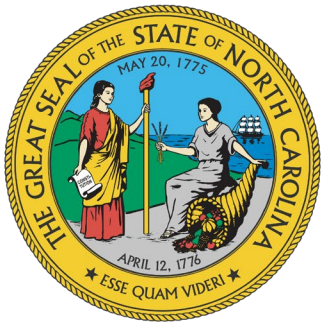


NC Minority Health Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting

Office of Minority Health &
Health Disparities (OMHHD)

September 14, 2026



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**



Welcome and Member Roll Call

Sandie B. Leathers, MPH

Public Health Data and Communications Manager | OMHHD



Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome

- Dr. Portia Pope, Director

2. Health Portfolio Updates

- Debra Farrington, Deputy Secretary

3. Role of Minority Health Advisory Committee (MHAC), Bylaws and Election of Officers

- Dr. Portia Pope, Director

4. Oct 1. Medicaid & Community Health Updates

- Carolina Siliceo Perez, Senior Strategy and Community Partner Engagement Manager

5. Office of Minority Health Updates

- DeNita Nash, NC Minority Diabetes Prevention Program

6. Questions / Closing Remarks

Meeting Objectives

1. **Enable MHAC members to better understand how NCDHHS and OMHHD function to eliminate health disparities and serve the people of NC.**
2. **Leverage the expertise of MHAC members to inform and support NCDHHS priorities related to addressing health disparities and provide a call to action for member involvement, feedback and input.**

Communication Considerations



Use the chat to ask questions. A meeting facilitator will read your question aloud to the group if there is time after each presentation section. If there is not time, there is a dedicated discussion time reserved for the end of the presentation.



Use the chat to provide insight or ideas during the presentation. All feedback and comments are welcome as the speakers present.



There is a dedicated **floor discussion** time later in this meeting.



If you come off mute to speak, please **state your name and affiliation** for the group before sharing.

NCDHHS and Health Portfolio Updates

Debra Farrington, MSW, LCSW
NCDHHS Deputy Secretary for Health



Role of MHAC, Bylaws and Election of Officers

Dr. Portia Pope, Director
NCDHHS OMHHD Director



THE MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MHAC)

The Minority Health Advisory Council (MHAC) was established by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1992, via public law HB1340, Part 24, Section 166 (d 130A-33.34-44). MHAC is a statutorily established advisory council to the Governor and Secretary of NCDHHS and is administratively supported by OMHHD.

Mission & Purpose

- Reduce health disparities through advocacy and equity-focused recommendations.
- Advise the Governor and NCDHHS Secretary on policies, programs and strategies impacting minority health.
- Identify gaps in laws, regulations, services, access, financing and prevention strategies affecting minority communities.

Membership & Structure

- 15 members including **legislators, community leaders and health professionals** from across NC.
- Appointments made by the **Governor, Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate**.

Why MHAC Matters

MHAC ensures community perspectives and expert advice directly inform state leadership on health equity policy and systems change — strengthening the state's ability to address persistent disparities affecting historically marginalized populations.

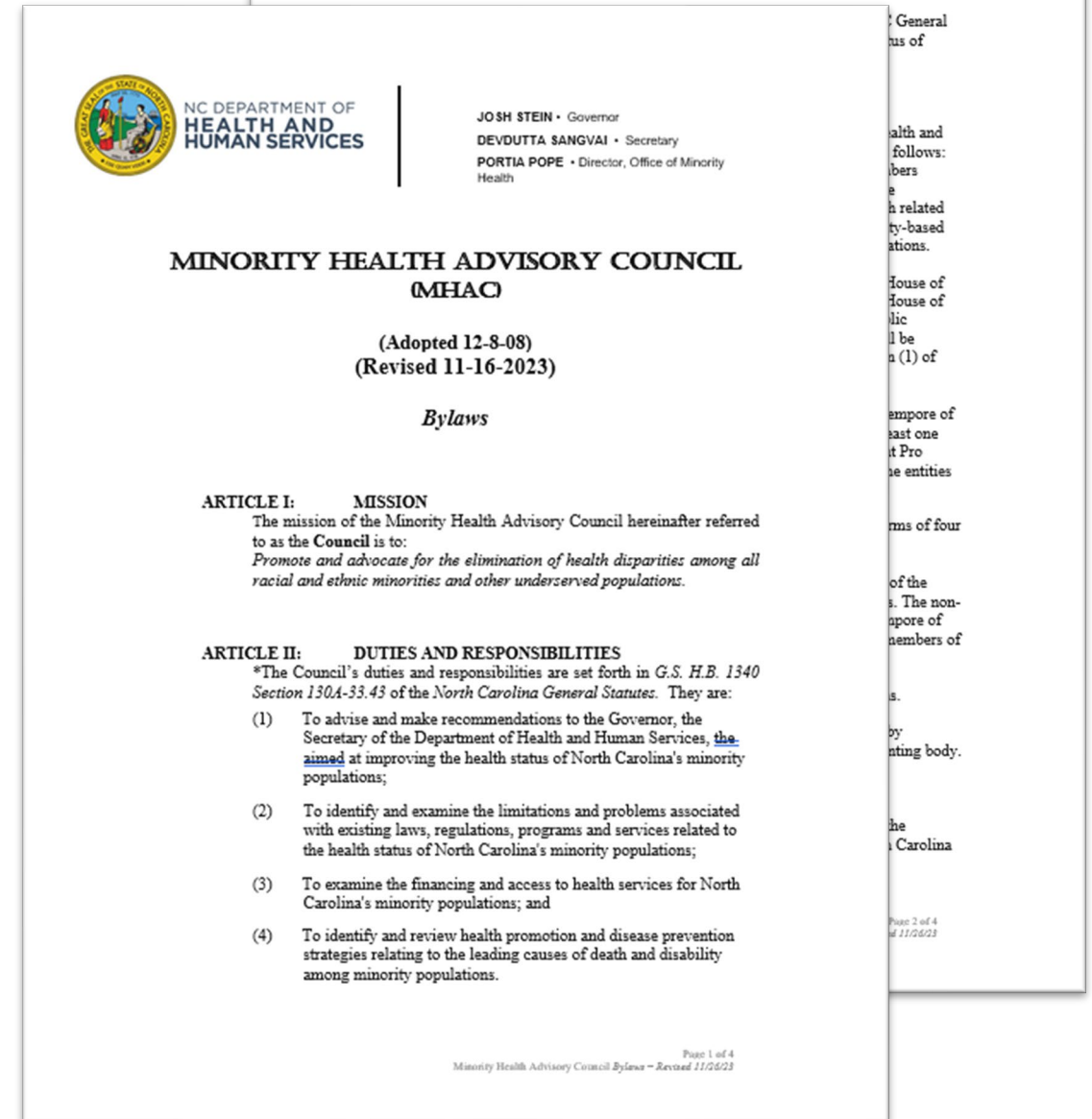
MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The following is a current (9/4/2026) list of Minority Health Advisory Council members. The 15 members of the council are appointed by the NC Senate, Governor, and NC House of Representatives.

