

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING
July 1, 2024
In-lieu of July 15, 2024
10:00 AM

PRESIDING: Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson
Honorable Germaine Simonson, Vice Chairperson

PLACE: Budget and Finance Conference Room (In Person)
Via Telecommunications:
Window Rock, NN (AZ)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; INVOCATION; ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting called to Order by Honorable Vince R. James Chairperson at 10:10 a.m. There were four (4) members present, and two (2) members absent when Roll Call was made by Karen J. Thompson, Legislative Assistant with Office of Legislative Services.

Honorable Members present: *Honorable Vince R. James (10:00 a.m.); *Honorable Dr. Andy Nez (10:00 a.m.); *Honorable George H. Tolth (9:15 a.m.); *Honorable Curtis Yanito (10:00 a.m.).

➤ Honorable Members not in attendance at the time of roll call:
Honorable Germaine Simonson (10:19 a.m.)
Honorable Helena Nez Begay (Absent)

The invocation was provided by Bobbie Baldwin, Executive Director, Navajo Veterans Administration

2. RECOGNIZE GUESTS AND VISITING OFFICIALS

- Honorable Speaker Crystalyne Curley
- Honorable Eugenia Charles Newton
- Honorable Norman M. Begay
- Please refer to the sign-in sheet

3. REVIEW AND ADOPT AGENDA

- Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor (HEHSC) read the proposed agenda into record.
- Amendment #1: Modify and rearrange the agenda by moving 7(A) Legislation 0106-24 to the new item #5(A)
- The second reading of the agenda was read into record by the Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor (HEHSC).

Motion by: Honorable Curtis Yanito

Second by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ/HNB)

4. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE JOURNAL(S): None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. **Legislation No. 0106-24:** An Action Relating to the Law and Order, the Health, Education, and Human Services, the Resources and Development, the Budget and Finance, and the Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Recognizing Navajo Nation Council Delegate Membership on the Tribal-Interior Budget Council and Establishing the Process for Selecting an Alternate Tribal Representative

Sponsor: Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton

Co-Sponsor: Delegate Crystalyne Curley

➤ Honorable Dr. Andy Nez entertained a motion for an amendment #1; Second by Curtis Yanito; with a vote of 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ/HNB).

Amendment #1 is as follows:

1. On page 1, line 13, delete ~~THE BUDGET AND FINANCE,~~
2. On page 1, line 14, delete, ~~AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL~~
3. On page 1, line 18, insert new paragraph as follows:

D. The Naabik'iyáti Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to coordinate all federal, county and state programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation government to provide the most efficient delivery of services to the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 701 (A)(4).

4. On page 2, line 8, delete paragraphs D through E as follows:

~~D. The Budget and Finance Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to review the annual budgets of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Services and other departments and agencies of the United States government and to recommend the approval and disapproval of such budgets. 2 N.N.C. §301(B)(11).~~

~~E. A proposed resolution requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned to the Naabik'iyáti Committee. 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(9).~~

~~F. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102 (A).~~

5. Renumber or re-letter succeeding paragraphs, sections, and exhibits, as necessary and appropriate. The Office of

Legislative Services and the Office of Legislative Counsel are authorized to make technical edits to this legislation and its exhibits to implement the intent of this legislation with the Amendment incorporated. This Amendment supersedes inconsistent language in previous amendment(s).

MAIN MOTION:

Motion by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Second by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ/HNB)

➤ Honorable George H. Tolth entertained a motion to suspend floor rules to rearrange the agenda by switching Receiving Reports as follows: item 7(A) to be the new 7(C) and 7(C) to be the new 7(A); Second by Curtis Yanito; with a vote of 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ/HNB).

6. RECEIVING REPORT:

A. Report - Update:

❖ Southwest Navajo Tobacco Education Prevention Project (SNTEPP)

Presenter(s): Hershel Clark, MPH, Program Manager; Southwest Navajo Tobacco Education

➤ Presenter was not in attendance

B. Update:

❖ Navajo Veterans Administration

Presenter(s): Bobbie Baldwin, Executive Director, Navajo Veterans Administration

➤ Executive Director Bobbie Baldwin to provide a written report regarding concerns regarding the cost and the contractor that will be moving the trailer for the veterans' family has been requested by Honorable George H. Tolth. The report should be emailed to Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor as soon as possible. In addition, Honorable Dr. Andy Nez request to reach out the Division of Social Services Executive Director Thomas Cody to assist the family.

Motion by: Honorable Curtis Yanito

Second by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ/HNB)

C. Report

❖ Exit Report *Executive Session may be requested.

Presenter: Debbie Nez Manuel, Former Division Director,
Division of Human Resources

- Honorable Curtis Yanito entertained a motion to enter into executive session at 1:09 p.m. for a duration of 15 minutes or longer, depending on how much time it will take; Second by George H. Tolth; with a vote of 02 in favor; 01 opposed; (Yeas: GHT/CY; Nays: AN; Not Voting: VJ/HNB/GS).
- Kristen Lowell, Legislative Council Attorney made it clear that this should be an Attorney-Client privilege meeting. Her representation is for the entire branch and Ms. Debbie Nez Manuel is no longer an employee of the Navajo Nation. Any future testimony given by Ms. Nez Manuel the Attorney-Client privilege will not protect Ms. Nez Manuel.
- ❖ OLC Attorney walked out of the HEHSC Meeting after a HEHSC member requested for a second opinion from another OLC Attorney. The OLC Attorney assigned to the committee did not retur. Honorable Vince James, Chairperson requested for another attorney to be assigned to the committee.
- Honorable George H. Tolth entertained a motion to exit executive session at 4:44 p.m.; Second by Curtis Yanito; with a vote of 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: AN; Not Voting: VJ/HNB).

Main Motion

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Second by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ/HNB)

7. OLD BUSINESS: None

8. CLOSE OF MEETING; ANNOUNCEMENTS; ADJOURNMENT NEXT MEETING(S) / TRAVEL:

- Monday, July 8, 2024 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting
- Monday - Friday, July 15 - 19, 2024 Navajo Nation Council Summer Session
- Monday, July 22, 2024 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting
- Monday - Friday, July 22 - 26, 2024 HEHSC Oversight Budget Hearings
- Monday, July 22, 2024 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting

➤ **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson announced the dates of the meetings from the schedule above. In addition to a possible postponement of the July 08, 2024, depending on Legal Counsel.
 - Angelita Benally, Advisor advised the Regular Meeting for July 22, 2024, has a conflict with the Budget Hearing. Suggested to the committee to conduct the regular meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and transition to the Special Budget Meeting at 1:30 p.m.
 - Honorable George H. Tolth - Invite Indian Health Service (I.H.S.) due to a concern with Gallup Indian Medical Center regarding providers leaving their employment. Need to know why this is happening. Would like to get I.H.S. on our next meeting.
 - Honorable George H. Tolth will get the information of the presenters by July 02, 2024, and notify Chair and advisor.
 - Honorable Eugenia Charles Newton emailed Chair and Honorable Speaker regarding the issues with Northern Navajo Medical. Why the contracts were not renewed, and no one is applying for the vacated positions.
 - Honorable Germaine Simonson requested to host a weekly meeting with DALTCS every Monday morning from 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (until all the issues have been resolved) to follow up on what are happening at the Senior Centers across the Navajo Nation. Start date Monday, July 22, 2024 to August 26, 2024.
- Honorable George H. Tolth motioned there was no further business, adjourned at 4:58 p.m.; Seconded by Honorable Curtis Yanito, the vote was 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ/HNB).