

**Journal of the  
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**March 16, 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)

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

Meeting called to order by Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson at 10:09 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 OLS.

**Honorable Members present:**

\*Honorable Vince R. James (10:02 a.m.); \*Honorable Dr. Andy Nez (10:01 a.m.); \*Honorable Germaine Simonson (10:02 a.m. via zoom); and \*Honorable Curtis Yanito (10:01 a.m.).

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

Honorable Helena Nez Begay (10:15 a.m.) and \*Honorable George H. Tolth (10:40 a.m. via zoom)

- Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson noted that the Health, Education and Human Services committee will use the Invocation provided this morning.

**Announcements:**

- Honorable Curtis Yanito indicated he will be attending meeting in Utah starting tomorrow, regarding the watershed with the Utah Water Users in St. George. On Wednesday, March 18, 2026, I will be attending meeting in Cedar City, Utah.

## 2. RECOGNIZE GUESTS AND VISITING OFFICIALS

- 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 16, 2026, has been read into record by Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor/OLS.

- Honorable Vince R. James, Chair inquired if there are any objections to add two Journals February 23, 2026, Regular Meeting and February 26, 2026, Special Meeting to the agenda under 4. Review and Adopt the Journal(s). Also, there is a minor correction in Reports 5(C) from Saye Sorrell to Faye Sorrell to be incorporated into the modified agenda, with the agreement of the committee.

Motion by: Honorable Curtis Yanito

Second by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

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

## 4. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE JOURNAL(S) :

- February 23, 2026 Regular Meeting
- February 26, 2026 Special Meeting

Motion by: Honorable Curtis Yanito

Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay

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

## 5. REPORT(S) :

**A. Report:** Tsehootsooi Medical Center;  
Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board, Inc.

- FY23 Annual Report
- FY23 Financial Audit
- FY24 Annual Report
- FY24 Financial Audit

**Presenters:** Annual Reports for FY23 and FY24

Dr. Naomi Young, Chief Executive Officer,  
Tsehootsooi Medical Center, FDIHBI  
Dr. Roger Begay, Chief Medical Officer  
Sharon Edison, Chief Nursing Officer  
Netrisha Dalgai, Chief Quality Services  
John Willeto, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gary Pahe, Chief Human Resource Officer  
Commander Leah Earl, Chief Healthy Living &  
Outreach  
Christine Becenti, Chief Finance Officer  
Brandon Benallie, IT Security

**Presenter for Financial Audits for FY23 & FY24**

Lauren Kistin, CPA, Baker Tilley

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

**B. Report:** Division of Aging and Long-Term Care Support  
(DALTCS)

Navajo Department of Health

- Program Update
- Program Budget Overview

**Presenters:** Sherylene Yazzie, Acting Director, NDOH  
Leonora Henderson, Director DALTCS  
Melody Roanhorse, Administrative Service Officer  
Sharilyn Tsosie, Senior Accountant

- Honorable Dr. Andy Nez, Chairperson Pro Tempore

Motion by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez  
Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito  
Vote: 03 in favor; 01 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/GS/CY;  
Nays: GHT; Not voting: VRJ/AN)

**C. Report:** Navajo Special Diabetes Program  
Navajo Department of Health

- Update Program Report
  - Recommendations from the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee Recommended process for the distribution of

Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) funds for diabetes treatment and prevention services and increased access to quality diabetes care to the Navajo Nation.

**Presenters:** Sherylene Yazzie, Acting Director, NDOH  
Radeanna Comb, Program Manager III  
Faye Sorrell, Assistant - Special Diabetes Project

➤ Honorable Dr. Andy Nez, Chairperson Pro Tempore

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

**D. Report:** Behavioral and Mental Health Services Navajo Department of Health

➤ Update Program Services Report

**Presenters:** Sherylene Yazzie, Acting Director, NDOH  
Vera John, Health Systems Administrator (HSA)

➤ Honorable Dr. Andy Nez, Chairperson Pro Tempore

➤ Honorable Germaine Simonson entertained a motion to defer item 5(D) regarding the Behavioral and Mental Health Services-Navajo Department of Health until the next regular meeting on Monday, April 13, 2026, at the Navajo Department of Health Conference Room; Seconded by Honorable Helena Nez Begay. The vote was 03 in favor; 01 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS; Nays: CY; Not voting: VRJ/GHT).

**6. OLD BUSINESS:** None

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Schedule** a follow-up ~~work-session~~ Leadership Meeting 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~~ Leadership Meeting date.

➤ The Health, Education and Human Services Committee agreed to hold the Leadership Meeting on Tuesday, April 07, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., at the Navajo Department of Health Conference Room, Administrative Building #2, First Floor, Window Rock, (NN) Arizona.

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

➤ The Health, Education and Human Services Committee agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Monday, April 06, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., in-lieu of Monday, April 20, 2026, which is the first day of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Spring Session.

Motion by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay  
Second by: Honorable Germaine Simonson  
Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/CY;  
Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ/GHT)

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

- Monday, March 23, 2026 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting;  
(Navajo IHS; Navajo 638  
Administrators; NDOH) NDOT  
Conference Room(s)
- Monday, March 30, 2026 9:00 am HEHSC Leadership Meeting  
with Navajo Veterans  
Administration Advisory  
Council. Budget & Finance  
conference room, Window  
Rock, NN, (AZ).

Honorable Curtis Yanito motioned there was no further business, adjourned at 2:51 p.m.; Seconded by Honorable Germaine Simonson, with a vote of 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/CY; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ/GHT)