

Nevada Department of Native American Affairs

Tribal Health Authority Council Introductory Meeting Summary

October 1, 2026

Time	Location	Format
1:03 PM to 1:45 PM	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 Sasha Jones, Owyhee Community Health Facility / Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, attending for the health director Jon Pishion, Fallon Tribal Health Center Michael Jackson, Reno-Sparks Indian Health Brenda O'Neil, Duckwater Health Clinic Garrett Garber, Ely Shoshone Tribal Clinic Fabian Solis, Las Vegas Indian Tribal Health Clinic	Stacey Montooth, Executive Director Kaitlynne Romero, DNAA Program Coordinator Dr. Art Martinez, DNAA Commissioner	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 Devon Pickles, Department of Human Services, Tribal Liaison Additional attendees joined or were referenced during introductions

Leadership Highlights

- Before nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair, Kaitlynne provided an overview of the proposed Chair responsibilities contained in the drafted bylaws.
- The Chair duties include but not limited to:
 - Presiding over Council meetings and calling meetings to order,
 - Confirming a quorum is present before conducting Council business,
 - Conducting Council business in accordance with the bylaws, applicable law, and Council policies and procedures,
 - Working with Council Coordinator and Vice-Chair as appropriate to develop meeting agendas and establish Council priorities,
 - Facilitating meetings and guiding discussion in an orderly and respectful manner, ensuring Council members have a meaningful opportunity to participate, etc.,
- Kaitlynne also reported that she had been working with the Deputy Attorney General, the DNAA Commissioner Dr. Art Martinez, and consulted with the Oregon Health Authority regarding the development of Council bylaws.
- Fergus Laughridge nominated Jon Pishion to serve as Chair. A vote was conducted, giving Jon Pishion the role as Chair of the Council.
- Fergus Laughridge was also nominated for Vice Chair, and the nomination was passed unanimously.

Meeting Overview

After the election of Chair and Vice Chair, Kaitlynn presented an update on the drafted Council bylaws. She emphasized that the bylaws remain in draft form and that she intended to meet with the Deputy Attorney General again before distributing the revised document to Council members. She also invited Council members to provide additional suggestions.

Participant Contributions

Tribal Health Directors and Representatives

- Jon Pishion asked whether urban Indian health organizations would be included in the Council structure. It was clarified that urban Indian health organizations are not voting members but are invited to Council meetings to provide input.
- The Council discussed allowing members a few weeks to review and submit comments. This way the bylaws can be put as an agenda item for **discussion and possible action** at next Council meeting.

State and Policy Partners

- Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles asked whether non-voting Tribal liaisons would receive a copy of the bylaws and have an opportunity to provide feedback even though they would not have voting authority. She also suggested clarifying the role of Tribal liaisons, including whether the Council intends to have a Tribal liaison for each department or division represented by a state agency and how non-voting agency representatives will participate in Council activities.
- Dr. Art Martinez highlighted the value of comparing Nevada services with Tribal health services in other states and suggested an environmental scan of service models, including traditional healing services.

Council Survey and Strategic Planning

Kaitlynn provided a brief update on the Tribal Community Health Survey. No additional survey responses had been received since the previous presentation. The current findings therefore represent responses from **five of the eight** participating Tribal communities.

Current Health Priorities Identified in Key Findings:

1. Diabetes
2. Heart disease
3. Behavioral health
4. Obesity
5. Hypertension

Barriers and Service Needs:

- Transportation and geographic distance;
- Access to specialty care;
- Behavioral health services;
- Emergency care;
- Elder services; and
- Access to health care based on location.

Kaitlynn emphasized that additional responses are needed to develop a more complete understanding of health priorities across Nevada's Tribal communities especially when creating the strategic plan for the Council.

She also identified the survey as an opportunity for Tribal communities to share strengths, successful approaches, and areas where additional support may be needed.

The Council discussed establishing a firm deadline for submission of outstanding surveys.

Kaitlynne explained that the survey consists of approximately 13 questions and generally takes 5–10 minutes to complete. Tribal health programs may designate a staff member to complete the survey. Kaitlynne also offered to complete the survey by phone with participating communities or provide the survey link directly to designated staff.

Council members agreed to a firm deadline for outstanding survey responses, aligned with the timeframe for the strategic plan.

