

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (MCHAB)

Meeting Minutes

August 7, 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 TEAMS](#)

Meeting ID: 228 045 160 536 435

Passcode: cT6uf2nR

Join by Phone

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

Phone conference ID: 765 214 273#

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present:

- Keith Brill, MD
- Fatima Taylor, M.Ed., CPM
- Erika Nematian, MPH
- Lora Redmon, BSN, RN, RNC-DB, C-FMC
- Sherri Garland, BSN, RN
- Jenna Dykes, MS, BS
- Assemblyperson Tracy Brown May

Members Absent:

- Ann DiBiasse, BSN, RN-LC
- Senator Rochel Nguyen
- Marsha Matsunaga-Kirgan, MD
- Megan Lopez, MS, BS

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
- Cassius Adams, Health Program Specialist I, MCAH
- Shannon Frazer, Health Resource Analyst II, MCAH
- Kevin Herzik Grants and Programs Analyst I, MCAH
- Allison Gonzalez, Health Program Specialist I, MCAH

Guests Present:

- Toni Orr, RN CCHHS
- Kelly Verling, NNPH
- April Clyde, APRN, Serenity Birth and Women's Center
- Cindy Beard, PhD, MPH, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
- Jolina Walker, Doula Learning and Action Collaborative

Agenda Item 1

Call to Order and Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 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 May 1, 2026, Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board (MCHAB) meeting

Dr. Keith Brill called for a motion to approve the May 1, 2026, meeting minutes. Jenna Dykes moved to approve the minutes, and Fatima Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Nevada's Opportunity to Strengthen Community Birth Continuity, Collaboration, and Quality

The Board received a presentation from April Clyde, APRN, of Serenity Birth and Women's Center, focusing on efforts to strengthen birth continuity, collaboration, and quality. The presentation, included in the meeting packet available on the DPBH MCHAB website, prompted a detailed discussion among Board members regarding birth-center accreditation requirements, current staffing models, and opportunities for expanding birthing-center services across Nevada.

Dr. Brill asked whether any birthing centers in Nevada—either in Southern or Northern regions—operate using staffing models that rely on direct-entry midwives or certified professional midwives rather than the accredited certified nurse midwife and registered

nurse model used by Serenity Birth and Women's Center. He noted his appreciation for centers that maintain strong collaboration with hospitals and providers.

Ms. Clyde responded that Serenity Birth and Women's Center is currently the only licensed birth center in Nevada, explaining that state law requires birth centers to be accredited and staffed by certified nurse midwives and registered nurses. She stated that Nevada does not have licensure for other types of midwives.

Lora Redmon expressed interest in connecting with Ms. Clyde following the meeting to explore potential birthing-center opportunities in Northern Nevada. She shared that rural hospitals increasingly seek partnerships and educational support to strengthen nursing capacity.

Ms. Clyde noted that communities such as Reno, Elko, and Mesquite have shown interest in establishing birth centers and that such facilities may support rural maternity care needs where recruiting obstetricians or sustaining labor-and-delivery units is difficult.

Ms. Redmon noted several partnerships with rural communities and expressed their desires for partnerships, resources, and higher level training for their staff. She expressed wanting a connection in Northern Nevada within the acute care setting.

Ms. Clyde also described challenges in maintaining EMS partnerships, stating that although her center previously had a strong relationship with Las Vegas Fire and Rescue, leadership changes and the lack of regulation for home birth and non-certified nurse midwives have contributed to negative perceptions among some EMS and hospital providers. She emphasized that EMS collaboration remains a key challenge for expanding the birth-center model.

Ms. Redmon thanked Ms. Clyde and reiterated her interest in further discussion.

Agenda Item 5

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Title V Maternal and Child Health Application presentation for feedback and possible recommendations

The Board received a presentation from Crystal Johnson and Jordan Lancaster on the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant application. The presentation, included in the meeting packet on the DPBH MCHAB website, outlined current performance measures, priority areas, and planned action steps.

