a failure of the public health system. She states the goal is for the subject matter experts on the MCHAB, after hearing these presentations, to make recommendations for prevention. Ms. Ives stated that each number represented here today means a family is dealing with lifelong impacts to their health and their child's health. She said, as we look at the data, as we look at the clinical and public health information, I just ask that you be thinking about recommendations. She states, we will also be, as the year progresses, looking for that type of active participation and your expertise in developing recommendations not only around congenital syphilis but core issues in Nevada like preterm birth, low birth weight, large uptake, and utilization.

Amy Lucas, from the Department of Health and Human Services, gave a presentation on Congenital Syphilis in Nevada, 2022. She stated that the Office of Analytics made a congenital syphilis critical report, looking at different variables and touchpoints the mother had in her life. This presentation is an overview of this report. In the 2022 annual year there were 65 total births in which babies were born with Syphilis and only 64 could be linked to a birth or death certificate. This report is on the 64 cases, of which five (5) resulted in death (8% of total cases). Ms. Lucas displayed and talked through the congenital syphilis data by mother's race/ethnicity, age, resident county, prenatal care attainment, adequacy of prenatal care, self-reported drug use during pregnancy, birth outcomes, child welfare involvement, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, Medicaid enrollment/utilization, supportive service usage, and syphilis screening and treatment. Ms. Lucas's summarized her finding as, most congenital syphilis cases (83%), the mother was not diagnosed early enough to adequately treat. Among these cases, only 26% had adequate prenatal care indicated on the birth record. This suggests a gap in appropriate screening and diagnosis even among women who are receiving adequate prenatal care. Ms. Lucas informed the board that she is available

for questions any time through email at alucas@dhhs.nv.gov and shared that there are publicly available data dashboards and reports at https://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/Office_of_Analytics/DHHS_Office_of_Analytics/.

Tami Conn introduced the next presentation under the same agenda item, Dr. Ghasi Phillips-Bell.

Dr. Ghasi Phillips-Bell presented on Congenital Syphilis, Nevada 2022: Recommendations and Action plan. Dr. Phillips-Bell gave an introduction on her presentation and noted general interventions, programs or activities can be organized using a systems approach. One approach is the socioecological model (SEM). She explained the Health Impact Pyramid, different types of public health interventions and how it provides a framework to improve health. Dr. Phillips-Bell reviewed the sources of recommendations for congenital syphilis then proceeded to review all strategies for congenital syphilis reduction: strategy 1: support the enforcement of universal syphilis screening during pregnancy, strategy 2: educate and incentivize providers to comply with screening requirements and treatment recommendations, strategy 3: improve medical outreach capabilities, and strategy 4: work with emergency rooms and urgent cares to or clinics to develop standing orders for pregnant persons, optimize Medicaid eligibility, services, and alternative provider types. Dr. Phillips-Bell summarized future steps: solicit recommendations from the MCHAB, obtain feedback and support from key partners on the strategic plan, finalize the strategic plan, create a timeline, and develop specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) objectives to assess the impact of the activities. Dr. Phillips-Bell listed her contact information if anyone has further questions.

Tami Conn introduced the next presentation under the same agenda item is Dr. Roshanda Clemons.

Dr. Roshanda Clemons gives a presentation on Congenital Syphilis, a sentinel event. Dr. Clemons presents an overview of syphilis, congenital syphilis, neurosyphilis, and ocular syphilis symptoms, risk factors, stages, clinical presentation, effects on pregnancy, diagnosis/screening, complications, treatment and management. Dr. Clemons' reviewed national and local surveillance data, challenges in syphilis control, and solution strategies. These solutions consist of a conglomerate group: healthcare partners, patients and conduits (public health/data collectors). Dr. Clemons' listed her contact information if anyone has further questions.

Tami Conn introduced the next presentation under the same agenda item is Kagan Griffin presenting for Elizabeth Kessler.

Kagan Griffin, Operations Manager for the Office of State Epidemiology, presented on congenital syphilis activities on behalf of Elizabeth Kessler. Ms. Griffin presented an overview of the Office of State Epidemiology's Disease Investigation Specialist (DIS) activities, congenital syphilis review boards (CSRB) make up and activities, and the congenital syphilis Community Action Team (CAT) progress and activities. Ms. Griffin summarizes the six (6) themes of the CSRB and CAT: access to healthcare, receipt of

care, provider knowledge, individual knowledge, social factors, substance use and mental health, and other factors, including unplanned pregnancy, contraceptive use and involvement in sex work. Ms. Griffin asked for any questions about her presentation or any questions for any of the presentations under agenda item four (4).

