

Meeting Minutes: Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council

Date: April 19, 2024

Minutes prepared by: DHS Community Relations Staff

Location: WebEx and Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy (Hybrid)

Attendance

- **CECLC Members:** Shawn Sorrell, Paul Slack, Lolita Davis-Carter, Nelly Torori, Philip Gaye-Bai, Farhia Said, Lashalle Campbell, Kimetha Johnson, Chris Green, Alex Abraha, Joanna Rosa, Lizzette Banini, Tonia Lofton, Cratè Darden, Micaela Schuneman, Josefina Geronimo, Mozana Ebrahim, Opalina Peralta
- **DHS Staff:** Helen Ghebre, Cate Dymit, Nina Harris, Kelly Barnebey, Nikki Farago, De Anna Conover, Jerad Green, Malissa Adams, Gaosheng Thao, Nicole Urbatch, Liz Scherber, Nathan Chomilo, Angie DeLille
- **Public Attendees:** Alfred Solis, Rena Moran, Anita Fineday

Agenda

12:00	Lunch and Community Networking / WebEx Opens
1:00	Open Public Meeting and Land Acknowledgement
1:05	Introductions and Welcome
1:20	Review and Approve Meeting Agenda and Minutes
1:25	Community Celebrations and Shoutouts
1:35	Workgroup Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislative & External Workgroup• Topics & Issues Workgroup• Equitable Outcomes Workgroup• CECLC Updates – Legislative Report / Administrative
1:55	IDI Overview Presentation
2:15	Break

2:25	Reflections from the 2024 Medicaid Equity Forum
3:00	CECLC SST Retreat Planning Team Meeting Invite
3:15	2025 Budget/Strategize for 2025 Legislative Session [Large Group Discussion]
4:00	Closing

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and Introductions

Shawn Sorrell welcomed everyone and led the council through a land acknowledgement and introductions.

Decisions Made

Review and approve March minutes and meeting agenda:

- Motion to approve meeting agenda and March minutes: Paul Slack
- Second: Lashalle Campbell
- The motion passed

Community Celebrations and Shoutouts

Shawn Sorrell opened the floor for members to share.

- Nina Harris gave a shoutout to Pachua Vang for her leadership with the Hmong Nurses Association. There will be a free health clinic targeted toward the Hmong community on Saturday, April 20 in St. Paul. Organizers believe it is [the first of its kind in the nation](#). Nina also gave a shoutout to Foua-Choua Khang for her expertise and service to Southeast Asian residents. She offers [business training at no cost](#) to Southeast Asian businesses and operators (employees of a business/nonprofit/organizations) throughout Minnesota.
- Kimetha Johnson shared the Residents of Color Collective (ROCC) and Dakota Parks 2024 Community Wellness and Resource Fair on Saturday, April 27 from 11am-3pm at Thompson County Park in West St. Paul.
- De Anna Conover shared DHS is a sponsor of the [People of Color Career Fair](#) on Wednesday, April 24 from 9am-2pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Gaosheng Thao added to let her know if you plan to attend so that you can receive a DHS t-shirt to wear.
- Mozana Ebrahim shared the Twin Cities Rise presents L.I.V.E. Empowered event on Wednesday, May 22 from 2-4pm at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis.
- Nikki Farago shared on Wednesday, May 1 from 11:30am-9pm is [the grand reopening](#) of the Minneapolis American Indian Center (MAIC). It will include a parade, open house, and powwow.
- Shawn Sorrell acknowledged and expressed gratitude for Nina Harris' many contributions to the CECLC. Nina accepted another opportunity within DHS, and we wish her well. To that, Nina said it has been a true delight working with the council.

Workgroup Updates

Legislative and Policy Workgroup

Joanna Rosa shared the workgroup met with the Council of Minnesotans for African Heritage (CMAH) who provided information on ways the CECLC can support the African American Family Preservation Act. Tikki Brown, Assistant Commissioner for Children and Family Services, and Jennifer Sommerfeld, Director of Legislative and External Affairs, presented and shared DHS's position on the proposed legislation and provided status updates. Tikki shared the bill has broadened its scope to be inclusive of all ethnicities, to provide greater leverage for it to pass.

