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## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



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# THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATE PROGRAM FOR WELLNESS AND THE PREVENTION OF CHRONIC DISEASE (CWCD)

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** April 22, 2026

**Time:** 1:00 PM - Adjournment

**Location:** Virtual via Microsoft Teams.

**In person:** Room 204, 4150 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706.

### ATTENDEES:

#### Council Members' Present:

Dr. Krista Schonrock (Chair)  
Dr. Ihsan Azzam Proxy Sarah Rogers  
Monica Romero  
Cari Herington  
Kagan Griffin  
Maria Azzarelli  
Laura Valley  
Dr. Amber Donnelly  
Assemblyperson Hanadi Nadeem

#### Members not Present:

Dr. Amber Donnelly  
Dr. Steve Shane  
Nikeshia Mobley  
Senator Michele Cruz-Crawford

#### Others present:

Anais Infante, DPBH – Meeting Staff  
Tammera Brower, DPBH  
Darlene Douthitt, CDPHP  
Smriti Neupane, NICRP  
Cari Herington, Nevada Cancer Coalition  
Sabrina Petrel  
Susie Stitch, CCHHS

Donadya McCullough, CDPHP  
Nicole Alberti, NNPH  
Michelle Harden, DPBH, CDPHP  
Amber Hise, CDPHP  
Troy Lovick, DPBH CDPHP  
Godwin Nwando, DPBH  
Taliman Afroz, DPBH

## AGENDA ITEMS:

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Anais Infante conducted the roll call and confirmed quorum. Nine (9) members were present and four (4) absent.

### 2. Public Comment: First public comment period

No public comments were made during this period.

### 3. Discussion and possible action to approve the meeting minutes of October 23, 2025

Maria Azzarelli motioned to approve the minutes, and Sarah Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4. For Information Only: Welcome and Introductions to newly appointed members of the Advisory Council

Assemblyperson Hanadi Nadeem introduced herself and provided some background. Senator Michele Cruz-Crawford was not on the call to provide an introduction.

### 5. For Information Only: Informational updates on council activities or directives

Dr. Krista Schonrock had no updates for the council.

### 6. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to approve CWCD meeting dates for Calendar Year 2026 - July 23, 2026, October 22, 2026

Maria Azzarelli motioned to set the future meeting dates as they appear in the agenda. Cari Harrington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 7. For Information Only: Partner Presentations-Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Program (CDPHP) Reports

Michelle Harden called on Maria Azzarelli from Southern Nevada Health District to speak first. She announced that she will be retiring after 27 years of service. Her last day will be May 5, 2026. Nicole Bungham, the current supervisor of the Office of Chronic Disease Prevention, will also be retiring in August of 2026. Lily Davalos was asked to serve by the CDC on their steering committee for the state and Community Health and Media Center, representing local public health. Cassandra Maraz from our team has been appointed to the Nevada Tobacco Control and Smoke Free Coalition Board as Secretary and Communications Chair.

Maria Azzarelli provided updates to the following:

- Let's Socialize and Get Your Pedal On Camp media campaigns
- The annual status report from the American Diabetes Association was approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Produce sales in March 2026, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and technical assistance by social services in connection with SNAP participation rates
- Hypertension and diabetes education
- The Slam Junk Health Program in partnership with Clark County and the Las Vegas Aces Women's National Basketball Association
- Third annual Because We Matter Tobacco Free Living Summit
- New Spanish language focused youth-led initiative "VIVIRAAL"

Michelle Harden called on the presenter from Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS). Susan Stich informed the council that she was not instructed to present but only to attend and report on discussions.

Michelle Harden excused Susie Stich and directed any interested party to view the CCHHS partner report on the CWCD page of the DPBH website as part of the CWCD April 22, 2026 meeting packet.

Michelle Harden called on Nicole Alberti from Northern Nevada Public Health.

Nicole Alberti went over the information found on the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Section Report Advisory Council on the State Program for Wellness and the Prevention of Chronic Disease report. This document can be found on the CWCD page of the DPBH website as part of the CWCD April 22, 2026, meeting packet.

Michelle Harden Called on Smriti Neupane of Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP).

Smriti Neupane introduced herself as representing Nevada Early Childhood Healthy Lifestyle Work Group. She went over information found on the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy Report Summary. This document can be found on the CWCD page of the DPBH website as part of the CWCD April 22, 2026, meeting packet.

**8. For Information Only: Present Division of Public and Behavioral Health CDPHP Section Updates and Program Reports- Michelle Harden**

Michelle Harden introduced Amber Hise. Together, they provided updates on the CDPHP section and program reports. This information can be found on the CWCD page of the DPBH website as part of the CWCD April 22, 2026, meeting packet.

**9. Fore Possible Action: Discussion and possible action pursuant to USC 1905(c)(1)(A): Public hearing to solicit feedback on proposed plans and allocations for the Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant program for FY2027. This provides an opportunity for both public and private stakeholders to contribute comments on the planned activities.**

Michelle Harden presented slides regarding USC 1905(c)(1)(A): Public hearing to solicit feedback on proposed plans and allocations for the Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant program for FY2027. These slides can be found on the CWCD page of the DPBH website as part of the CWCD April 22, 2026, meeting packet.

Maria Azzarelli asked if any cuts to the funding are to be expected.

Michelle Harden said she does not foresee any drastic funding changes. She also announced that she will be leaving DPBH, and all future funding would be directed through Amber Hise and Sarah Rogers. She disclosed that she would complete her Ph.D. internship with hopes of becoming a clinical psychologist.

**10. Public Comment: second public comment period**

No public comments were made during this period.

**11. Adjournment**

Maria Azzarelli motioned to end the meeting. Monica Romero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next meeting:**

July 23, 2026

1:00 PM – Adjournment

Location: Virtual via teams

Quarterly meeting

Minutes prepared by Barbara Bessol using the following reference:

Robert, H. (2020). *Robert's rules of order: Newly revised (12th ed.)*. Da Capo Press.

Nevada Revised Statutes. *Open Meeting Law (NRS 241)*.

DRAFT