

Nevada Department of Native American Affairs

Tribal Health Authority Council Introductory Meeting Summary

July 28, 2026

Time	Location	Format
10:05am to 11:38am	Virtual meeting (Microsoft Teams recording/transcript)	Online introductory session

Attendance

Tribal Health / Voting-Member Participants	DNAA / Commission Participants	State, IHS, and Other Participants / Notes
Fergus Loughridge, Fort McDermott Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Wellness Center Michael Jackson, Reno-Sparks Tribal Health Director Jon Pishion, Fallon Tribal Health Center Garrett Garber, Ely Shoshone Tribal Clinic Teresa Thomas, Owyhee Community Health	Stacey Montooth, Executive Director Kaitlynn Romero, DNAA Program Coordinator Dr. Art Martinez, DNAA Commissioner Savena Rogers, DNAA Programs Officer	Monica Schiffer, Nevada Health Authority Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles, Nevada Health Authority Tiffany Davis, Consumer Health Services / Nevada Health Authority Jason Molino, Division of Public and Behavioral Health Edwin Centeno, Nevada Health Authority Vanessa Justice, Division of Social Services Connie Martinez, Nevada Medicaid Mitch De Vallier, DPBH agency manager Additional attendees joined or were referenced during introductions

Meeting Overview

The discussion addressed how the newly established Tribal Health Authority Council will coordinate with existing tribal health director meetings and other tribal health activities. Participants clarified that the regular monthly tribal health director meetings are expected to continue separately from the Council's public meetings.

The group also discussed a potential collaboration between the State Dental Officer, Nevada Medicaid, and a tribal health clinic on a diabetes or other health intervention project for tribal members.

Motion and Decisions

A motion was made to move forward with the FMAP reinvestment proposal and present the proposal to Nevada Legislature. The motion was approved and the Council agreed to proceed with the FMAP reinvestment proposal and to move forward with the Bill Draft Request (BDR).

Tribal Health Director Meetings and Council Coordination

Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles asked whether regular tribal health director meetings would continue in addition to the Tribal Health Authority Council meetings. She explained that the existing meetings have been useful for providing updates on both major projects and smaller operational matters and asked whether those topics could continue to be addressed through the health director meetings.

She also raised a question about whether continuing those meetings would create any conflict with open meeting requirements.

Jon Pishion clarified that the monthly health director meetings are expected to continue. He noted that those meetings are different from the formal Council meetings and are intended primarily for health directors, liaisons, and Indian Health Service participants, THAC will serve as a separate, more formal public meeting.

Proposed Tribal Health Clinic Collaboration

Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles introduced a potential collaboration requested by State Dental Officer Dr. Keith Benson.

The proposed project would involve partnering with one tribal health clinic on a diabetes or broader health intervention for tribal members. The project would potentially include:

- An initial questionnaire;
- A health intervention;
- A post-intervention questionnaire; and
- Evaluation of the results.

Nahayvee asked whether any tribal health clinics would be interested in participating and offered to arrange a more detailed discussion with Dr. Benson and the Nevada Medicaid team.

Director Loughridge expressed interest in the proposal and suggested that Dr. Benson and the state team provide a presentation at the regular tribal health director meeting coordinated by Donna. Nahayvee agreed and stated that she would contact Donna to coordinate the presentation.

Participant Contributions

Tribal Health Directors and Representatives

- Director Loughridge, expressed interest in the proposed health intervention collaboration. Suggested that Dr. Benson and the state team present the project at an upcoming tribal health director meeting. Recommended using the existing health director meeting structure to introduce the project and determine tribal clinic interest.
- Jon Pishion clarified that the monthly tribal health director meetings are expected to continue. Explained that the meetings provide a more informal forum for health directors, liaisons, and IHS representatives. Distinguished those meetings from the formal public meetings of the Tribal Health Authority Council.

State and Policy Partners

- Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles had asked for clarification regarding the continued role of tribal health director meetings that raised questions about how the meetings relate to open meeting requirements.
- Presented the proposed diabetes/health intervention project on behalf of Dr. Keith Benson.
- Offered to coordinate additional information and discussions with Dr. Benson and the Nevada Medicaid team.
- Agreed to contact Donna about arranging a presentation at an upcoming tribal health director's meeting.

Public Comment and Participation Update

Kaitlynne provided an update regarding participation letters that had been distributed to Tribal Health entities. She reported receiving completed participation letters from:

- Fort McDermitt

- Owyhee
- Reno
- Ely
- Las Vegas

Additional participation letters were still being received. Kaitlynne reminded participants that she remained available by phone or email to answer any questions and indicated that she would continue following up with participants.

Next Steps

- DNAA will continue to follow up on participation letters.
- Dr. Keith Benson and NV Medicaid are seeing a Tribal health clinic partner for a proposed diabetes/health intervention project.