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

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 22, 2026
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Teams/Virtual

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ATTENDEES:

Council Members' Present:

Dr. Ihsan Azzam – proxy Sarah Rogers
Monica Romero
Dr. Steven Shane
Cari Herington
Kagan Griffin
Nikesha (Nikki) Mobley
Senator Michelee (Shelly) Cruz-Crawford
Assemblymember Hanadi Nadeem

Members not Present:

Dr. Georgia Dounis
Laura Valley
Dr. Amber Donnelli

Others present:

Amber Hise, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP)
Rebecca Johnson, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD)
Malcolm Ahlo, SNHD
Olufemi Erinoso, Nevada Health Authority (NVHA)
Azucena Talavera, Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS)
Stephanie Chen, Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH)
Julia Gillen, NVHA
Lynn Short, NVHA
Keith Benson, NVHA
Tammera Brower, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
Troy Lovick, CDPHP
Dillon Winkelman, CDPHP
Victoria Sepcic, Central Nevada Health District (CNHD)

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
   The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:05 PM by Interim Committee Chair Dr. Dillon Winkelman.

2. Public Comment: First public comment period
   No public comment was provided.

3. For information only: Open floor for Council members to present information of importance related to wellness and the prevention of chronic disease. Action may not be taken on any item.
   Sarah Rogers provided an update on the HealNV.com website and mentioned that due to the end of SNAP-Ed funding, DPBH partnered with the Division of Social Services (DSS) to update the website. The HealNV website is now acting as a statewide repository for all things healthy eating and active living. All materials have been vetted through representatives from DPBH, DSS, Nevada Department of Education (NDE), Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA), and the Nevada Division of Transportation (NDOT).

4. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to approve the meeting minutes from July 23, 2026.
   The Interim Chair Dr. Dillon Winkelman asked for a motion to approve the July 23, 2026 meeting minutes. Senator Michelle Cruz-Crawford motioned to approve with Nikki Mobley providing a second. The committee voted on the motion, and it passed.

5. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to determine a new CWCD Chair.
   Amber Hise requested the committee table the vote on a new CWCD Chair until next meeting so CDPHP could take information received from the Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant Program Officer to the Deputy Attorney General (DAG). Sarah Rogers motioned to table this agenda item until the January 2027 meeting with Cari Herington seconding. The committee voted on the motion, and it passed.

6. For Information Only: Oral Health Presentation
   Dr. Olufemi Erinoso presented on the State of Nevada's evaluation findings surrounding oral health status among Nevada adults with chronic disease. The presentation provided information on how the poor oral health status of adults with chronic diseases, the rising rates of diabetes, and that 26-33% of Nevada adults have at least one disability. The research question was "How did past-year dental visits and permanent tooth loss among Nevada adults change from 2018 to 2024, specifically among individuals with chronic conditions such as diabetes and disabilities?" The study analyzed the Behavioral Risk Surveillance System (BRFSS) data looking at dental visits, tooth loss, diabetes, and disability status. The study found that in 2018 individuals with diabetes were less likely to visit the dentist and by 2024 there was no significant difference between dental visits for non-diabetics or diabetics. However further analysis of disability status found that individuals with one or more disabilities were significantly less likely to visit the dentist compared to an individual with no disability. The study also looked at tooth loss and found that adults with diabetes had consistently more tooth loss than adults without diabetes and across all time periods, adults with one or more disability had higher odds and chances of tooth loss. Furthermore, as the number of disabilities increased, so did permanent tooth loss. The call to action of the presentation was to prioritize recall, screen for unmet needs, remover access barriers, and accept Medicaid patients. The recommendations for the council were to support mobile health, expand virtual care, and

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target education. The last portion of the presentation was next steps, which included piloting an oral health education tool.

After the completion of the presentation, Interim Chair Dr. Dillon Winkelman asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Steven Shane had one question regarding whether they looked at other states' data and what other states have done to improve access and prevent dental loss.