Key		
Governor	House of Representatives	Senate
COUNCIL MEMBERS	COUNCIL MEMBERS	COUNCIL MEMBERS
Dr. Gary R. Gunderson Health Related Agency Representative Appointment 10/15/2026	Dr. Lawrence R. Wu Public Member Representative Appointment 7/1/2026	Dr. Catherine Evans Appointment 7/1/2024
Dr. Gabriela Marie Plasencia Public Health Representative Appointment 10/15/2026	The Honorable Donna M. White Member of the NC House of Representatives Appointment 7/1/2026	The Honorable Gladys A. Robinson Member of the NC Senate Appointment 7/1/2024
Dr. Cherry Maynor Beasley Community-Based Organization Representative Appointment 10/15/2029	The Honorable Carla D. Cunningham Member of the NC House of Representatives Appointment 7/1/2026	Brenda J. Smith Public Member Appointment 7/1/2024
Dr. Ronny A. Bell Human Services Agency Representative Appointment 10/15/2029	The Honorable Donyel B. Barber Health Care Provider Representative Appointment 7/1/2026	Dr. Olugbemiga E. Jegede Appointment 7/1/2024
Dr. Natasha Adams-Denny Health Care Provider Representative Appointment 10/15/2027	Dr. Sankar N. Adusumilli Public Health Representative Appointment 7/1/2026	VACANT

MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (MHAC) BYLAWS

- **Bylaws** act as an internal constitution or playbook. They generally cover written rules for how it is structured and governed.
- Explains
 - **who has authority;**
 - **how decisions are made;**
 - **how the organization conducts its business.**
- Especially important before electing officers
- Establish the rules for *which officers exist, what their responsibilities are, who can serve, how elections happen, and how long they serve.*



MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (MHAC) BYLAWS

Decisions & Updates Before the Council in the Bylaw Review

- Current NC MHAC bylaws call for a Chair and Vice Chair
- Does the Council wish to add additional Officers?
- Does the Council wish to add committees?
- Council Meeting will be moving to Roberts Rules of Order to follow Parliamentary procedure for meetings



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

JOSH STEIN • Governor
DEVPUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary
PORTIA POPE • Director, Office of Minority
Health

MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
(MHAC)

(Adopted 12-8-08)
(Revised 11-16-2023)

Bylaws

ARTICLE I: MISSION

The mission of the Minority Health Advisory Council hereinafter referred to as the Council is to:
Promote and advocate for the elimination of health disparities among all racial and ethnic minorities and other underserved populations.

ARTICLE II: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

*The Council's duties and responsibilities are set forth in G.S. H.B. 1340 Section 130A-33.43 of the North Carolina General Statutes. They are:

(1) To advise and make recommendations to the Governor, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, the aimed at improving the health status of North Carolina's minority populations;

(2) To identify and examine the limitations and problems associated with existing laws, regulations, programs and services related to the health status of North Carolina's minority populations;

(3) To examine the financing and access to health services for North Carolina's minority populations; and

(4) To identify and review health promotion and disease prevention strategies relating to the leading causes of death and disability among minority populations.

Page 1 of 4
Minority Health Advisory Council Bylaws - Revised 11/16/23

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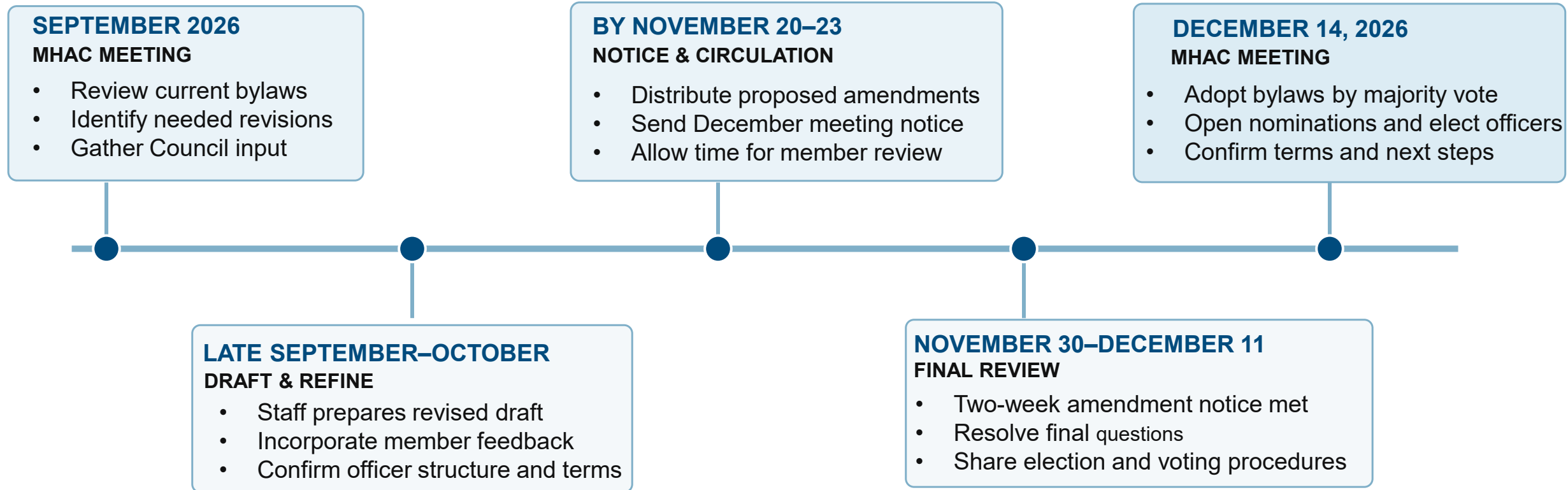
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Page 2 of 4
11/16/23

GOVERNANCE: BYLAWS & ELECTION OF OFFICERS - TIMELINE

PROPOSED GOVERNANCE SEQUENCE



Timing is proposed based on MHAC Bylaws, Articles VI, VII, and XI; confirm final dates and administrative review requirements with the Chair and staff.