Future Agenda Items

The Council identified the following topics for the October 15 at 1:30pm meeting and future meetings:

1. Council Bylaws

- Review member comments.
- Discuss revisions.
- Consider approval of the bylaws.

2. FMAP/BDR Update

Fergus Laughridge requested an update regarding the Bill Draft Request concerning FMAP reinvestment, including:

- Current status of the BDR;
- Coordination with Nevada Medicaid;
- Development of final language; and next steps

3. IHS Phoenix Area / Medical Center Consultation

Fergus Laughridge requested discussion regarding the planned **December 1 consultation in Reno** concerning the Indian Health Service Phoenix Area and proposed medical center development.

The Council discussed the importance of understanding the consultation and potentially developing a coordinated perspective regarding health care access for Tribal communities in Nevada.

Jon Pishion reported that he had communicated with Hope Johnson, Director of Office of Self-Determination and Tribal Liaison, and that a location for the consultation was still being determined.

4. 1115 Traditional Healing Waiver

Dr. Art Martinez requested an update on work related to the **1115 waiver for traditional health services**.

Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles agreed to provide an update at the next Council meeting following the October 14 Tribal Consultation.

5. Rural Health Transformation

The Council requested a presentation/update concerning Rural Health Transformation funding and related opportunities.

Nahayvee indicated that the October 14 Tribal Consultation would include information regarding the Rural Health Transformation grant.

The Council discussed inviting members of the Rural Health Transformation team to a future Council meeting, potentially in November.

6. Future Meeting Schedule

Formal consideration and possible adoption of the recurring meeting schedule will be included as a future action item.

Additional Participant Updates and Public Comments

A. Community Listening Sessions

Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles reported that a Tribal Consultation was scheduled for **October 14 at 9:00 AM** and that presentations would be provided concerning current health initiatives.

She also reported plans for community listening sessions throughout Nevada and invited Tribal health clinics and communities to host sessions.

Monica Schiffer encouraged the use of a variety of community locations, including:

- Tribal health clinics;
- Community centers;
- Senior centers; and
- Other appropriate community spaces.

She also suggested including traditional healers in community engagement efforts so that the Council and state partners can hear directly about traditional healing and community needs.

B. Nevada Health Authority Staffing Update

Monica Schiffer announced that she had accepted a new position with the Nevada Health Authority related to the SHARP grant. She stated that she would continue to remain involved with the work.

Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles reported that she would be hiring a Tribal Liaison to take over Monica's previous position and invited recommendations of potential candidates.

C. Personal Care Workforce Training

Autumn Blattman provided information regarding a free, online training opportunity for individuals interested in becoming personal care attendants.

The training:

- Is free;
- Is available online;
- Is approximately 10 hours;
- Includes a **\$250 incentive** upon completion; and
- Is intended to help increase the personal care workforce serving elders and people with disabilities.

Autumn stated that a formal announcement and flyer would be distributed through the DNAA listserv once finalized.

D. Rural Health Transformation — Children's Behavioral Health Funding

Carissa Pearce provided an update regarding children's behavioral health funding through Rural Health Transformation.

She reported that **\$2 million** had been received for sub granting opportunities related to children's behavioral health and provider recruitment and retention.

Carissa stated that:

- An information session is being developed;
- A survey is available to gather input regarding potential projects;
- A public workshop is anticipated for **October 16 at 1:00 PM**; and
- A Request for Applications is anticipated toward the end of October.

Information regarding the opportunity will be shared with Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles and Kaitlynne Romero for distribution to Tribal health directors.

The Council expressed interest in receiving a Rural Health Transformation presentation at a future meeting.

Health Director Jackson, stated in the comments that the IHS will host two upcoming joint Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer sessions on the following dates:

- **Monday, November 9, 2026 – Phoenix, Arizona**
- **Tuesday, December 1, 2026 – Reno, Nevada**

Next Steps

- Kaitlynne Romero will draft and distribute a health director survey, with approximately two to three weeks for responses.
- Future agenda items may include:
 - Council bylaws — discussion, revisions, and possible approval
 - FMAP Reinvestment BDR update
 - IHS/Indian Medical Center consultation discussion
 - 1115 Traditional Healing Waiver update
 - Rural Health Transformation update
 - Future meeting schedule — discussion and action
 - Additional public comment and Council business