Dr. Olufemi Erinoso responded that other states have introduced educational tools that include mobile apps that provide information about oral health and how to manage their health. They also provide individuals with a list of providers to reach out to for information or assistance Dr. Olufemi Erinoso also mentioned the importance of the integration of medical and dental practices.

Interim Chair Dr. Dillon Winkelman asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, the meeting moved to agenda item 7.

7. For Information Only: Ongoing Oral Health Efforts Presentation
   Dr. Keith Benson provided an update on oral health efforts currently being conducted in the state. The focus of the presentation was the importance of oral healthcare services and expanding them to all Nevadans. An example was given on how the expansion of Medicaid to cover comprehensive dental benefits for those on ID waivers saw a roughly 30% increase in members receiving oral healthcare services. Struggles were discussed around certain aspects of care for young people and individuals with disabilities. For example, a four-year-old with a mouth full of cavities is unable to sit for a traditional office visit and would instead require care under general anesthesia. One of the biggest barriers to assisting individuals with these procedures was reimbursement. However, the state was able to address this by adopting a new code to increase reimbursement for hospitals and ASC's to cover dental costs. The state was also able to increase the reimbursement for dental anesthesiologists. One of the state's biggest successes is the adult dental benefit out of Medicaid, which came out July 1, 2026, which allows members to receive dental exams, cleanings, deep cleanings, fillings, and crowns. It was also mentioned that due to the expansion of Medicaid reimbursement, the 1115 waiver will be phased out. The importance of ARPA funding was discussed and how it helped to increase services to schools' which included screenings, sealants, and fluoride varnish. Lastly a discussion on the current CDC grant areas of focused were discussed, which included community water fluoridation, public health hygienist's toolkits, rural health adult residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities assessment, one time public health hygienist supply grants, data analysis of the school sealing program, and HPV education.

   Interim Chair Dr. Dillon Winkelman asked if there were any questions for Dr. Keith Benson. Hearing none, the meeting moved to the next agenda item.

8. For Information Only: Informational updates on council activities or directions
   No council updates provided.

9. For Information Only: Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP) partner presentations and program reports.

   Carson City Health & Human Services: updates provided by Azucena Talavera
   Staff attended 21 community outreach events. Through their health programs, they had 611 participants complete their reproductive health curriculum and 468 complete their absence-based

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curriculum. They also offered three different tobacco curriculums, and provided 506 naloxone kits and 313 safe durg disposal bags through their opioid prevention program.

Central Nevada Health District: updates provided by Victoria Sepcic

Conducted five (5) diabetes prevention courses with 36 participants between Churchill, Pershing, Eureka, and Mineral County. Individuals mentioned that they are hopeful the class will be offered virtually.

Northern Nevada Public Health: updates provided by Stephanie Chen

Collaborated with Washoe County School District on vaping prevention. Through their Grab program, NNPH was able to build relationships with community partners and retailers to expand healthy food access and improve healthy retail environments. Completed a balance screening and training for 27 seniors during Falls Prevention Awareness Week. They also launched their BC Ride Smart Stay Safe campaign to address ebike safety. Lastly, they are working with the Alzheimer's association to plan a community convening in January 2027 that will focus on brain health and cognitive decline prevention.

Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NIRCP)

No representative attended; report submitted in packet.

Southern Nevada Health District: updates provided by Rebecca Johnson

Rebecca Johnson is the new manager for the Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. They have continued their soda free summer program which reached 6,100 community members at ten (10) outreach events. To improve access to healthy food, SNHD is conducting pop-up produce stands and double up food buck's incentives. They are also continuing their Barber and beauty shop health outreach, which has screened 185 individuals for high blood pressure. Diabetes prevention and management classes in both English and Spanish are still being offered by SNHD. During childhood obesity month, they distributed toolkits to over 100 organizations and continue to maintain their 5210 resources. The Move Your Way campaign was completed, which was eight (8) events and reached more than 303, 390 residents. They are continuing to promote and conduct tobacco and vaping prevention events and programs.

No questions were asked about agency updates.