Rena Moran, Ramsey County Commissioner and original co-author of the African American Family Preservation Act, indicated Senator Bobby Joe Champion added an amendment to the bill to make Ramsey and Hennepin Counties a pilot, with implementation across the state in 2026-2027. She is heartened to see the CECLC has robust engagement and diverse representation. She encouraged council members to continue its progress and keep the fight.

Topics and Issues Workgroup

At its last meeting, the workgroup heard an update of the Department of Children Youth and Family (DCYF) transition from its Implementation team. The workgroup expressed concerns with them about siloing. It has invited Elizabeth Ebot, Assistant Transition Director, and Anita Fineday, Transition Director, to present new initiatives, outreach, and strategic implementation for the new agency.

The workgroup has also invited staff from the Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy to share some of the upcoming newly implemented trainings within the child protection/mandated reporter trainings, and Shaneen Moore, State Director of Child Support, to present on the Whole Family Systems Framework that will be reflected within the equity priorities of the new agency.

Equitable Outcomes Workgroup

At its last meeting, Cratè Darden shared the workgroup did a deeper dive into the metrics in the Equity Analysis toolkit and Operations Dashboard with Ashley Oolman, DHS Equity Director for Operations. It is hoping to have more equity-focused presentations from DHS staff in future meetings.

The workgroup is seeking two CECLC members to volunteer as co-leads, starting in early autumn. They can shadow the current co-leads as they transition toward that role. Lashalle Campbell expressed interest in shadowing.

The workgroup is also seeking subject matter experts to discuss inequities within the Senior Waivers program and will connect with staff from the Aging & Disability Services Administration (ADSA).

Administrative Updates

Helen Ghebre emphasized Community Relations wishes to be thoughtful in managing its email communication to the council; therefore, her team will limit email updates to two times per week unless there are urgent items.

Please send community events, flyers, job opportunities, etc. by noon on Monday following these monthly meetings for inclusion in the post-meeting email update.

Shawn Sorrell is seeking a CECLC co-chair as Foua-Choua Khang transitions out of that role. He invited interested council members to shadow the current co-chairs to learn more.

IDI Overview Presentation

Shawn Sorrell introduced Nicole Urbatch, an Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) facilitator at DHS who provided an overview of the assessment, including how it is administered and how results are shared with users. Her slide deck will be distributed after today's meeting.

The CECLC is interested in this tool in order to understand and track how DHS continues to advance its Intercultural Development Plan (IDP); how it has implemented ongoing action steps to its IDI findings. The Healthcare Administration leadership recently took the IDI. They were in "Minimization" when they first took it and are now at the very tip of "Acceptance" – so there has been progress and commitment to improvement. This is true across DHS. There is the expectation leaders engage with the IDI every 2-3 years.

It was asked if those who have had a recent individual assessment should take it again. Answer: No, not necessary. However, the only way to be included in a CECLC group debrief is to take an iteration of the assessment or if there is an existing assessment in the enterprise database, which can be incorporated. The council will have further discussion on this and will be given steps to arrange an individual IDI with Nicole.

Reflections from the 2024 Medicaid Equity Forum

Shawn Sorrell introduced Dr. Nathan Chomilo, DHS Medical Director for Medicare and MinnesotaCare, who presented some reflections on the 2024 Medicaid Equity Forum as well as data shared with forum participants. His slide deck will be shared after today's meeting.

Dr. Chomilo also presented on the progress of the *Pathways to Racial Equity in Medicaid: Improving the Health and Opportunities for American Indians in Minnesota* report. The draft is slated to be released in July, with publication in July/August 2024. DHS staff leading this project have gathered a group of American Indian policy makers, tribal leaders, tribal researchers, and providers together to inform the report's data interpretation. These sessions will also inform Calls to Action in the report. There is a commitment to have at least three sessions between March and May that will build upon one another. His slide deck will be shared after today's meeting.

Shawn encouraged council members to share this opportunity for engagement within their various networks to ensure broad participation.

CECLC SST Retreat Planning Team Meeting Invite

Shawn Sorrell introduced Liz Scherber, Planning Director in the DHS Office of Strategy and Performance, who worked with Community Relations to add a CECLC Meet & Greet to the April 24th SST Retreat agenda. This

would afford the council an opportunity to engage with all 63 senior leaders and equity directors. More information will be shared in the post-meeting email update. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

2025 Budget/Strategize for Legislative Session

Due to the time, this item was tabled. Some of the work will likely occur in advance, then brought to the council for discussion at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:38 PM