Office of Minority Health Updates

Portia D. Pope, Ph.D., MPA, PMP, LSSGB, NCCM, IMH-E
Director, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities



Office of Minority Health Required Responsibilities

Minority Diabetes Prevention Program

- Leads oversight and management of the MDPP to prevent prediabetes by expanding screenings, increasing enrollments, and delivering evidence-based lifestyle change opportunities. Direct program implementation statewide through outreach, risk screening and structured 12-month lifestyle classes, reaching over 48,000 participants last year.
- Operationally, the program is delivered by contracted health and community organizations.

Data and Evaluation

- Collects, analyzes and interprets quantitative and qualitative data to identify health disparities, monitor trends and evaluate program effectiveness. Uses findings to inform data-driven policy and funding decisions aimed at improving health outcomes. Develops and publishes comprehensive reports, population profiles, briefs, and fact sheets and designs and builds dashboards to enhance data accessibility and transparency for public and stakeholder use.

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards Health Literacy and Promotion

- Provides statewide leadership in health literacy, promotion, messaging and implementation of National Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards.
- Develops and disseminates health information through social media, website content, toolkits, one-pagers, fact sheets, data briefs and published reports. Establishes guidance, delivers training and provides technical assistance to strengthen communication practices and support the adoption of CLAS standards across diverse populations statewide.

Community Health/ Community and Partner Engagement

- Leads community-centered engagement efforts to build partnerships, coordinates resource sharing and addresses health disparities across North Carolina, benefiting diverse populations statewide. Convenes and supports statewide initiatives to strengthen collaboration and expand access to health resources and services.

Latinx Policy and Strategy

- Leads Latinx policy and strategy efforts to ensure state policies and programs reflect and respond to the needs of Latinx communities by advising government leaders, engaging communities directly, improving access to health care and language services, supporting the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs, collaborating across departments and coordinating Spanish-language media outreach to strengthen awareness of programs and services serving the state's 1.24 million Latinx population.

Office of Minority Health Strategic Priorities

ACCESS TO CARE Priority Objective	Description	Initiatives
1.1) Expand diabetes prevention services statewide by increasing access in unserved and underserved communities experiencing higher rates of diabetes and prediabetes	Ensure effective administration and oversight of MDPP state appropriations, including contract management, performance monitoring, and fiscal accountability. Expand MDPP services into unserved counties using Rural Health Transformation (RHT) funds to increase program availability and participation. Increase access to the MDPP program for underserved populations using NACDD/CDC funding.	• State MDPP Implementation. • Expansion Implementation for new services in 12 counties. • Enroll duly eligible Medicaid & Medicare beneficiaries Statewide in the MDPP. • Continuous quality improvement implementation for overall statewide services. • 17 contracts and 4 trained contract managers-NCCM.
1.2) Strengthen statewide implementation of CLAS Standards by providing training and technical assistance and language access support to health and community organizations across the state.	Provide training on National CLAS Standards- National CLAS Standards are guidelines that help health care organizations provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to improve health access, communication and quality of care for diverse populations.	• Deliver training, technical assistance and capacity building to strengthen health care system capacity and strengthen staff awareness by delivering culturally responsive care across the state specifically in rural counties [hospitals, FQHCs, non-profit organizations, health departments].

Office of Minority Health Strategic Priorities

ACCESS TO CARE	Description	Initiatives
Priority Objective		
1.2) Advance health disparities data collection, analysis, aggregation, surveillance and reporting to inform statewide priorities and improve health outcomes.	This priority focuses on advancing the collection, aggregation, analysis, surveillance and reporting of health disparities data to better understand population health trends, identify gaps in outcomes and access and inform statewide public health priorities.	• Develop a data collection framework in preparation for the next NC Health Disparities Report, working with cross-divisional data teams (target publish date: 2028). • Develop health disparities dashboards to visualize population health trends, outcomes, access gaps, geographic variation and program reach to support reporting and planning. • Produce data briefs and related products to communicate key findings and support focused strategies.
1.4) Engage the MHAC's leadership, input, and guidance to advise on minority health priorities, develop policy recommendations and statewide public health strategies.	NCDHHS Minority Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) is a body that provides guidance, expertise, and recommendations to the Department on issues related to minority health and health disparities in North Carolina.	• To develop a report of findings and policy recommendations for the Secretary of NCDHHS to inform minority health and health disparities policies.

Office of Minority Health Strategic Priorities

ACCESS TO CARE & SUSTAINABLE WORKFORCE Priority Objective	Description	Initiatives
1.4) Enhance cross-agency and external partnerships to improve coordination and trusted community engagement statewide.	Work collaboratively across the department and external partners to strengthen culturally and linguistically responsive services and expand trusted community engagement that improve outcomes for all North Carolinians. Strengthen interdivisional collaboration to improve coordination, resource alignment, and program impact statewide.	• Spanish language PSA, social media campaigns, CAFICETOS, training with Latin American Consulates, training for CHWs, provide technical assistance to farm worker initiatives and DPH's vital records. • Full implementation of the Memoranda Of Agreement (MOA) with Medicaid • Engage minority populations, including American Indian communities through health events, education, outreach, access to care activities and connections to health resources across the state. • Increase engagement with faith-based and nontraditional partners to expand health out-reach, education and access to care events.
3.2) Strengthen operational excellence through staff training to ensure consistent implementation, accountability, and effective use of data for reporting, dashboards, and program improvement.	Strengthen organizational performance by expanding staff training and professional development in data analytics, contract management, and system implementation.	• Workforce development initiative with UNC, AHEC, and NC State to build staff skills in data analytics, visualization and storytelling. • Increase NCCM-certified staff from 1 to 4. • Expand CDC-recognized lifestyle coach certifications to ensure fidelity in MDPP implementation. • Leverage ServiceNow Customer Relations Management (CRM) tool and Tableau to improve coordination and visibility.

