

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATE PROGRAM FOR WELLNESS AND THE  
PREVENTION OF CHRONIC DISEASE**

**MINUTES**

**November 10, 2022**

**1:00 p.m.**

The Advisory Council on the State Program for Wellness and the Prevention of Chronic Disease held a public meeting on 11/10/2022, beginning at 1:06 p.m., held over Microsoft Teams.

**Board Members Present**

Andrew Snyder, MAT, NDE

Caitlin Gatchalain

Cari Herington, MBA, Nevada Cancer Coalition

Tina Dortch, MPA

Laura Valley

Maria Azzarelli, EMHA, CHES

Amber Donnelly, RN, PhD, CNE, Vice Chair

Ihsan Azzam, PhD, MD, MPH

Chris Needham, MBA, Healthcare and Health Plan Administrator, UHS Inc.

Steven Shane, MD, MS, FAAP, ABOM-Nevada AAP Obesity Prevention Chair

Georgia Dounis, DDS, MS, FICD

**Board Members Not Present**

Chris Syverson, Chair

Senator Dina Neal, JD

Stacy Briscoe, MS

Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow, M.Ed.

**Division of Public and Behavioral Health Staff Present**

Lily Helzer, MPH, Section Manager, (CDPHP), Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)

Sarah Rogers, MPH, NDTR, CLC, Nutrition Unit Deputy Chief, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Emily Sanchez, Administrative Assistant, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Lynsie Powell, Office Manager, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Nicole Dutra, MPH, Youth Tobacco Prevention Coordinator, CDPHP

Michelle Harden, MPA, Population Health & Wellness Manager, CDPHP

Bret Sarnquist, MPH, Community Prevention & Wellness Evaluator, CDPHP

Sara Knight, Systems & Reporting Analyst, CDPHP

Vickie Ives, Deputy Bureau Chief, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Courtney Lococo, Integrated Program Evaluator, CDPHP, CFCW, CDPHP

Esmeralda Chavez, Diversity Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, CDPHP

Kathie Taylor, Public Information Officer, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Laura Borntrager, Fiscal Manager, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Troy Lovick, MS, Heart Disease & Stroke Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Yami Melendez, Systems Improvement Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Mick Poole, Fiscal Trainee, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Sarah Motts, Synar Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Becky Follmer, Systems Analyst, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Sara Dombrowski, Nevada Health Aging, Caregiving, & Innovation Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Jacie Peters, Fiscal Staff, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Kathrine Wright, Food Security Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

**Others Present**

Lea Case, Belz & Case Government Affairs  
Larry Lehrner, Nephrologist, Las Vegas  
Brooke Conway-Kleven, PT, DPT, PhD, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy  
Glahnnia Rates, MS, Epidemiologist, CDC Foundation, Occupational Health & Health Equity Unit  
Stephanie Chen, Washoe County Health District  
Rocko Graziano, Director of Operations, Fresenius Medical Care North America  
Nicki Aaker, Carson City Health and Human Services  
Maria Garcia, Sr. Director Gov Affairs, Fresenius Medical Care North America  
Jeanette Belz, Belz & Case Government Affairs  
Linda Anderson, Nevada Public Health Foundation

**1. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken and determined a quorum of the Advisory Council on the State Program for Wellness, and the Prevention of Chronic Disease (CWCD) was present, per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 439.518

**2. Public Comment**

Vice Chair Dr. Amber Donnelly noted that members of the public may speak for public comment.

Vice Chair Donnelly noted no comments made.

**3. Approve Minutes from the August 18th, 2022 Meeting**

Vice Chair Donnelly asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the August 18th, 2022 meeting.

None heard.

**Chris Needham made a motion to approve the minutes. Cari Harrington seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**4. Possible Action to Recommend New Board Members for Appointment**

Vice Chair Donnelly opened discussion to recommend new board members for appointment to include one (1) Registered Dietician and one(1) representative of the health industry.