Dr. Brill inquired as to any specific information or takeaways that the program is looking to achieve.

Ms. Lancaster advised that the program is looking for feedback and or revisions that the board had in mind. She directs to Ms. Johnson and asks if she has any more ideas for key takeaways.

Ms. Johnson explained that the purpose of presenting the draft application to the Board was to gather feedback prior to submitting the finalized version to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Ms. Johnson indicates a had being raised.

A member of the public, Jolena Walker, asked for clarification on the definition of "children flourishing," referencing associated data in the presentation.

Ms. Lancaster committed to providing the HRSA definition.

Barbara Bessol offered to share the definition with the MCHAB Listserv.

Dr. Brill requested that the slide deck be shared with Board members to allow time for review and asked about deadlines for providing feedback.

Ms. Johnson advised that while HRSA's site visit was scheduled for September 22, Board feedback was not required by that date.

Vickie Ives provided context regarding which elements of the action plan were modifiable within the current five-year cycle and noted that performance measures stem from the MCH Needs Assessment.

Elika Nematian asked about the age range covered by Title V funding.

Ms. Johnson explained that the program serves the full spectrum of maternal and child health—from prenatal populations through women of childbearing age.

Ms. Redmon asked whether the Board could meet briefly to consolidate recommendation priorities.

Ms. Ives clarified that a special meeting could be called at the Chair's discretion, however, must be within compliance with open meeting law.

Dr. Brill asked if the board would want to make recommendations if they would need to be voted on.

Ms. Ives advised recommendations should be made under an action item.

Dr. Brill asks the board if they are interested in a special session meeting.

Ms. Redmon expressed interest in communicating to most effectively combine recommendations to give the program.

Ms. Taylor agreed to a special meeting.

Dr. Brill reiterates that to plan a special session the board would need to decide on a date and time. He asks to confirm the date in which the program needs recommendations from the board.

Ms. Ives advised the site visit is on September 23rd however there is no specific timeline in which the program would need to have recommendations from the board.

Ms. Johnson reiterated that the program is not restricted to timelines and recommends the option of adding the discussion to a future MCHAB meeting. She reinforces that the program can take and use the boards recommendations at anytime.

Dr. Brill concluded the discussion by requesting that a Title V recommendations agenda item be added to the November 6, 2026, MCHAB meeting agenda.

Agenda Item 6

For Information Only: Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) and Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC)

The Board received updates from Colleen Barrett on the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) and the Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC). Ms. Barrett explained that AIM is a national quality improvement initiative designed to reduce severe maternal

morbidity and maternal mortality through implementation of evidence-based patient safety bundles developed by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). Nevada is currently implementing obstetric hemorrhage and severe hypertension bundles, with six birthing facilities actively participating at varying stages of implementation. Additional facilities are in the onboarding process, after which Nevada plans to introduce a third safety bundle statewide. Ms. Barrett encouraged anyone seeking more information to contact her or Ms. Bessol.

Ms. Barrett also reported that the MMRC's biannual legislative report is due at the end of 2026. The report will summarize the committee's work over the past two years, including case-review recommendations and a comprehensive data analysis prepared by the Office of Analytics. The first draft is nearly ready for presentation to the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity Advisory Committee for feedback. Following revisions, the updated report will be shared with MMRC in November, with the final version to be presented to MCHAB.

Dr. Brill opened to questions or comments.

Ms. Ives shared that, in partnership with the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and DPS, a no-cost social media campaign on seat belt use during pregnancy was developed based on MMRC recommendations. She added that a subaward is forthcoming to support provider-focused and public-facing messaging and training aimed at reducing maternal mortality.

Dr. Brill asked about progress toward establishing a Nevada statewide Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PQC).

Ms. Ives reported that the Patient Protection Commission discussed several PQC-related bill draft requests (BDRs) at its August 7 meeting, and that the Interim Health and Human Services Committee reviewed PQC elements during its August 11 meeting. She noted that links to meeting materials would be shared with the Board via the Listserv.