THE NATIONAL CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY APPROPRIATE SERVICES STANDARDS

Federal framework that helps organizations provide services that are respectful, understandable, and responsive to people's cultural and language needs. Recent CLAS trainings were conducted with:

- Duplin Co. HD
- Pitt Co. HD
- Cumberland Co. HD (9-county region)
- Faith Action International (Community-based Org)
- Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern NC (Community-based Org)
- Cone Health Systems
- NC Division of Aging and Adult Services - Health and Wellbeing Workgroup
- NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Hearing
- NC Division of Public Health
- Health Communities Four Regional Teams
- #ImpactEquity - Community Health Impact Assessment (CHIA) Workgroup
- NC Minority Diabetes Prevention Program
- NC Division of Social Services
- UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health



Presenting to the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary in October on the National Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards.

COMMUNITY HEALTH & PARTNER ENGAGEMENT (CPE)

OMHHD uses a community-centered engagement approach as a catalyst for operational excellence, serving as a convener, connector and ambassador for internal divisions and external partners.

WHAT THE PROGRAM DOES

Emphasizes bi-directional engagement, trust-building, shared planning, and sustained collaboration tailored to community needs.

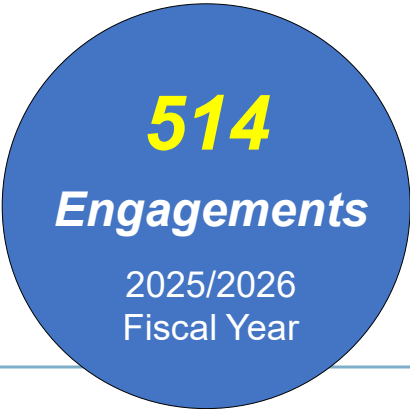
CORE GOALS

- Building Connections
- Sharing & Learning Together
- Providing Resources
- Lifting Community Voices

KEY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND NETWORKS

HMP Connections Network Meeting (Virtual)

Cafecito Spanish-Language Townhall



WHY IT MATTERS

CPE strengthens collaboration, ensures community voices are centered in decision-making, and drives engagement-focused action across health systems and programs.

COMMUNITY HEALTH & PARTNER ENGAGEMENT JULY 2025- JUNE 2026

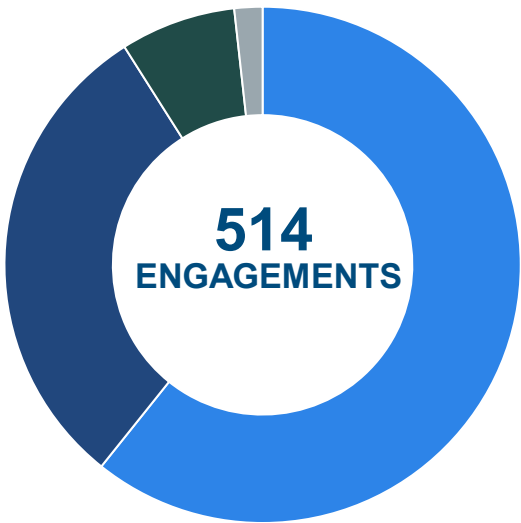
TOTAL EVENTS / ENGAGEMENTS

514

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

29K

ENGAGEMENT MIX



CATEGORIES

Engagement	60.74%
Access to Care	30.27%
Consultation & Tech Assistance	7.23%

The remaining 1.76% is retained in the chart as an unlabeled remainder from the source graphic.

Division of Health Benefits (NC Medicaid) Community Engagement Updates

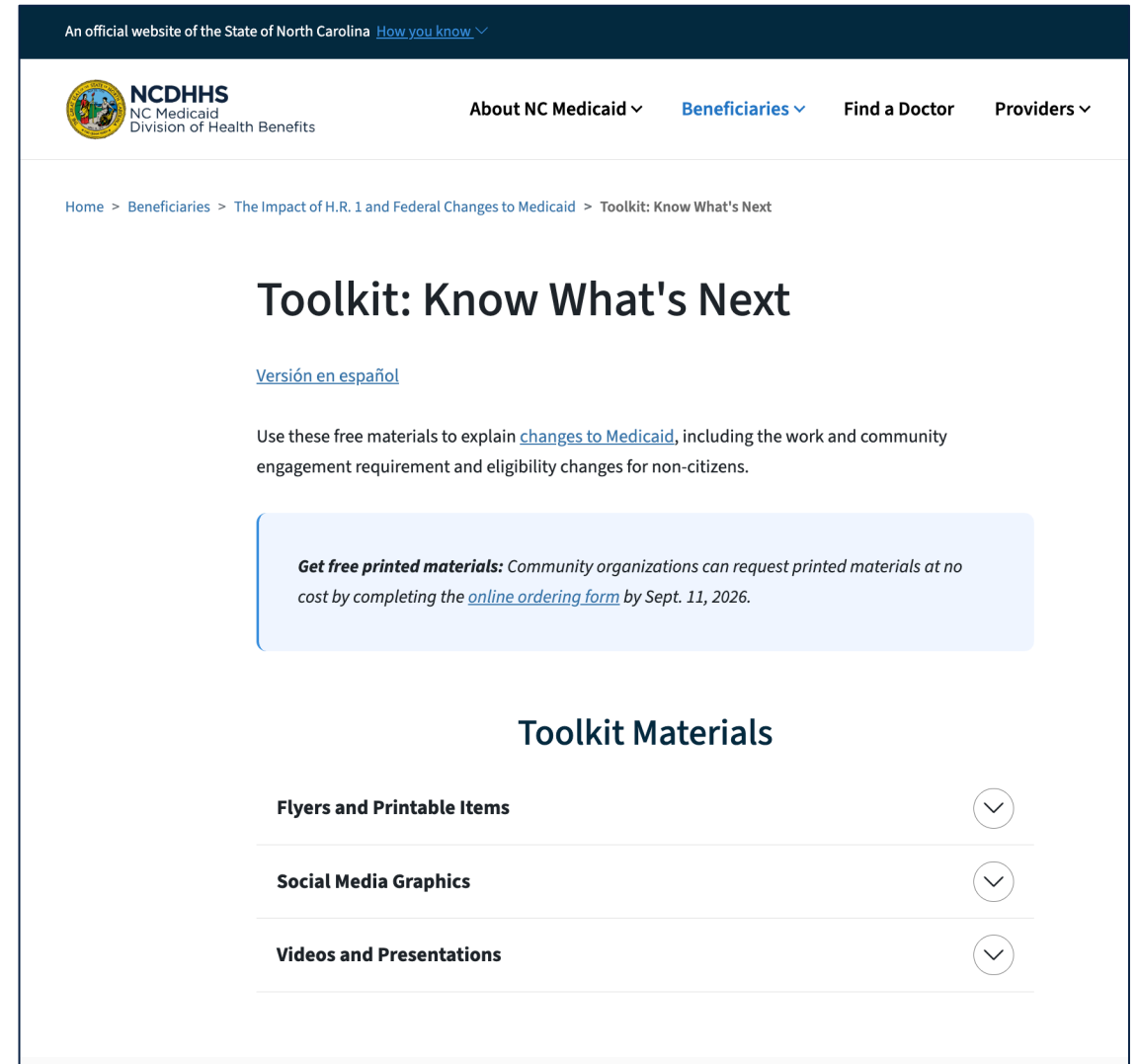
**Carolina Siliceo Perez, Senior Strategy and Community
Partner Engagement Manager**



