

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Laura Rich
Director

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Andrea R. Rivers,
MS
Administrator

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

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

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 22, 2025

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)
Monica Romero
Cari Herington
Kagan Griffin
Nikesha Mobley
Maria Azzarelli
Steve Shane

Members not Present:

Assemblyman Dr. David Orentlicher
Dr. Amber Donnelly
Dr. Ihsan Azzam
Georgia Dounis
Laura Valley
Senator Dina Neal

Others present:

Anais Infante, DPBH – Meeting Staff
Alexis Hogan, DPBH
Tammera Brower, DPBH
Michelle Harden, DPBH, CDPHP
Bryan Davis, DPBH
Amber Hise, CDPHP
Taylor Moseley DBPH
Yanyan Qiu, CDPHP
Donadya McCullough, DPBH

Godwin Nwando, DPBH
Taliman Afroz, DPBH
Troy Lovick, DPBH
Sabrina Petrel
Teneale Chaption
Smriti Neupane, NICRP
Nicole Alberti

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Roll was called, 7 of 13 members were present, establishing quorum.

2. Public Comment: First public comment period.

Anais Infante opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was made. Dr. Schonrock closed the period for public comment.

3. Discussion and possible action to approve the meeting minutes of October 23, 2025 – Dr. Krista Schonrock, Chair

Motion to approve minutes by Maria Azzarelli, seconded by Nikesha Mobley. Approved unanimously.

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

No Updates or comments were made.

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

One member is unable to attend April 23, 2026, as they are teaching this semester. The council discussed and concluded that a Doodle poll will be sent out to determine a better day for that meeting.

Motion by Monica Romero, seconded by Cari Herington. Approved unanimously.

6. For Information Only: Present partner Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Program (CDPHP) Reports Included in Meeting Packet.

Nevada Early Childhood Healthy Lifestyle Work Group (Smriti Neupane NICRP): Contract pending; first in-person meeting Feb 17 in Las Vegas.

Southern Nevada Health District (Maria Azzarelli): The office received the 2025 Circle of Care Award from the Nevada Breastfeeding Coalition for ongoing support. Key nutrition initiatives included a four-week Spanish-language Faithful Families class with 16 participants, sponsorship of the 2025 Breastfeeding Symposium with 42 attendees, and collaboration with Clark County School District to promote Universal School Meals, resulting in increased participation rates for breakfast (20.6% to 28.2%) and lunch (48% to 54.4%). The fall pop-up produce stand series concluded with 12 events, selling over 1,113 pounds of produce, with nearly 45% of transactions using SNAP benefits. In heart disease prevention, a pilot Social Determinants of Health screening launched at three barber and beauty shops in partnership with DPBH and Roseman University. Diabetes efforts included two bilingual focus groups, three in-person self-management classes, and extensive media outreach during Diabetes Awareness Month. Obesity prevention continued through the 5210 Shop Page, supporting over 20 healthcare and community champions. Physical activity initiatives supported the Safe Routes to School program, which conducted 44 assemblies, 98 walk/bike events, 10 bike rodeos, and multiple audits and observations. Tobacco control activities included participation in community events, youth vaping prevention efforts in partnership with the Nevada Interscholastic Athletic Association (estimated reach of 60,000 students), and advocacy for smoke-free housing policies. Maria highlighted strong community partnerships and ongoing health communications, with additional details available in the quarterly report.

Northern Nevada Public Health (Nicole Alberti): The team will meet with the District Board of Health Chair next week to discuss potential program pivots based on funding priorities. She highlighted the successful completion of the *Stepping On* program, a seven-week, evidence-based falls prevention initiative for seniors conducted in partnership with physical therapists. The program included two-hour sessions each week and has been shown to reduce fall risk by 35%, with local participants reporting improved mobility and quality of life. Nicole also noted the conclusion of a two-month suicide prevention campaign on behalf of the Washoe Suicide Prevention Alliance, which utilized TV, streaming platforms, and digital media for outreach. Additionally, the team has focused on updating its website to ensure ADA compliance.

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

Michelle Harden provided key highlights from the section's activities, noting that multiple CDC and state-funded initiatives are running concurrently and integrated across programs, including the Office of Food Security. She reported a decrease in participants to 70 from 120 last year in Worksite Wellness, which will be assessed further in future reporting. In the Community Wellness unit, the cardiovascular program is preparing for Year 3 and developing a mobile app in collaboration with Southern Nevada Health District, Roseman University, and other partners. The Diabetes Prevention Program launched a hydroponic gardening project with the Nevada Business Group on Health and is expanding Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES) workshops across local health districts, primarily in Southern Nevada. Michelle also mentioned a budding partnership with SCA and emphasized ongoing work to strengthen chronic disease prevention initiatives. Additional details are available in the full report included in the meeting packet.

Troy Lovick, coordinator for the Cardiovascular Health Program, highlighted ongoing efforts under the Million Hearts initiative and the statewide cardiovascular health learning collaborative. The program is working with health systems to leverage health information technology and electronic health records to better identify hypertensive patients at risk for stroke. Engagement with EMS agencies is increasing, with some now participating in the learning collaborative. Public education efforts focus on recognizing signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke, activating emergency services, and promoting healthy eating. Troy noted that recommendations for legislation aimed at improving stroke care quality are being sought from the CWCD committee. Additionally, the annual stroke report is in progress and due in early March, with input requested from stakeholders.

8. Public Comment: second public comment period.

Anais Infante opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was made. Dr. Schonrock closed the period for public comment.

9. Adjournment:

Monica Romero made the motion to adjourn, Dr. Steve Shane second, meeting adjourned at 1:52 PM

Next meeting:

April 23, 2026 – Tentative, a Doodle poll will be used to determine a better date for those who are unable to attend April 23, 2026.

1:00 PM – Adjournment

Location: Virtual via teams

Quarterly meeting

Minutes prepared by Rory Fuller 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)*.