

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (MCHAB)

Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2026

9:00 AM until adjournment

This meeting is a virtual meeting and there is no physical location. The public was invited to attend.

VIRTUAL INFORMATION

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

Microsoft [Microsoft TEAMS](#)

Meeting ID: 247 478 469 264 59

Passcode: NH3bw7za

Join by Phone

+1 775-321-6111, United States, Reno

Phone conference ID: 908 079 202#

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present:

- Keith Brill, MD
- Marsha Matsunaga-Kirgin, MD
- Fatima Taylor, M.Ed., CPM
- Elika Nematian, MPH
- Megan Lopez, MS, BS
- Sherri Garland, BSN, RN
- Jenna Dykes, MS, BS
- Assemblyperson Tracy Brown May

Members Absent:

- Lora Redmon, BSN, RN, RNC-DB, C-FMC
- Ann DiBiasse, BSN, RN-LC
- Senator Rochel Nguyen

Staff Present:

- Vickie Ives, MA, Bureau Chief, Child, Family, and Community Wellness (CFCW)
- Tami Conn, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, CFCW
- Alyssa DiBona, Administrative Assistant II, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH)
- Rachel Marchetti, MBA, Section Manager, MCAH
- Crystal Johnson, Title V Program Manager, MCAH
- Jordan Lancaster, MPH, Health Program Specialist I, MCAH
- Colleen Barrett, MPH, Health Program Specialist II, MCAH

- Chayna Corpuz, MPH, Health Program Specialist I, MCAH
- Cortnee Smith, MSW, Health Program Specialist I, MCAH
- Karla Rodriguez, MPH, Health Program Specialist I, MCAH
- Ryan Spencer, Program Officer, MCAH
- Helina Ashagrie, MPH, Health Program Specialist I, MCAH
- Desiree Wenzel, Program Officer I, MCAH

Guests Present:

- Toni Orr, RN
- Cindy Beard, PhD, MPH, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
- Samantha Dunning, DPBH
- Chelsey Nicol, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Cleft and Craniofacial Clinic
- Kellisa Suarez, Northern Nevada Public Health
- Alex Tanchek, Silver State Government Relations
- Christian Sharp, Nevada Health Authority (NVHA) Office of Analytics
- Jen Thompson, NVHA Office of Analytics
- Heather Kerwin, MPH, CPH, DPBH Office of State Epidemiology (OSE)
- Kaden Schorovsky, DPBH Office of State Epidemiology
- Catherine Nielsen, Executive Dir. Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD)
- Richa Chaturvedi, MPH, DPBH OSE
- Jollina Walker

Agenda Item 1

Call to Order and Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM.

Agenda Item 2

First Public Comment Period

No public comment was offered.

Agenda Item 3

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes from the February 6, 2026, Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board (MCHAB) meeting

Chair Dr. Keith Bill called for a motion to approve the February 6 meeting minutes. Sheri Garland moved to approve the minutes, and Megan Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Update on the Nevada Craniofacial Clinic

The Board received a presentation from Chelsey Nicol regarding updates to the UNLV Cleft and Craniofacial Clinic. The presentation is included in the meeting packet available on the DPBH MCHAB Board website.

Ms. Lopez inquired whether services provided through the clinic are offered at no cost. Ms. Nicol stated services for patients from birth through age eighteen are provided at no cost through available funding. She further explained that individuals over the age of eighteen may continue to receive services; however, those services are not covered by the funding program.

Dr. Brill noted his office is located adjacent to a private clinic known as Craniofacial Technologies and inquired whether it offers similar services. Ms. Nicol responded that she was not familiar with the clinic and could not speak to whether it provides free comprehensive care.

Agenda Item 5

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Recommendations for screening for Domestic Violence and Strangulation in Pregnant, Parenting, and Pediatric Patients

The Board received a presentation from Megan Lopez regarding recommendations for screening for domestic violence and strangulation in pregnant, parenting, and pediatric patients. The presentation is included in the meeting packet available on the DPBH MCHAB Board website.

Jolina Walker inquired about the process for obtaining the medical response packet, which provides guidance on what questions to ask and how to conduct domestic violence screening. Ms. Lopez advised that interested individuals may contact her via email to request the packet. She further explained that the organization prefers to provide training in conjunction with distribution of the packet to ensure recipients understand how to properly utilize the materials. Ms. Lopez also offered to coordinate a meeting at a later date through email correspondence.

Ms. Lopez reiterated that the information and packet are available to any interested individuals or organizations, including those located outside the local area. She advised that virtual meetings and training may also be arranged and encouraged interested parties to contact her directly for additional information.

Agenda Item 6

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Data Presentation on Vaccine Coverage and Congenital Syphilis and possible action on recommendations

The Board received a presentation on Congenital Syphilis and Childhood Vaccinations from Jen Thompson. The presentation is included in the meeting packet available on the DPBH MCHAB Board website.

Dr. Brill asked whether there is follow-up conducted for individuals who decline vaccinations at birth to determine if the child later receives the vaccinations.

Ms. Thompson advised that she could look into the data and stated that she believed such an analysis had not yet been conducted.

Dr. Brill noted that the agenda item was listed for possible action and asked staff whether there were any specific items for discussion.

Tami Conn clarified the purpose of the item was to provide Board members with an opportunity to discuss any aspects of the current or upcoming presentations that were of interest and, if desired, to make action recommendations related to those items.

The Board also received a presentation on Measles (MMR) Vaccination Coverage in Nevada: Trends and Spatial Analysis from Richa Chaturvedi. The presentation is included in the meeting packet available on the DPBH MCHAB Board website.