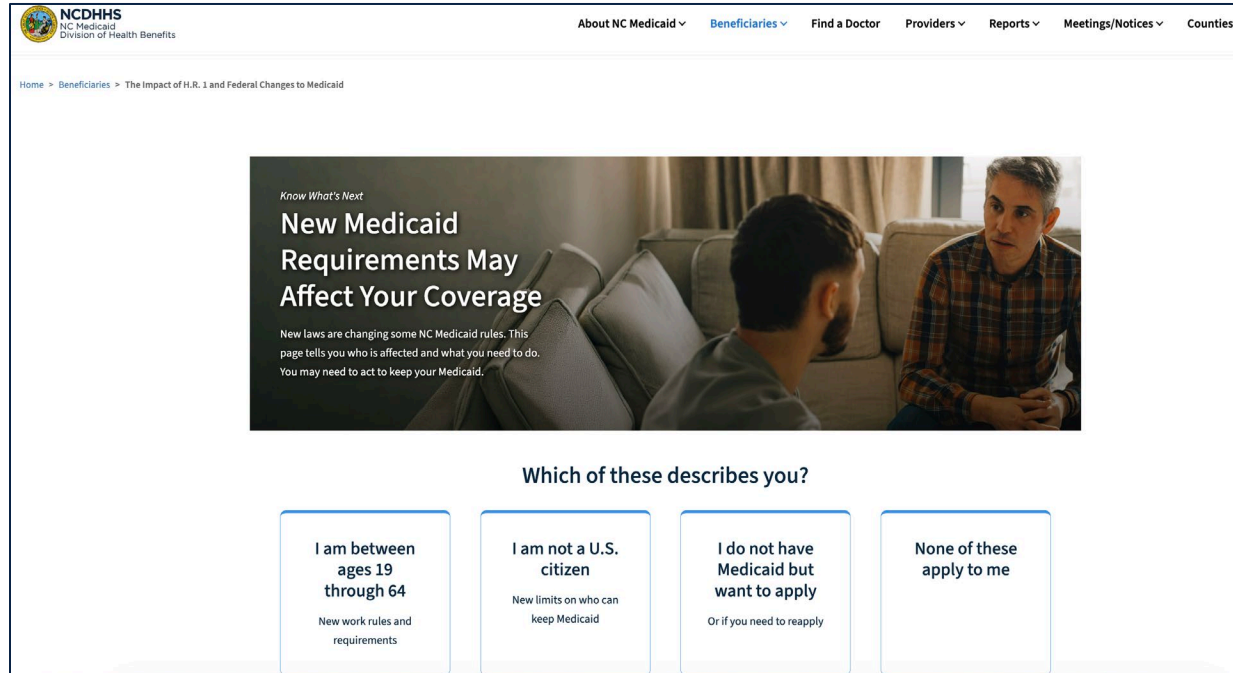
NC Medicaid “Know What’s Next” Communications Toolkit

The *Know What’s Next* Toolkit has been provided by the NCDHHS Division of Health Benefits to help communities understand upcoming changes to NC Medicaid.

- Ready-to-use materials in English and Spanish.
- Designed to help people understand what is changing and what they can do now.
- Available at [Medicaid.nc.gov/changes](https://www.Medicaid.nc.gov/changes) and [Medicaid.nc.gov/cambios](https://www.Medicaid.nc.gov/cambios)



NC Medicaid “Know What’s Next” Communications Toolkit



The toolkit covers two major dates for upcoming changes to coverage:

- **Oct. 1, 2026**
 - Changes to Medicaid eligibility for some non-U.S. citizens.
- **Jan. 1, 2027**
 - New work and activity requirements for many adults ages 19–64.
 - Most adults with Medicaid expansion will renew every 6 months instead of once a year.

How to Use the Toolkit

Materials are available in English and Spanish, and include:

- Flyers: More detail for people who want to understand the changes
- Rack card: Quick information people can pick up and take home
- Wallet card: Key information for one-on-one interactions
- Social media posts: Ready-to-share graphics and copy
- Tele-Town Halls: Fireside Chat & [Cafecito](#) now available on YouTube

Put the toolkit where people already are:

- Post flyers in waiting rooms, community spaces and break rooms.
- Display rack cards where people can easily pick them up.
- Hand out wallet cards at appointments and events.
- Share social posts through your organization's channels.
- Talk with people about the changes and direct them to their local DSS or available community resources.