Lily Helzer confirmed a received application for the Registered Dietician seat and stated there were no applications for the second seat.

**Dr. Steve Shane motioned to appoint Kagan Griffin as a new board member to fill the seat of the Registered Dietician. Dr. Ihsan Azzam seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

#### **5. Present CDPHP Section & Program Update**

Ms. Helzer presented the Chronic Disease and Health Promotion updates on the five-year strategic plan.

Ms. Helzer noted efforts being made to better integrate primary prevention through the section, improve evaluation processes for all parties, and new grant forecasts for several programs.

Ms. Helzer directed members to see the CDPHP Section Update document for more information on specific programs. ([CDPHP Section Updates 11.10.22](#))

#### **6. Present Local Health Authority CDPHP Program Reports**

Vice Chair Donnelly introduced Maria Azzarelli to provide updates and give a program report for Southern Nevada Health District. ([Combined Local Health Authority Updates](#))

Ms. Azzarelli noted an increase in attendance to the self-management education class pertaining to diabetes and queried if recording the classes would be appropriate to accommodate the increased interest in the self-management education courses.

Ms. Azzarelli stated query must be discussed further within the SNHD team.

Ms. Harrington requested elaboration on the operation of the fresh produce stand and requested more information on how members can partner with SNHD for collaborative efforts.

Ms. Azzarelli explained that SNHD is working with a local partner such as Together We Can, to bring fruits and vegetables to community members, which is purchased from a licensed mobile unit at a lower cost.

Ms. Azzarelli mentioned that grant funding is used, and the costs associated with the produce stands is something to consider when discussing possible partnership.

Vice Chair Donnelly asked for any questions or comments.

None heard.

Vice Chair Donnelly introduces Stephanie Chen to give the Washoe County Health District update.

Ms. Chen stated the report can be found in the combined program updates and opened the floor for discussion and questions.

None heard.

Vice Chair Donnelly introduced Nicki Aaker, Director of Carson City Health and Human Services and acting manager for the Chronic Disease Division.

Ms. Aaker presented updates on the Adolescent Health Education Program, outreach events, and the estimated one-year long project to convert Carson City Health and Human Services into a trauma informed care agency.

Ms. Aaker referred members to <https://gethealthycarsoncity.org/tobacco/> for additional information on the tobacco industry.

Ms. Aaker opened the floor for questions.

None heard.

Vice Chair Donnelly introduced Ashley Gurr who provided the Elko County update.

Ms. Gurr mentioned the community outreach efforts being made in Elko County.

Vice Chair Donnelly opened the floor to queries.

Brooke Conway spoke on behalf of Amanda Haboush-Deloye to give the update for Nevada Institute of Children's Research and policy.

Vice Chair Donnelly called for any questions.

None heard.

#### **7. For Action- Kidney Disease Task Force as Subcommittee of CWCD**

Vice Chair Donnelly referred members to the meeting packet for more information on the election of members for possible action to include members of the CWCD.

Ms. Helzer confirmed there are applications in the meeting packet for the board to look at and decide if there is a qualified candidate to add to the Kidney Disease Task Force Subcommittee.

Ms. Helzer noted it is up to the discretion of this board to determine if the applicants are qualified for the positions.

Dr. Donnelly asked if any members of the board would like the candidates to leave the forum before discussion begins.

No oppositions heard.

Dr. Donnelly asked if there are any questions for the applicants.

None heard.

Dr. Donnelly confirmed board members reviewed the resumes and information included in the packet.

Dr. Donnelly consults Ms. Helzer to locate information on the candidate Joe Ferreira.

Ms. Helzer explained no resume was received for Mr. Ferreira and the application can be tabled if the board prefers to see a resume.

Dr. Donnelly recommended this action be postponed due to insufficient amount of information and entertains a motion to do so in lieu of waiting for a resume.