No additional questions or comments were heard from the Board.

Dr. Brill called for any proposals for possible action from the Board. No proposals were made.

Agenda Item 7

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Presentation on the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities: Down Syndrome Update

The Board received a presentation on the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities: Down Syndrome Updates from Catherine Nielsen. The presentation is included in the meeting packet available on the DPBH MCHAB Board website.

Dr. Brill recognized Assemblyperson Tracy Brown-May for questions or comments.

Assemblyperson Brown-May stated she did not have any questions; however, she wanted to recognize Ms. Nielsen and the Governor's Council for their work on the initiative. She stated that she was honored to sponsor the measure during the 2023 legislative session on behalf of many families. Assemblyperson Brown-May further commented while receiving a Down syndrome diagnosis can be difficult for families, individuals with Down syndrome lead productive and meaningful lives. She congratulated those involved on the initiative and expressed enthusiasm about sharing the website.

Ms. Nielsen thanked Assemblymember Brown-May for her work on the bill. She stated individuals with questions are encouraged to reach out and to utilize the resources referenced in the presentation. Ms. Nielsen reiterated the importance of providing supportive and informative resources to families.

Agenda Item 8

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Updates on Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Programs and Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM)/Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) Updates

Tami Conn advised the Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) team recently attended the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) annual Maternal Mortality Review Information Application (MMRIA) User Meeting (MUM). She stated Cortnee Smith was invited by the CDC to participate in a panel presentation on key informant interviews and noted that Nevada was among the first states to implement key informant interviews and incorporate that information into case reviews. Ms. Conn recognized Ms. Smith for her participation in the presentation.

Ms. Conn further shared the MMRC has increased the frequency of its meetings and case reviews and stated meetings are ongoing as the Committee and staff work to maintain the volume and frequency of case reviews throughout the year.

Ms. Conn provided an update on the MMRC's biannual legislative report, which is due at the end of the calendar year. She advised the report will highlight the Committee's work over the past two years, including recommendations made during case review meetings and a

comprehensive data overview prepared by the Office of Analytics. Ms. Conn informed the Board that Vickie Ives and she will present the first draft of the report to the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity Advisory Committee during its August meeting to solicit feedback and recommendations. She stated that the report will then be revised based on the feedback received and a more finalized version will be shared during the Committee's November meeting. Ms. Conn advised these meetings are open to the public and invited Board members to attend if interested. She further stated that the final report will be submitted by the end of the calendar year and noted, in previous years, presentations on the report had also been provided to the MCHAB Board. She indicated there may be an opportunity to present the report and recommendations to the Board as well.

Ms. Conn reintroduced the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) program. She advised AIM is a quality improvement program focused on implementing patient safety bundles designed to reduce preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity. Ms. Conn stated that the patient safety bundles are developed and certified by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). She informed the Board that six facilities are currently participating in the program and are at various stages of bundle implementation and data collection. Ms. Conn advised participating facilities are currently implementing the hypertension and hemorrhage bundles. She stated additional facilities would be engaged and onboarded before introducing a third bundle. Ms. Conn emphasized the bundles are intended to support ongoing quality improvement efforts and data collection would continue over multiple years to evaluate outcomes. She invited any hospital representatives interested in participating in the AIM program to contact Barbara Bessol or her for additional information.

Vickie Ives informed the Board DPBH staff will be producing an infographic to accompany the biannual report. She also highlighted several technical assistance initiatives, including an effort related to housing and food security, and another with Medicaid leading focused on perinatal initiatives. Ms. Ives advised there are also collaborative efforts underway related to applying for "Food is Medicine" initiatives connected to maternal and child health that Medicaid is leading. She stated the project had advanced through the first round of the funding process and that the application for funding would be submitted that day.

Ms. Conn opened the floor for questions and recognized Ms. Walker.

Ms. Walker stated she was encouraged to hear about the "Food is Medicine" initiative. She inquired whether funding opportunities exist to support lactation services and to expand the lactation workforce, particularly International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) and intermediate lactation certifications.

Ms. Ives responded the specific funding opportunity would support a coordination role across the Department of Agriculture, Nevada Health Authority, DPBH, and the Division of Social Services to align measurable, evidence-based integration efforts, including cross walking state plans and grant deliverables. She advised the initiative could also help identify policy opportunities such as prescription pantry programs and related efforts. Ms. Ives further stated if a separate funding opportunity of interest was identified, information would be shared through the listserv.

Dr. Brill recognized Erika Nematian for questions or comments.

Ms. Nematian stated she was pleased the state applied for funding for the Food is Medicine initiative. She advised several partners in southern Nevada are currently conducting

smaller-scale Food is Medicine projects utilizing local and research funding. Ms. Nematian asked about the anticipated timeline for the grant process and whether additional information could be provided.

Ms. Ives responded notification regarding the funding award would likely occur within approximately two to three months after submission, although the process could move more quickly because it is administered through a third-party entity. She noted the previous letter-of-intent selection processes had moved quickly, with notification received within approximately one month. Ms. Ives advised the Board would be informed if funding is awarded.

Agenda Item 9

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and possible action on recommendations for future agenda items

No items were brought up to the Board and no action was taken.

Agenda Item 10

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Approved future meeting dates

Dr. Brill noted the upcoming meeting dates have already been approved and stated that this item served as an informational reminder. The approved meeting dates are August 7, 2026, at 9:00am and November 6, 2026, at 9:00am.

Agenda Item 11

Second Public Comment Period

No public comment was offered.

Agenda Item 12

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Minutes were prepared by Alyssa DiBona, Administrative Assistant II, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Section, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health.