10. For Information Only: Present Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) CDPHP section updates and program reports.

Interim Chair Dr. Dillon Winkelman provided updates for the CDPHP section within DPBH.

Office of Food Security

Supports foodbanks and pantries across the state through the FHN Hunger Funds, which provided $1,850,308 to nine (9) partners in state fiscal year (SFY) 2026. These funds served 800,320 individuals with almost 1,163,466.45 pounds of food. Supports the Council on Food Security and provided assistance to their subcommittee in the writing and development of the AB405 and SB233 reports related to food security in Nevada and the Home Feeds Nevada program. The program has now shifted into SFY 2027.

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Health and Wellness Unit

Works to reduce morbidity mortality, and disability caused by tobacco and secondhand smoke. The program has two grants to support these efforts and partners with SNHD, NNPH, CCHHS, Healthy Communities Coalition (HCC), Partnership Douglas County, Nye Communities Coalition (NyECC). Through a storefront revamp project in Washoe County, a total of 14 tobacco adds were replace with healthier product messaging. This unit also manages the Building our Largest Dementia (BOLD) program, which is a federal award focused on mitigating the impact of Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Through this funding, a new program called the Reminisce Café was created by the Dementia Friendly Carson City Community group, which is a free social gathering for people living with dementia or other cognitive changes. In addition, a one-pate informational document was created to increase awareness of health resources and surrounding Alzheimer's.

Community Wellness Unit

Completed a three-day site visit with their CDC project officer for their cardiovascular health programs. Both cardiovascular awards have successfully completed all objectives for Year 3. The program also received a new award through the Rural Health Transformation Project. Through the diabetes program, Standford Center for Aging (SCA), Nevada Business Group of Health (NVBGH), and Roseman University continue to deliver Diabetes Self-Management Education Support (DSMES) classes. Medicaid discussions regarding national Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) are continuing, but no policies changes have occurred. The program has seen a meaningful growth in statewide workforce capacity regarding social determinants of health (SDOH).

Clinical and Community Engagement

Wisewomen continues to focus on reducing cardiovascular disease and hypertension among women and expanding provider networks. Women's Health Connection is working to improve breast and cervical cancer detection among low-income, high risk, and uninsured/underinsured. The hiring process is underway for a new clinical and community engagement manager.

Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant

The PHHS block grant continues to support local health agencies with unfunded or underfunded public health programs. These funds have help to support heart attack and stroke prevention classes, diabetes prevention classes, English and Spanish Diabetes Self-Management Education Support (DMES) classes, community biking events, senior active living and fall prevention classes, and the creation of a breastfeeding and childhood obesity toolkit. They also continue to fund and support the HealNV website and 5210 initiatives.

No questions were asked of the CDPHP section.

11. For Possible Action: Discussion and Possible action to confirm 2027 meeting dates
    - January 21, 2027
    - April 22, 2027
    - July 22, 2027
    - October 21, 2027

    The Interim Chair, Dr. Dillon Winkelman, asked the committee to review the due dates for next year's meetings and asked for a motion to approve the dates. Nikki Mobley motion to approve the meeting dates for 2027 with Cari Herington seconding. The committee voted on the motion, and it passed.

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12. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action for future agenda items.
    Cari Herington asked that a policy discussion agenda item be added to future agendas. Amber Hise asked if there was anything specific Cari would like to talk about. Sarah Rogers recommended a broad legislative session action item. Cari Herington asked if they could submit items before the January meeting and Amber Hise confirmed this is ok. Sarah Rogers motioned to add this legislative agenda item with Cari Herington seconding. The committee voted on the motion, and it passed.

13. Public Comment (Second Period)
    No public comment was provided.

13. Adjournment
    Interim Chair Dr. Dillon Winkelman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sarah Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Dr. Steven Shane seconding. The committee voted on the motion, and it passed.

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Next meeting:

January 21, 2027

1:00 PM – Adjournment

Location: Virtual via teams

Quarterly meeting

Minutes prepared by Dillon Winkelman 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)*.

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