

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

SPECIAL MEETING

January 22, 2026
in-lieu of January 26, 2026
9:00 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 9:00 a.m. There were five (5) members present, and one (1) member absent when Roll Call was made by Karen J. Thompson, Legislative Assistant with OLS.

Honorable Members present:

*Honorable Vince R. James (8:58 a.m.); *Honorable Dr. Andy Nez (8:58 a.m.); *Honorable Germaine Simonson (8:15 a.m.); *George H. Tolth (8:00 a.m.); and *Honorable Curtis Yanito (8:43 a.m.).

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

Honorable Helena Nez Begay (Absent)

The Invocation was delivered by Honorable Curtis Yanito, Health, Education and Human Services Committee Member.

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 January 22, 2026, has been read into record by Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor/OLS.

- Honorable Vince R. James, Chair inquired if there are any objections to adding three presenters to Report 5(A) due to the modification of the motion to be incorporated into the new, amended version, with the agreement of the motioning parties.

The following presenters have been added:

Trudy Chee, Shelter Manager, UNHS

Richard Hendy, Director of Behavioral Health, UNHS

Larissa Jackson, Chair - Board of Directors, UNHS

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

4. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE JOURNAL(S) :

- November 24, 2025 HEHSC Regular Meeting

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

5. REPORT(S) :

A. Report: Utah Navajo Health Systems, Inc. - Montezuma Creek, UT

- Legislation 0268-25: *An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Approving and Adopting the Navajo Nation 2026 State of New Mexico Legislative Priorities*
- Amendment to include Utah Navajo Health System, Inc. Northern Treehouse Domestic Violence Women and Children Shelter in Shiprock, NM as a Navajo Nation priority.
- Present a HEHSC support letter to the New Mexico State Legislature to fund the operations of the Northern Treehouse Domestic Violence Women and Children Shelter in Shiprock, NM.

Presenters: Michael Jensen, CEO; Utah Navajo Health Systems, Inc. (Available by Zoom.)
Trudy Chee, Shelter Manager, UNHS
AJ Bitsouie, Victim Services Shelter Administrative Support Specialist; UNHS
Richard Hendy, Director of Behavioral Health, UNHS
Larissa Jackson, Chair - Board of Directors, UNHS
Wilfred Jones, Board of Directors, Utah Navajo Health Systems, Inc.

- The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee requests that the letter of support be sent to Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor, no later than Friday, January 30, 2026.

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

6. OLD BUSINESS:

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Reschedule Monday, February 16, 2026 (Observed NN and Federal Holiday - President's Day.)
 - Select Special Meeting date in-lieu of February 16, 2026.

Presenters: HEHSC Members

- The Health, Education and Human Services Committee agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in-lieu of Monday, February 16, 2026, which is a federal holiday (Presidents' Day).

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

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

- Monday, January 26, 2026 Navajo Nation Council Winter Session Commences
- Monday, February 9, 2026 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting;

B&F Conference Room,
Window Rock, NN, (AZ).

- Monday, February 16, 2026 Observed NN and Federal Holiday - President's Day

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Andy Nez announced that the Health, Education and Human Services Committee has arranged a Leadership Meeting with Theresa Galvin and Indian Health Services at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026, and this meeting is not included in the list of upcoming meetings.

Honorable Curtis Yanito motioned there was no further business, adjourned at 10:12 a.m.; Seconded by Honorable George H. Tolth, with a vote of 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ/HNB)