

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

REGULAR MEETING

March 9, 2026
10:00 AM

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

PLACE: Budget and Finance Conference Room
Window Rock, NN (AZ)

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

Meeting called to order by Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson at 10:06 a.m. There were four (4) members present and two (2) absent when Roll Call was made by Karen J. Thompson, Legislative Assistant, OLS.

Honorable Members present:

*Honorable Vince R. James (10:02 a.m.); *Honorable Helena Nez Begay (10:02 a.m.); *Honorable Dr. Andy Nez (9:55 a.m.); and *Honorable George H. Tolth (8:35 a.m.).

Honorable Members not in attendance or arrived after the roll call was taken:

Honorable Germaine Simonson (11:05 a.m.) and Honorable Curtis Yanito (10:08 a.m.)

➤ The Invocation was delivered by Honorable George H. Tolth, Health, Education and Human Services Committee Member.

2. RECOGNIZE GUESTS AND VISITING OFFICIALS

➤ Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton (11:36 a.m.)

➤ Honorable Otto Tso (12:16 a.m.)

➤ Recognition of all committee members, staff, guests, and zoom participants.

➤ Consult the Sign-In Sheets for Committee Members and Visiting Guests of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

3. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE AGENDA

The Proposed Agenda for March 09, 2026, has been read into record by Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor/OLS.

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth
Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito
Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GHT/CY;
Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ/GS)

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

5. REPORT(S) :

A. Report: John Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health (JHCIH)
Navajo Area Indian Health Service Division of Sanitation
Facilities Construction (IHS DSFC)

- Home Assessment Initiative
- Community engaged methodology to identify and assess homes across the Navajo Nation that lack piped water and wastewater services.

Presenters: Crystal Austin, JHCIH Communications Director and
Co-Director of External Affairs
Marissa Begay, JHCIH Associate Director of
Operations for the Southwest Hub
Ashley Thacker, Community Principal Investigator,
JHCIH
Reese Cuddy, Project Manager, JHCIH
LT Alice Franco, IHS DSFC
CAPT Alan Parham, IHS DSFC
Paul Melstrom, IHS DSFC
Natalie Exum, Professor, JHCIH

- Honorable Vince R. James, Chair inquired if there are any objections to add Natalie Exum, Professor, JHCIH to Report 5(A) due to the modification of the motion to be incorporated into the amended version, with the agreement of the committee.

Motion by: Honorable Curtis Yanito
Second by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez
Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;
Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ)

6. OLD BUSINESS: None

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Reschedule: Leadership Meeting Date

Between the Navajo Area Indian Health Services Headquarters, Navajo Nation 638 Hospitals/Healthcare Facilities, Navajo Department of Health, and the Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

➤ Select a future Leadership Meeting date.

➤ The Health, Education and Human Services Committee has scheduled a Leadership Meeting with Theresa Galvin and Indian Health Services for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, with the location to be determined. Additionally, the committee has identified Monday, March 23, 2026, as a potential alternative date, depending on the availability of the venue. This may involve a limit on Reports and/or Legislation during the Regular Meeting, with the Leadership Meeting commencing after the Regular Meeting adjourns.

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: VRJ)

B. Schedule a follow-up work session with the Division of Human Resources, Department of Personnel Management to continue the review of the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies.

➤ Select a future work session date.

➤ The Health, Education and Human Services Committee requests that the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Personnel Management be added to the work session agenda on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for the next Regular Meeting on Monday, April 13, 2026, to provide updates following their discussion with the Navajo Advisory Commission on Disabilities.

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: VRJ)

C. Schedule a work session at the request of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Advisory Council.

- Select a future work session date.
- CO-53-25: An Action Relating to Law and Order Committee, Health, Education and Human Services Committee, Naabik'íyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Navajo Nation Veterans Act at 2 N.N.C. §§ 1032 through 1036; Relating to the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration and Veterans Advisory Council; and Establishing Agency Veterans Organizations, and Chapter Veterans Organizations

The Health, Education and Human Services Committee has scheduled a Leadership Meeting with the Veterans Advisory Council for 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 30, 2026, in the Budget and Finance Conference Room in Window Rock, Arizona. Additionally, Honorable George H. Tolth has requested an invitation to Ms. Bobby Baldwin, Executive Director of the Navajo Veterans Administration, Christopher Schneider, Principal Attorney Navajo Nation Department of Justice, and Tim Johnson, Office of the President and Vice-President, Veterans Representative.

Motion by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez
 Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay
 Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;
 Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ)

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

- Tuesday, March 10, 2026 9:00 am HEHSC Leadership Meeting; Insurance Services and DOJ; Vehicle Review Board and Fleet Management. Budget and Finance Conference Room, Window Rock, NN (AZ)
- Monday, March 16, 2026 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting; Budget & Finance Conference Room, Window Rock, NN, (AZ).
- Monday, March 23, 2026 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting; Budget & Finance Conference Room, Window Rock, NN, (AZ).

Announcements:

- Honorable Germaine Simonson has requested to schedule a meeting for March 23rd to hear a report from DALTCS, which is overseen by Division Director Sherylene Yazzie. Candace Yazzie from the Division of Community Development will provide an update on the Senior Center facilities. This will be a joint report presented to the oversight committee. We will also include input from NDOH to discuss their budget, as there are concerns regarding the budget in her Delegate region. It would be helpful for them to address these budget issues, along with other concerns. Additionally, I would like to receive a report on the Special Diabetes Program. During the HEHSC committee meetings and Council sessions, we have not received any updates from this program, which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Mental and Behavioral Health.

- Receive a report from Clarinda Begay, Legislative Financial Advisor with the Office of the Speaker, concerning the budget of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

Honorable Germaine Simonson motioned there was no further business, adjourned at 1:20 p.m.; Seconded by Honorable Helena Nez Begay, with a vote of 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ)