

Meeting Minutes: Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council

Date: August 15, 2025

Minutes prepared by: DHS Community Relations Staff

Location: WebEx and International Institute of Minnesota (Hybrid)

Attendance

- **CECLC Members:** Chris Green, Shawn Sorrell, Philip Gaye-Bai, Josefina Geronimo, Micaela Schuneman, Joanna Rosa, Angela Fields, Farhia Said, Alex Abraha, Paul Slack, Victor Obisakin, Tonia Lofton, Lolita Davis Carter
- **State Agency Staff:** Helen Ghebre, Lola Muhammad, Deputy Commissioner Nikki Farago, Hli Vang, Yvette Kanzler, De Anna Conover, Sophia Mai, Yasmin Yahye, Jewelly Lee, Leigh Grauman, Kristy Graume, Micah Tran, Bahea Manasra, Julia Stumpf, Bilqis Amatus-Salaam, Haile Tegegne
- **Public Attendees:** Keemarr McKinney-Van Buren, Lisa Xiong, Farhiya Ali, Ahmed Mussa, Imaan Hassan

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 & Priorities • Equitable Outcomes Workgroup
2:05	Break
2:20	Workgroup Updates & Priorities (Continued) • Topics & Issues Workgroup • Legislative Workgroup
3:20	CECLC Retreat – Hotel Reservations
4:00	Adjourn Full Council Meeting

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and Introductions

Chris Green called the meeting to order. He led the council through a land acknowledgement and introductions.

Chris reminded council members about the Tribal-State Relations Training opportunity to more effectively engage the DHS Office of Indian Policy (OIP) and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) around Tribal Relations and addressing the needs of Urban Indian communities. Please contact Community Relations to register.

The remaining 2025 sessions have been posted.

- **September 25-26, 2025, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel in Prior Lake, MN (*waitlist*)**
 - Hosted by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- **October 22-23, 2025, Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomon, MN**
 - Hosted by White Earth Nation
 - Registration opens on September 3, 2025
- **November 5-6, 2025, Grand Portage Lodge in Grand Portage, MN**
 - Hosted by the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
 - Registration opens on September 3, 2025

Decisions Made

Review and approve July minutes and meeting agenda:

- Motion to approve meeting agenda and July minutes: Shawn Sorrell
- Second: Victor Obisakin
- The motion passed

Community Celebrations and Shoutouts

Chris Green opened the floor for members to share.

- 8/21/25 – Youth Family Circle Event by Youth & Family Circle (Farhiya Ali)
- 8/21/25 – Hybrid Session – CECLC Collective Impact on a Culture of Service at DHS – 10:30 – 12:30
- 8/25 – 8/29 – CHW Awareness.

Workgroup Updates

Legislative and Policy Workgroup

Dr. Joanna Rosa gave a presentation on the Equitable Health Care Task Force recommendations and encouraged council members to review and provide comments via the link provided in the meeting. This information and her

slide deck will be shared in the post-meeting email update. In addition, Julia Stumpf and Bilqis Amatus-Salaam from Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) were introduced and presented on the task force's background and purpose. It was established to ensure all persons in Minnesota can receive health care and coverage that is respectful and ensures optimal health outcomes.

Once comments are completed, the workgroup will compile them into a cohesive submission that CECLC members will vote on. If quorum is reached, the submission will be presented to MDH. Since the extended deadline is July 23, 2025, it is hoped that comments can be submitted by July 22, allowing members to vote and have the results sent out on July 23. Response from MDH, now MDH is analyzing feedback and comments, hearing back from MDH and will bring back to the council

Community Health Workers for our state on a national setting, externally connecting with various partnership, We Choose Us, recruiting more for the upcoming legislative session. Met with Amy Klobuchar on Medicaid and that went well. Upcoming next week with Tina Smith to bring our priorities to that space. [Communication toolkit / Minnesota Department of Human Services](#)

August 20 is the deadline for legislative proposals and are keeping an eye on that.

Topics and Issues Workgroup

The workgroup will request Resettlement Program Office (RPO) presentation slides for review and further discussion. An RPO representative will participate in workgroup meetings including the Topics and Issues Workgroup. A document is available for the members to look at and provide recommendations. The document is the first draft of the memo that was shared with the members. The committee requested other examples on these types of recommendation for other local areas that have the same type of recommendation or resources.

Next steps to find other organization to add to recommendation letter. Identify some other organization doing similar work to provide resources to do the work. Request to have Helen's team to rework the recommendation to bring back to the group for discussion and vote at the next meeting

Equitable Outcomes Workgroup

The workgroup requested feedback on barriers of attendance or being a member of the group. Wondering if it was the date and time which is monthly on Tuesdays at 3 pm. Members can provide feedback by using a QR Code. The workgroup and member discussed the charter and the equity tool to assist to request an equity analysis.

Administrative Update

DHS is currently seeking nominations for 2 co-chairs for the Council. Helen explained the process to the committee.

- Nomination will open today and remain open until August 29
- Communication will go out today on the process
- Terms will be 1-year term for one co-chair and 2-year term for the other co-chair

Candidates will be asked to respond to a list of questions. Helen and team will start collecting that information and it will be brought to the September meeting. Candidates will be shared at the September meeting and voted on at the retreat in September. Once the vote has been finalized, a memo will go to the Commissioner for appointment and hopefully by the October meeting we will have new co-chairs.

Retreat is September 12-13. Folks can check in on Thursday evening. Please use the room block which is open until September 5th. Rates are \$114.73 for a Non-Smoking King room. All are welcome.

Meeting adjourned at 3:29 PM