**Tina Dortch motioned to table the application. Dr. Shane seconds the motion, which then passed unanimously.**

Vice Chair Donnelly asked for further discussion regarding the other two candidates, Dr. Lawrence Lehrner and Rocko Graziano.

None heard.

Dr. Donnelly made a motion for approval. Ms. Helzer requests clarification on the motion of approval.

Dr. Donnelly responded the motion is to proceed with one applicant at a time.

**Ms. Azzarelli moved to approve Dr. Lerner. Dr. Azzam seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.**

Dr. Donnelly asked for any oppositions.

None heard.

**Dr. Azzam motions to approve Rocco Graziano's application. Dr. Shane seconds the motion, which then passes unanimously.**

Dr. Donnelly welcomed both individuals to the board with hopes of recruitment efforts to fill other vacancies.

#### **8. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Vice Chair Donnelly stated the next section of the meeting will proceed to the Kidney Disease Task force and confirmed with Ms. Helzer that roll needed to be recalled.

Emily Sanchez reestablished quorum by calling roll and determined a quorum of the Advisory Council was present.

#### **9. Public Comment**

Vice Chair Donnelly opened the floor for public comments. None heard.

## **10. Discussion and Possible Recommendations Regarding Council's Role in Increasing Education**

Vice Chair Donnelly asked for any board members that can speak to the topic.

None heard.

Dr. Donnelly invited Mr. Graziano to speak about increasing education regarding kidney disease.

Mr. Graziano mentioned the need for more education to primary care providers and more information available to underserved populations, in order to diagnose kidney diseases at a faster rate than what is currently being done.

## **11. Informational**

Dr. Donnelly asked for additional conversation from the board to develop key areas when discussing future agenda items.

Ms. Dortch mentioned the disproportionate effect this subject matter has on underserved communities and suggested rethinking how outreach is conducted in Nevada communities.

Mr. Graziano responded in agreement with Ms. Dortch that more work needed to be done which focuses on the African American and Hispanic populations.

Dr. Lehrner added the importance of education for the general population as well as the importance of educating physicians to identify patients as early as possible.

Ms. Dortch asked how this council could have someone show up in the community to increase outreach initiatives.

Mr. Graziano volunteered to assist in further developing documents and training manuals for educational and outreach purposes.

Dr. Lerner discussed the prevalence of diabetes and hypertension when screening for kidney disease and possible collaboration with DaVita Dialysis Chain to provide more education into the communities.

Dr. Azzam mentioned the importance of defining a mission, setting clear goals, and developing an action plan for field operations or outreach programs to serve patients and providers in Nevada communities.

Dr. Donnelly thanked the board members for contributing to the discussion.

## **12. Public Comment**

Vice Chair Donnelly asked for public comment.

None heard.

## **13. Adjourn as Kidney Disease Task Force, Reconvene as CWCD**

**Dr. Azzam entertains a motion to adjourn the Kidney Task Force. Chris Needham seconds the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**14. Informational**

Vice Chair Donnelly invited Ms. Helzer to complete recognition of outgoing board members.

Ms. Helzer thanked Stacy Briscoe and Chris Needham for many years on the Advisory Board and valuable input brought to the table by both individuals.

**15. Public Comment**

Vice Chair Donnelly asked for public comment to be made at this time.

Dr. Shane asked Ms. Helzer for more information on the kind of barriers that may be in place as it relates to enrollment in federally funded assistance programs.

Ms. Helzer offered to provide a more comprehensive overview as it pertains to the WIC program as well as other food service programs at a future meeting.

Dr. Donnelly called on Mitch DeValliere for public comment.

Dr. DeValliere recommended the board begin determining bylaws for the Kidney Disease Advisory Committee per Deputy Attorney General.

Dr. Donnelly asked for any additional public comment.

None heard.

**Vice Chair Donnelly entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Needham and seconded by Dr. Shane, which passed unanimously.**

**The meeting adjourned at 2:13 PM**