

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

SPECIAL MEETING  
September 4, 2024  
In-Lieu of August 26, 2024  
10:00 AM

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

**PLACE:** Law and Order Conference Room (In Person)  
Window Rock, NN (AZ)

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

Meeting called to Order at 10:15 a.m. by Honorable Germaine Simonson, Vice-Chairperson. There were four (4) members present, and two (2) members absent when Roll Call was made by Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor with Office of Legislative Services.

Honorable Members present: \*Honorable Germaine Simonson (10:00 a.m.); \*Honorable Dr. Andy Nez (10:00 a.m.); \*Honorable George H. Tolth (9:25 a.m.); \*Honorable Curtis Yanito (9:57 a.m.)

➤ Honorable Members arrived after roll call was taken:

Honorable Vince R. James (10:18 a.m.)  
Honorable Helena Nez Begay (10:18 a.m.)

➤ The invocation was provided by Honorable Otto Tso

**2. RECOGNIZE GUESTS AND VISITING OFFICIALS**

- Honorable Otto Tso
- Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie
- See attach sign-in sheet

**3. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE AGENDA**

➤ Angelita Benally, Legislative Adviser read the agenda into record

*Honorable Helena Nez Begay entertained a motion to amend the agenda by moving New Business 7 (A) and 7(B) as new item number 5(A) and 5(B); with a vote of 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ)*

The committee consented to add presenter: Elvira Teller to Receiving Report B.

Motion by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay  
Second by: Honorable Germaine Simonson  
Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;  
Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ)

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

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Legislation No. 0195-24: An Action Relating to the Law and Order Committee and the Health, Education and Human Services Committee; Approving Amendments to the Navajo Nation Child Support Guidelines and Child Support Schedule.

Sponsor: Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie  
Co-Sponsors: Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Delegate Andy Nez  
Delegate Curtis Yanito  
Delegate George H. Tolth

- Honorable Germaine Simonson, Pro Temp Chair
- Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor read the legislation into record.

**Main Motion**

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth  
Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay

Honorable George H. Tolth entertained a motion to **table** the Legislation for a duration of 90 days. The legislation is referred to the Navajo Department of Justice and the Department of Child Support Enforcement within the Navajo Division of Human Resources to re-assess the affordability and to update relevant information to the Child Support Guidelines and Child Support Schedule and thereafter, hold a work session for the Naabik'iyati Committee and subsequently conduct public hearings at each Navajo Nation Agency within the time frame; seconded by Honorable Vince R. James; with a vote of 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/VJ/AN/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not Voting: GS)

B. Legislation No. 0197-24: An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik'iyati' Committees; Approving Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation's Ownership of the Bodaway Gap Health Center and Associated Facilities, Including Staff Quarters and Related Infrastructure, Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 5324(f)(2)(A) and 42

C.F.R. § 137.371; and Approving Changing the Health Center's Name to "Echo Cliffs Health Center"

**Sponsor:** Delegate Otto Tso

**Co-Sponsors:** Delegate Casey Allen Johnson  
Delegate Helena Nez Begay

- Honorable Vince James, Presiding Chair
- Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor read the legislation into record.

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;  
Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ)

## 6. RECEIVING REPORTS:

### A. Report

- ❖ DPM to provide reports to HEHSC
- Reports at HEHSC regular meetings on the progress of implementing DPM goals.

**Presenter(s):** Charolette Bigthumb, Director, Department of Personnel Management  
Nathaniel Brown, Deputy Director, Division of Human Resources  
Reycita Toddy, Interim Director, Division of Human Resources

Honorable Germaine Simonson entertained a recommendation to DPM to continue reporting to the committee every other week.

Motion by: Honorable Germaine Simonson

Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;  
Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ)

### B. Report

- ❖ Navajo Veterans Administration
- ❖ FY2024 Budget update

**Presenters:** Bobbie Baldwin, Executive Director, Navajo Veterans Administration  
Elvira Teller, Sr. Housing Specialist and NHA Finance

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Second by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;

Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ)

**C. Report**

- ❖ NN Fleet Management
- ❖ Division of General Services
- ❖ Office of the President and Vice-President

**Presenters:** Raymond Holyan, Department Manager III, NN Fleet Management  
Shawnevan Dale, Division Director, Division of General Services  
Patrick Sandoval, Chief of Staff, Office of the President and Vice-President

Motion by: Honorable Curtis Yanito

Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay

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

**D. Report Update:**

- ❖ Navajo Area Representative for the Indian Health Service, National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup (NTBFW)
- ❖ Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee (DSTAC)

**Presenters:** Delegate Germaine Simonson, HEHSC Vice-Chairperson; DSTAC and NTBFW Navajo Area Representative Navajo Area Representative for the Indian Health Service, National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroup (NTBFW) and the Direct Services Tribes Advisory Committee (DSTAC)  
Sherylene Yazzie, Interim Division Director, Navajo Department of Health  
Michele Morris, Legislative Analyst, Navajo Department of Health

Motion by: Honorable Curtis Yanito

Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ)

**E. Report Update:**

- ❖ Navajo Area Representative on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Tribal Technical Advisory Committee (SAMHSA TTAC).

**Presenters:** Delegate Curtis Yanito, HEHSC Member; SAMHSA TTAC Navajo Area Representative Navajo Area

Representative on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Tribal Technical Advisory Committee (SAMHSA TTAC).

Dr. Michelle Brandser, Director of Navajo Behavioral and Mental Health Services; Navajo Department of Health

Michele Morris, Legislative Analyst, Navajo Department of Health

Motion by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay

Second by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;  
Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ)

**F. Report Update:**

- ❖ Navajo Area Representative on the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC)

**Presenters:** Delegate George Tolth, HEHSC Member; TLDC Navajo Area Representative Navajo Area Representative on the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC)

Dr. Paula Mora, Director, NAIHS Health Program  
Bernadine John, MsP Diabetes Nurse Consultant;  
IHS

Michele Morris, Legislative Analyst, Navajo Department of Health

Motion by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay

Second by: Honorable George H. Tolth

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

**7. OLD BUSINESS:**

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

- Monday, September 9, 2024 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting
- Monday, September 16, 2024 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting
- Monday, September 23, 2024 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting
- Monday, October 14, 2024 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting
- NNC Fall Session: October 21-25, 2024
- Monday, October 21, 2024 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting
- Monday, October 28, 2024 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Vince R. James

- May not be in attendance on Monday or Tuesday due to bereavement
- September 05, 2024, Elder day and 25<sup>th</sup> NNC Tent at the fair all week and weekend.

Angelita Benally

- October 14, 2024 - Holiday; Navajo Nation does not observe
- October 21, 2024 - First day of Fall Session. Will place on the next agenda to schedule an In-Lieu of Special Meeting.
- Should the committee travel to Tacoma, Washington; please confirm via email or text message.

Honorable Germaine Simonson motioned there was no further business, adjourned at 7:16 p.m.; Seconded by Honorable Curtis Yanito the vote was 04 in favor, 00 opposed (Yeas: HNB/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not Voting: VJ/AN).