 **NCDHHS**

Cafecito: Una conversación virtual en español



NUEVAS REGLAS PARA NCMEDICAID:

Infórmate sobre lo que viene

Martes 25 de agosto de 6 a 7 p.m. ET



Carolina Siliceo Perez, MLAS
Gerente directiva de Estrategia,
Participación y Colaboración
Comunitaria, NCDHHS

Jennifer Platts
Especialista en
Comunicaciones
NC Medicaid

Rodrigo Medinilla
Navegador de beneficios
de NC, *Charlotte Center
for Legal Advocacy*

Envíanos tus preguntas durante el evento en vivo:

    (855) 756-7520 Ext.134949#

Se proporcionarán subtítulos de traducción en tiempo real de acceso a las comunicaciones (CART).



Help Spread the Word!

Community organizations can help people:

- Understand whether changes may affect them
- Take steps now to prepare
- Find trusted, up-to-date information
- Avoid missing important notices or deadlines

Download the toolkit: [Medicaid.nc.gov/changes](https://www.Medicaid.nc.gov/changes) in English and [Medicaid.nc.gov/cambios](https://www.Medicaid.nc.gov/cambios) in Spanish

Order materials by September 11, 2026, to receive them by late September



https://share.hsforms.com/1fkXQHtmvQ7-f_gCiX6BbCw5bzii

NC Medicaid is Changing. Know What's Next

New federal rules start on January 1, 2027.

Most adults ages 19-64 without a disability will need to work, go to school or volunteer for 80 hours each month to keep Medicaid, or earn at least \$580 per household each month. This is called the work and community engagement rule.

If you do not meet the new requirements, you may lose full Medicaid benefits.

This includes coverage to go to doctors or dentists, get prescriptions or receive mental health care.

Does this apply to me?

Some people will not have to meet the new work and community engagement rule. For example, you may not have to meet the new rules if you:

- Are a parent, guardian, caretaker relative or family caregiver for a child under age 14 or a person with a disability
- Have been determined by NC Medicaid as having a disability yourself
- Are pregnant or were pregnant in the last 12 months

There are many exceptions. If you are not sure, contact your local Department of Social Services (DSS). Find out whether the new rules apply to you at [medicaid.nc.gov/changes](https://www.Medicaid.nc.gov/changes)

What is changing?

If this rule applies to you, and you do not qualify for an exception or exclusion, starting January 1, 2027, you will need to do one of the following each month:

- Earn at least \$580 per household each month
- OR
- Complete 80 hours of approved activities per household

Approved activities can include:

- Working at a job or for yourself
- Doing an internship
- Being in a work training program
- Some kinds of unpaid work
- Going to school at least half-time
- Volunteering or doing community service

You can combine any of the approved activities. This means your 80 hours can be made up of work, school and volunteering.

H.R.1 TRAIN THE TRAINER

OMHHD and DHB are currently working in partnership to identify CPE members interested in participating in the **H.R. 1 Overview Train the Trainer session**.

Participants in this training will:

- Receive instruction on delivering an overview of H.R. 1
- Be expected to present this information within their community
- Be required to attend one full Train the Trainer session

Questions or comments

please email Medicaid.NCengagement@dhhs.nc.gov

If interested, complete the [H.R. 1 Train the Trainer Interest Form](#)



Additional Provider Resources

- NC Medicaid Website medicaid.ncdhhs.gov includes County and Provider Playbooks.
- Regular Medicaid Bulletins medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/providers/medicaid-bulletin
- NC Medicaid Managed Care Webinar Series (Back Porch Chat)
 - **Nov. 19, 2026, noon – 1 p.m.**
- NC Medicaid Quarterly Virtual Office Hours
 - **Nov. 5, 2026, noon – 1 p.m.**

For more information, see the [Training page](#) in the [Provider Playbook](#).

NC Minority Diabetes Prevention Program (NC MDPP) Updates

DeNita Gail Murdock Nash, M.Ed., NCCM
NC Minority Diabetes Prevention Program



NC MDPP FY 26 Year End Reach

STATUS OF PROGRAMMATIC GOALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026		
Program Annual Goals Total for Fiscal Year 2025-26	Status Update as of 5/31/26	Progress
1,365 people screened for prediabetes	4,743 people screened for prediabetes	Goal exceeded
410 people enrolled into NC MDPP	562 people enrolled into NC MDPP	Goal exceeded
32 NC MDPP 12-Month Lifestyle Class series	49 NC MDPP 12-month Lifestyle Class Series	Goal exceeded
9 Community Conversation Events	36 Community Conversation Events	Goal exceeded
8 Living Well Events	9 Living Well Events	Goal met

FY 25-26 JLOC Report is in progress.

NC MDPP Expansion Updates

RHTP Region 7

Award: \$25,000 to expand services to Haliwa-Saponi Tribe members.

Updates

- Contract has been executed.
- Meetings with the Tribe in progress to review MOA.

NACDD

Award: \$90,000 to expand services to dual-eligible Medicare-Medicaid enrollees.

Updates

- Participating regions have been identified.
- Services expected to begin in the next few weeks.

RHTP

Region 8: \$195,105 to re-establish Region 8 (Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, Pender, Sampson, Robeson, New Hanover, and Onslow counties).

Updates

- Contract has been executed.
- Kickoff meeting Monday, September 14th.