Vice Chair Hoskins asked for any member questions on agenda item four (4).

Dr. Marsha Matsunaga-Kirgan asked for the six identify themes to be stated again from Ms. Griffin's presentation as the packet received prior did not list those identifiers.

Ms. Griffin apologized as they were missing from the slides and stated they are: access to healthcare, receipt of care, provider knowledge, individual knowledge, social factors, substance use and mental health, other factors, including unplanned pregnancy, contraceptive use and involvement in sex work.

Dr. Gaspar De Alba noted the last presentation talks about education in more areas than just doctors offices. He asked if anyone has ever reached out to the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition (NMHEC) to help with education?

Ms. Griffin stated that she couldn't speak for everyone in the Office of Epidemiology but that is a great suggestion and that she would bring it up to the State Medical Epidemiologist.

Dr. Gaspar De Alba indicated that the partners there could be helpful on the educational side of this topic.

Ms. Ives stated we do work closely with NMHEC around a number of different maternal child health (MCH) topics and that has come up in some context but more formal asks for distribution of education materials and information sharing can be done.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba also mentioned instead of penalties to a doctor's office for not screening, instead tying a reimbursement for an office visit to documented screening.

Ms. Ives asked if Dr. Clemons would be able to speak on behalf of the topic for Medicaid.

Dr. Clemons informed Dr. Gaspar de Alba that there has been a discussion about a bonus incentive payment that has been presented to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and if approved it would go into effect in 2025.

Dr. Gaspar De Alba clarified that his question was if the reimbursement could be tied to completing the proper screenings and treatment, and if the correct screenings and treatment were not completed then that appointment would not have grounds to be covered by insurance.

Dr. Clemons wishes the board has some authority and could provide some guidance on how to enforce the screening requirements outlined in Nevada Revised Statutes.

Dr. Matsunaga-Kirgan mentioned that one barrier in Nevada is cost and how do we direct patients to where they could get screening done for free.

Ms. Ives mentioned the Account for Family Planning through the MCAH Section, funded by State General Funds is available to anyone who cannot otherwise obtain family planning services. The local partners that receive this funding can test and treat for syphilis. We can share the link to these [partners](#).

Ms. Ives stated this is a possible action item so if there are any recommendations from the board, we can capture those and share those with leadership. Ms. Ives also indicated that this is also a Medicaid reimbursement level testing and treatment and would be considered a covered service for Medicaid clients that Account for Family Planning would be for people who are under or uninsured and not for those on Medicaid.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Office of State Epidemiology Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) prevention and Control program does provide funding that allows some community partners to claim 340B and provided more information to the MCHAB committee through the Teams chat stating it is also listed on their website.

Vice Chair Hoskins asked for any further questions.

Jollina Walker asked about Dr. Phillips-Bell's presentation regarding the at home testing kits and the alternate providers giving them out. She wanted to clarify if those are currently being distributed in Nevada or an idea for the future?

Dr. Phillips-Bell stated she didn't have the answer at this time but someone from Program might have an answer.

Ms. Ives stated that it is something the state moved into implementation and that is something that we are looking at feasibility to replicate in Nevada as was highlighted in the presentation. Different efforts in Louisiana were really tied to available funding. They found really good results with some programs, but it was tied to time limited funding that that that was not retained beyond that and some of those were not able to be sustained. They really leveraged the home visiting model, Nurse family Partnership in implementing that and we do have that home visiting model in Clark County.

Ms. Ives mentioned that because item number four (4) is an action item and not informational, if any board members request recommendations on the topic to go to leadership, a motion is required.

Vice Chair Hoskin's asked Ms. Ives for clarification if the recommendation would be sent to the director, or would they be suggested action by the various agencies?

Ms. Ives clarified that it would be at the board's discretion but if you give MCAH the verbiage we will make sure letters get to the DPBH Administrator.

Vice Chair Hoskins stated that maybe that could be a topic for a future meeting to discuss the political cycle for Nevada and when should the Board make these recommendations.