Ms. Bessol advised she will be locating the resources discussed and send it out to the board.

Agenda Item 7

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

Dr. Brill recommended adding legislative updates and related bill draft request (BDR) tracking to the November 6, 2026, MCHAB agenda.

Ms. Redmon shared that she recently met with an individual connected to the Nevada Hospital Association (NHA) regarding the Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PQC) and suggested that the individual provide a presentation to the Board. She asked whether the topic needed to wait until the presenter was available.

Ms. Ives advised that staff could reach out to the individual to invite them and that the Title V Block Grant presentation could be re-agendized to allow for Board feedback and recommendations.

Ms. Bessol requested Ms. Redmon to send the contact information she has for Ms. Bessol to reach out to them.

Dr. Brill moved to add both the Title V MCH Block Grant feedback and recommendations item and an NHA PQC presentation to the November 6 agenda.

Ms. Redmon seconded the motion.

Ms. Nematian requested an update on the Nevada Medicaid office's application for the Food is Medicine grant.

Ms. Ives reported that Medicaid, along with the Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness and other partners, had applied for the grant; however, awards had not yet been announced. She agreed that, if information became available, the item could be added to the November agenda.

A member of the public, Jolina Walker, asked whether the public would be able to comment on the Title V Block Grant presentation.

Ms. Ives confirmed that the board would need to vote to re-agendized the topic for November and that public comment would be accepted during the designated comment periods.

Dr. Brill revisited the open motion and asked whether the Food is Medicine update should be added.

Ms. Ives clarified that new agenda items may be added prior to the meeting if relevant updates are available.

Dr. Brill elected not to include the item at this time and restated his motion to include Title V Block Grant feedback and recommendations and a PQC presentation or discussion with the Nevada Hospital Association

Ms. Bessol clarified with Dr. Brill if he also still wanted to include Legislative updates and possible BDR tracking.

Dr. Brill confirmed he was adding that agenda item to his motion.

Ms. Redmon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Approved future meeting dates

Dr. Brill confirmed that November 6, 2026, is the next scheduled MCHAB meeting. He asked whether proposed dates for the 2027 meeting calendar were available.

Ms. Ives stated that the 2027 dates will be presented to the Board at the November 6 meeting.

Dr. Brill inquired whether the Board would continue meeting on the first Friday of every third month at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Ives affirmed that this schedule is anticipated but noted that meeting dates may be adjusted at the Board's discretion during the November meeting.

Agenda Item 9

Second Public Comment Period

Dr. Brill opened the second Public Comment period. He asks Ms. Bessol if there were any emails for public comment.

Ms. Bessol informed she would look while others engaged in public comment.

Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May informed the Board that the Interim Committee on Health Work Session document had been posted publicly on the legislative website and encouraged members to review it, noting that it includes several initiatives related to maternal, fetal, and infant health, including PQC elements. She also reported ongoing work on a bill titled Momnibus, which will include multiple maternal-health-focused initiatives such as those related to Serenity Birth and Women's Center. She asked the Board to review the document and prepare for policy discussions that may arise during the next legislative session.

Dr. Brill confirmed with Assemblywoman Brown-May that the Interim Committee meeting would be held on August 11, 2026.

Assemblywoman Brown-May affirmed the date August 11, 2026 and noted the meeting time of 11am at the state legislative building.

A member of the public, Jolina Walker, shared that she is a co-leader of the Nevada team of the Doula Learning and Action Collaborative (DLAC), a three-year national initiative involving seven states aimed at improving doula access for Medicaid participants. She noted that Nevada is entering its second year of participation and described ongoing efforts to strengthen infrastructure, workforce accessibility, and care coordination for Medicaid populations. She provided the website dlacnv.com for additional information.

No further public comment was offered.

Agenda Item 10

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 AM.

Minutes were prepared by Barbara Bessol, Administrative Assistant III, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Section, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health.