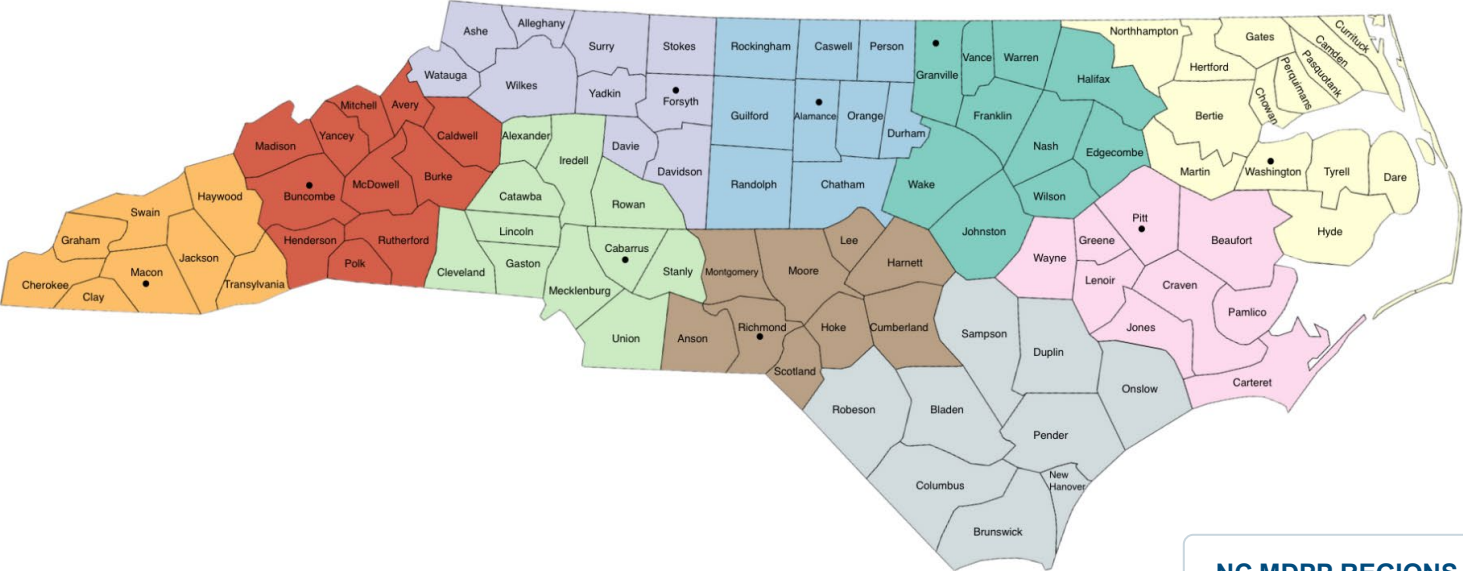
NCDHHS HOSTS PREDIABETES SCREENING EVENT FOR EMPLOYEES

- NCDHHS hosted a free employee prediabetes screening event as part of multiple **Screen Across NC** events held statewide through the NCMDPP to increase awareness of prediabetes and help more North Carolinians understand their risk for developing type 2 diabetes.
- 46 employees received free, confidential A1C screenings, representing a diverse cross-section of the NCDHHS workforce. Some participants traveled from other work locations, came in on their day off or attended after working a late-night shift, demonstrating a commitment to taking charge of their health.
- Attendees also heard from Frankie Sanchez of Granville-Vance Public Health, who delivered a presentation: Know Your Risk. Take Control: Preventing Type 2 Diabetes Across North Carolina. Her presentation inspired several attendees to volunteer for an A1C screening afterward.



NC MDPP REGIONS & CONTACT LOCATIONS

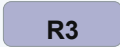
County coverage, lead contact points, and regional web resources



NC MDPP REGIONS

 Region 1	 Region 6
 Region 2	 Region 7
 Region 3	 Region 8
 Region 4	 Region 9
 Region 5	 Region 10

REGIONAL CONTACT POINTS

-  **R1** MountainWise
-  **R2** YMCA of WNC · Community Health
-  **R3** Forsyth County Health Department
-  **R4** Cabarrus Health Alliance - Kannapolis
-  **R5** Alamance County Health Department
-  **R6** FirstHealth Community Health Services
-  **R7** Granville-Vance Public Health
-  **R8** YMCA Southeastern NC - Wilmington
-  **R9** Martin-Tyrrell-Washington HD
-  **R10** Pitt County Health Department

REGION 8 CONTACT UPDATE

Bridget Carroll · Director of Community Health
YMCA of Southeastern North Carolina - Wilmington

NC MDPP CONTACT DIRECTORY · REGIONS 1–5

County coverage from the NC MDPP field-map spreadsheet; contact details from linked program pages or the Region 8 update

REGION 1

MountainWise / Macon County Public Health

COUNTIES: Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Transylvania, Cherokee

CONTACT: Agustin Britt · agustin@mountainwise.org · 828-349-2456

WEB: mountainwise.org/mdpp

REGION 2

YMCA of Western North Carolina + ABIPA

COUNTIES: Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Henderson, McDowell, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Yancey

CONTACT: Laura Richardson · Lrichardson@ymcawnc.org 828-575-2922

WEB: ymcawnc.org

REGION 3

Forsyth County Public Health

COUNTIES: Alleghany, Ashe, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin

CONTACT: Kasey Wilkie · 336-703-3219 · wilkiekl@forsyth.cc

WEB: co.forsyth.nc.us

REGION 4

Cabarrus Health Alliance - Kannapolis

COUNTIES: Alexander, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, Union

CONTACT: Casey Brown 704-920-1304 Casey.brown@CabarrusHealth.org

WEB: minorityhealth.hhs.gov/diabetes

REGION 5

Orange County Health Department

COUNTIES: Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Durham, Guilford, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham

CONTACT: Greg Schiltz · gschiltz@orangecountync.gov · 919-245-2481

WEB: orangecountync.gov

NC MDPP CONTACT DIRECTORY · REGIONS 6–10

County coverage from the NC MDPP field-map spreadsheet; contact details from linked program pages or the Region 8 update

REGION 6

FirstHealth Community Health Services

COUNTIES: Anson, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Scotland

CONTACT: Samantha Allen 910-715-6271 SEAllen@firsthealth.org

WEB: minorityhealth.hhs.gov/diabetes

REGION 7

Granville-Vance Public Health

COUNTIES: Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Johnston, Nash, Vance, Wake, Warren

CONTACT: Frankie Sanchez · Fsanchez@gvph.org · 252-492-7915 ext. 125

WEB: gvph.org

REGION 8

YMCA of Southeastern North Carolina

COUNTIES: Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender, Robeson, Sampson

CONTACT: Bridget Carroll, Director of Community Health · 910-251-9622 ext. 273 · 910-385-9678 mobile · bridget.carroll@ymcasenc.org