Dr. Matsunaga-Kirgan stated that a barrier is access to free testing. She believes if the state was to offer free testing for pregnant people for syphilis and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and advertise the program to the public.

Vice Chair Hoskin's asked Dr. Matsunaga-Kirgan if she wanted to make a motion or a recommendation to the Administrator.

Dr. Matsunaga-Kirgan indicated she is not entirely sure how to word it, but she thinks if the State can figure out a way to provide free testing for some critically important tests such as syphilis and HIV and make the public more aware that it is available, there could be significantly increase in screenings that are being done.

Dr. Gaspar De Alba asked who in state would we make that recommendation too?

Ms. Ives clarified that would be addressed to Cody Pinney. However, Ms. Conn and I could capture your feedback, place it in a letter and get it to the Administrator.

DR. MARIO GASPER DE ALBA ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO RECOMMEND THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH TO EXPAND TESTING OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS AT RISK, ESPECIALLY AT LOW OR NO COST AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THEIR AVAILABILITY AND THAT WE WORK WITH THE NEVADA MINORITY HEALTH EQUITY COALITION ABOUT USING COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO DEVELOP EDUCATION STRATEGIES. DR. MATSUNAGA-KIRGAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Vice Chair Hoskins asked for public comment.

No public comment.

VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DR. MARIO GASPER DE ALBA ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO INCENTIVIZE PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE REQUIRED SCREENINGS AND TO TIE REIMBURSEMENTS TO THE COMPLETION OF THOSE SCREENS. DR. MARSHA MATSUNAGA-KIRGAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Vice Chair Hoskins asked for public comment.

No public comment.

VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION, DR. BRILL VOTED NO, ALL OTHER MEMBERS

VOTED YES, MOTION PASSED.

5. INFORMATIONAL: Presentation on An Introduction to the EMPOWERED Program – Andria Peterson, PharmD

Dr. Peterson gave a presentation on an introduction to the EMPOWERED Program. Dr. Peterson stated the EMPOWERED Program is thankful for their community partners and Southern Nevada Health District. With Dr. Peterson is Rachel Mack, Dr. Farzad Kamyar, and Marricella Adams. Dr. Peterson talks about pregnancy and how it is a time for change, the problem (drug-induced deaths) the associated effect (neonatal abstinence syndrome), maternal mortality due to drug use, Nevada trends in women of childbearing age, neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, and symptoms of NAS.

Rachel Mack continues the presentation and spoke about the solution that the EMPOWERED Program implements, EMPOWERED accomplishments for 2023, community mapping, expansion of EMPOWERED, and shared a success story video from an EMPOWERED client.

Dr. Peterson ended the presentation with their motto that EMPOWERED supports them on their path to recovery through stabilization to resiliency. Dr. Peterson asked if there were any questions, shared their website link, and solicited any feedback

Vice Chair Hoskins called for public comment.

No Public Comment.

6. INFORMATIONAL: Presentation on Southern Nevada Pathways Community HUB, Comagine Health – Tracy Carver, MPA, Jerry Reeves, MD, Nicole Taylor, MPH

Tracy Carver presented on the Comagine Health Southern Nevada Pathways Community Hub. Ms. Carver introduced the Nationally Certified Pathways Community HUB (PCH). The HUB started in 2021 and is an evidence-based care coordination model to improve health outcomes. Ms. Carver's presentation details how community health workers are part of the HUB, impact of the HUB, overview of the Southern Nevada Pathways Hub Silver Summit Pregnancy Pilot, complementary pathways, who they are serving, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Integrated Maternal Health Services (IMHS) Cooperative Agreement, IMHS partnerships, and next steps for expansion.

Vice Chair Hoskins called for public comment.

No Public Comment

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Presentation and possible recommendations regarding highlights of the Title V MCH Block Grant Application and Report on Federally Available Data (FAD) – Ghasi Philips-Bell, ScD, MS, Nevada Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiologist and Tami Conn, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, CFCW,

DPBH

Tami Conn and Dr. Philips-Bell presented on the Title V MCH Block Grant: State Updates. Ms. Conn presented a program overview of Title V, the most recent Title V priority areas, and program highlights and program successes. Dr. Philips-Bell presented a data overview of Title V federally available data, and reviewed Nevada's positive and negative outcome trends. All data presented can be found on the Title V MCH [dashboard](#) online. Ms. Conn and Dr. Philips-Bell left their contact information for further questions.

