

Joe Lombardo,  
*Governor*

Richard Whitley,  
MS  
*Director*



## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Dena Schmidt,  
*Administrator*

Ihsan Azzam,  
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*Chief Medical  
Officer*

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

## MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** July 24, 2025

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

**Location:** Virtual via Microsoft Teams

## ATTENDEES:

### Council Members Present

Sarah Rogers – Proxy for Dr. Ihsan Azzam  
Monica Romero  
Dr. Krista Schonrock  
Laura Valley  
Dr. Steve Shane  
Cari Herington  
Kagan Griffin  
Maria Azzarelli  
Senator Dina Neal

### Members Not Present

Georgia Dounis  
Nikesha Mobley  
Assemblyman Dr. David Orentlicher  
Dr. Amber Donnelly

## **Others Present**

Rory Fuller, DPBH – Meeting Staff  
Alexis Hogan, DPBH  
Dillon Winkelman, DPBH  
Tammera Brower, DPBH  
Sabrina Schnur, Cartwright NV Government Affairs  
Lori Taylor, DPBH Office of Food Security  
Michelle Harden, DPBH, CDPHP  
Stephanie Chen, Northern Nevada Public Health  
Debbie Hernandez, DPBH  
Cade Grogan, Ferrari Reeder Public Affairs  
Bryan Davis DPBH  
Imran Williams, DPBH  
Amber Hise, CDPHP  
Taylor Moseley DPBH  
Brooke Conway Kleven, Nevada Institute of Children's Research and Policy (UNLV)  
Yanyan Qiu, CDPHP  
Anais Infante, DPBH  
Darlene Douthitt, CDPHP  
Azucena (Suzie) Talavera with Carson City Health and Human Services

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Roll was called, and nine of 13 members were present, establishing a quorum.

### **2. Public Comment: First public comment period was opened**

Rory Fuller opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were received in advance, and no public comments were received during the first public comment period. Dr. Schonrock closed the period for public comment.

### **3. Discussion and possible action to approve the meeting minutes of April 24, 2025 – Dr. Krista Schonrock, Chair**

Motion was brought by Dr. Steve Shane to approve April 24, 2025, minutes. The motion was seconded by Maria Azzarelli. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **4. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action on Kidney Disease Advisory Committee (KDAC) request for information (RFI) new member application(s)**

Michelle Harden presented the Request for Information (RFI), included in the meeting packet, which had previously been presented during the Kidney Disease Advisory Committee (KDAC) meetings, to raise awareness and recruit members for the committee.

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

Maria Azzarelli, Southern Nevada Health District, summarized recent progress across health initiatives, including expanding nutrition programs, partnering with YMCA for blood pressure classes, promoting diabetes management and healthy habits, advancing safe routes to school, supporting physical activity through summer events, and strengthening tobacco control efforts—highlighting key achievements and outreach efforts.

Stephanie Chen, Northern Nevada Public Health, summarized recent activities at Northern Nevada Public Health, including the formation of a new Population Health Division and a shift in program roles. Key highlights include collaborations for tobacco prevention events, implementation of youth-focused nutrition programs, community assessments of cannabis use led by an intern, and legislative success with AB 450 to support suicide prevention through firearm safety measures.

Brooke Conway, Nevada Institute of Children's Research and Policy (UNLV), reported that in Quarter 2, two meetings were held to review progress on the seven goals of the state plan. The Board of Health presentation has been postponed to September, where regulations supporting healthy weight initiatives will be proposed, including efforts to align NAC regulations with the national guidelines. Progress was made on the Nevada registries wellness training rubric, with training approved and staff hired at the UNR Extension. Additionally, educational materials, including a pediatric policy brief, breastfeeding toolkits, and obesity prevention brochures, are being developed for dissemination in July, August, and September.

Azucena (Suzie) Talavera, Carson City Health and Human Services, reported that recent efforts included in-person adolescent health classes in the city, with plans to resume new classes as part of the comprehensive sex education program supported by the PREP Grant. Additionally, Carson City Health and Human Services is conducting tobacco retail assessments across the Quad counties as part of their tobacco and opioid prevention grant, targeting approximately 78 retailers (approximately 30% per county), with assessments expected to conclude by the end of the month.

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

Michelle Harden provided an update highlighting CDPHP activities. Key points included the end of the CDC tobacco grant, scaled-back services, and progress with smoke-free campus adoption by the Southern Nevada Health District. Retailer GIS maps have been updated, and efforts are underway to secure new funding to restore the tobacco program. The Tribal Summit engaged 89 participants from 12 tribes, exceeding outreach goals, and a referral portal is now operational in the community. A spring self-management course has been concluded, with plans to expand brain health and dementia initiatives. The Community Wellness Unit is preparing next year's work plan, supporting breast screenings, cancer control, and the Wise Woman cardiovascular program, which has seen increased referrals. The transition to the new PHIVE system will improve data collection and evaluation, with the work plan approved and emphasizing cross-program collaboration and integrated strategies across diabetes and cardiovascular health. Michelle encouraged reviewing the full report in the meeting packet for additional details.

## **7. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action on remaining 2025 CWCD meeting dates and meeting dates for Calendar Year 2026**

The following meeting dates were discussed.

- January 22, 2026
- April 23, 2026
- July 23, 2026
- October 22, 2026

All 1:00 PM to adjournment.

Motion to approve by Sarah Rogers, seconded by Maria Azzarelli, passed unanimously.

## **8. Public Comment: Second public comment period**

Sarah Rogers provided updates on recent organizational changes and upcoming proclamations. The Nevada Health Authority has been established, resulting in the renaming of the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Human Services, with ongoing branding updates underway. The Division of Welfare and Supportive Services has also been renamed to the Division of Social Services (DSS). Additionally, proclamations recognizing August as Breastfeeding Month and September as Childhood Obesity Awareness Month are in progress, with the latter pending approval and expected to be finalized by the end of August.

## **9. Adjournment**

Cari Herington made the motion to adjourn. Dr. Steve Shane seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:41 PM

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### **Next meeting:**

October 23, 2025

1:00 PM – Adjournment

Location: Virtual via Microsoft 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 (NRS 241), *Open Meeting Law*.