Vice Chair Hoskins asked if the board has any items for action or questions.

No questions or action items.

Vice Chair Hoskins called for public comment.

No Public Comment.

8. INFORMATIONAL: Presentation on MCH Reports and MCH Updates – Tami Conn, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, CFCW, DPBH

Vickie Ives spoke on behalf of this agenda item. Ms. Ives stated if everyone can look at this portion of your packet that has programmatic updates from the team. In the interests of time, if there are any that folks have questions about the updates we are happy to address them but if there are no questions we can move onto the next item if that serves the chair.

Vice Chair Hoskins called for public comment.

No Public Comment

9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Updates and possible recommendations regarding the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) and the Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) – Tami Conn, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, BCFCW, DPBH

Ms. Conn gave a brief update stating there are no major updates on the MMRC and AIM Programs. The MMRC has a report due on April 1, 2024 and the data dashboard that Office of Analytics manages serves as this report update. The MMRC continues to meet and review cases. Ms. Conn introduced Max Moskowitz as a new staff member for the AIM Program. Mr. Moskowitz is working to help hospitals clean their data reporting over the last year and prepare to move each hospital when they are ready to the hemorrhage bundle which most are already working to implement.

Vice Chair Hoskins called for public comment.

No Public Comment

10. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Update on election, discussion, nomination, and possible

election of MCHAB Chair, pursuant to [Nevada Revised Statutes 442.135](#) – Tami Conn, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, CFCW, DPBH

Ms. Conn reminded the board that Chair Gabor left last fall and we are now recruiting a new chair. Ms. Conn went over the bylaws stating a chair member can nominate themselves or another person, and ballots shall be written to vote on the nominee and NRS is just states that the board elects a chair. This can be done verbally, by writing in the team's chat, written after the fact, or by a formal ballot.

Ms. Conn stated that there are three new members and before nominating anyone she would like the new members to introduce themselves prior to any votes.

Elika Nematian stated they work for the University of Nevada Reno Extension and our extensions, part of the land grant university, I oversee all of the public health and nutrition education programs in Clark County.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba stated he is a developmental behavioral pediatrician at the current School of Medicine and a medical director at the Ackerman Autism Center.

Dr. Clemens stated she is the Medicaid Medical Director. Dr. Clemon's notes, even though I am in the Division of Medicaid, part of my duties also entail just providing medical expert clinical leadership and council to the various divisions under the Department of Health and Human Services and I am a board certified pediatrician as well.

Vice Chair Hoskins welcomed the new members.

Ms. Conn again stated this agenda item is for possible action. Options for nominating someone could be done now, it could be sent in after the meeting, or could be done at the next MCHAB meeting.

Vice Chair Hoskins asked what was preferred.

Dr. Gasper De Alba indicated he would rather take the second option. To send them in after the meeting.

Ms. Conn clarified that Ms. Hoskins would need to request the board to send their nomination to Ms. Conn and Ms. Ives and it can be for themselves or for another member and it would then be prepared for the next meeting for a vote.

DR. MARIO GASPER DE ALBA ENTERTAINED A MOTION FOR THE MEMBERS TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION TO MS. CONN AND MS. IVES FOR VOTE AT THE NEXT MEETING. ELIKA NEMATIAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Vice Chair Hoskins asked for public comment.

No public comment.

VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

No Public Comment

- 11. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Make recommendations for future agenda items and approve dates for future MCHAB meeting dates – Melinda Hoskins, MS, APRN, CNM – Vice Chair

May 3, 2024 – 9am

August 2, 2024 – 9am

November 1, 2024 -9am

DR. MARIO GASPAR DE ALBA ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUTURE MEETING DATES. ELIKA NEMATIAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Vice Chair Hoskins asked for public comment.

No public comment.

VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vice Chair asked if there are any recommendations for future agenda items. Ms. Conn stated the agenda items will be needed 30 days prior to the next meeting and that Dr. Gaspar de Alba will be presenting at the next meeting.

Vice Chair called for public comment.

No Public Comment

- 12. PUBLIC COMMENT:** No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item unless the matter is included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. The Chair of the MCHAB will place a five (5) minute time limit on the time individuals addressing the MCHAB.

No Public Comment

- 13. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:11 P.M.