WEB: ymcasenc.org

REGION 9

MTW Minority Diabetes Prevention · Region 9

COUNTIES: Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington

CONTACT: Miranda Keel 252-793-1663 Miranda.keel@mtwdh.org

WEB: facebook.com/MTW-Region-9

REGION 10

ENC Prevent Diabetes

COUNTIES: Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Pitt, Pamlico, Wayne, Wilson

CONTACT: Laquelia Lewis (Pitt County) · laquelia.lewis@pittcountync.gov · 252-902-2466

WEB: encpreventdiabetes.com

Community Health & Partner Engagement

Carolina Siliceo Perez, MLAS

Senior Strategy and Community Partner Engagement Manager



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT & INNOVATION OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

HELENE RESPONSE LATINX WORKING GROUP | OCTOBER 2024–MAY 2025

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH • EMERGENCY RESPONSE PARTNERS

THE CHALLENGE

Spanish-speaking and immigrant communities faced barriers to timely emergency information, recovery resources and public assistance.

141,537

Hispanic and Latino Residents affected

8.11% of the Impacted Population

THE RESPONSE

A centralized bilingual communication structure connected Latinx and Hispanic community leaders with government and emergency response partners.

40

Partners and Agencies Aligned

17 Coordination Sessions

THE IMPACT

The initiative improved the speed, accuracy and cultural responsiveness of recovery information and resource navigation.

136,000

Individuals Reached

Stronger Trust and Coordination

WHAT WILL CONTINUE

Embed language access, trusted community partnerships, and centralized communication into routine emergency response.

First Bilingual Conference on Maternal & Child Health in the Latina Community



Dando a Luz: A Bilingual Conference on Maternal & Child Health in the Latina Community **October 2, 2026 | Raleigh, North Carolina**

A Statewide Partnership
OMHHD • PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy • Wake AHEC • Council
for Women of DOA

Conference Focus - Building a unified statewide message to:

- Improve maternal health outcomes
- Prevent stillbirths
- Expand fair access to culturally competent, high-quality care

Intended audience

Physicians, physician assistants, nurses, community health workers, doulas, public health and health care professionals, and community members serving underserved Latina/Latinx/Hispanic communities and families

State of the State Session at the 4th Annual Black Maternal and Infant Health Conference

4th Annual Black Maternal & Infant Health Conference

October 7, 2026 | Winston-Salem, North Carolina

OMHHD will be presenting with the NC Perinatal Health Strategic Plan one the **State of the State**

2026 Conference Theme - *Sacred Bodies, Broken Systems: Reimagining Black Maternal and Infant Health*

Featured Keynote - **Michelle Browder**
Creator of the *Mothers of Gynecology Monument*

Hosted in partnership with **the Black Pearls Society** and **North Carolina Area Health Education Centers (NC AHEC)**, the conference will bring experts and community voices together to advance action and improve outcomes for Black mothers, infants, families, and communities.

BLACK PEARLS SOCIETY 4TH ANNUAL

BLACK MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH CONFERENCE



SACRED BODIES, BROKEN SYSTEMS:
Reimagining Black Maternal and Infant Health

SPEAKERS:

 Keynote MICHELLE BROWDER	 Panelist DR. JONISHA BROWN	 Panelist JAMILLA WALKER	 Panelist MONICA BROWN	 Panelist KIERA HEREFORD
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WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 7, 2026
8 A.M. - 3:15 P.M.



WINSTON SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY
ALBERT H. ANDERSON JR. CONFERENCE CENTER
1545 REYNOLDS PARK RD,
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27110

Come connect, learn and be part of a collective movement toward more equitable, inclusive care and healthier communities!

For more information & registration:

 www.northwestahec.org/78080

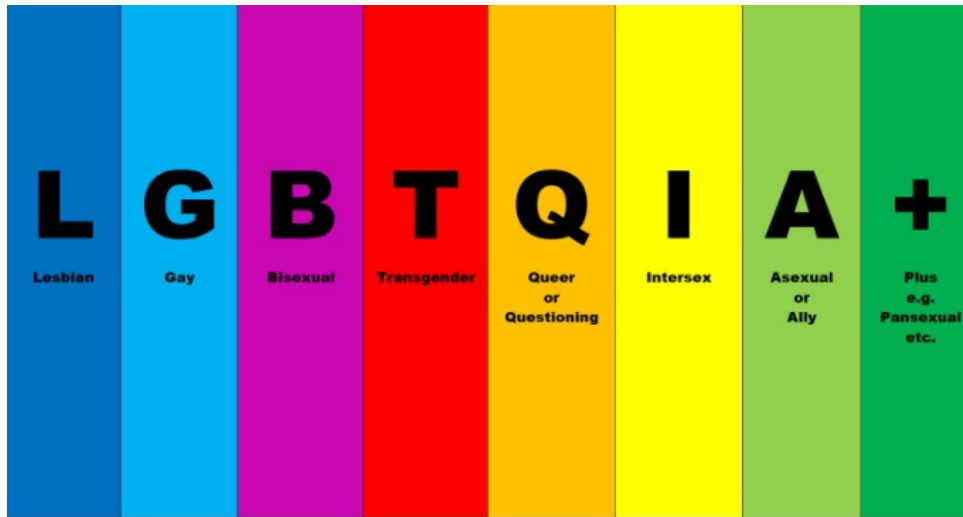




Upcoming Latino LGBTQIA+ Mental Health Conference

This conference will highlight the disproportionately high rates of anxiety, depression and suicidality driven by minority stress.

It will also emphasize cultural revitalization and family acceptance as key protective factors, while advancing actionable improvements in the cultural competency of behavioral health providers.



Partners:

- ☐ LILA – Latinx LGBTQIA+ Initiative
- ☐ OMHHD – NCDHHS
- ☐ Division of Mental Health Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services – NCDHHS
- ☐ El Futuro
- ☐ Alianza Américas
- ☐ Alianza Latina Pro Educación en Salud (ALPES)

Any Questions, Comments or Feedback?

Open Discussion



Closing Remarks

Contact Us:

- Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities:
 - OMHHD@dhhs.nc.gov
- Dr. Portia Pope, Director, OMHHD:
 - Portia.D.Pope@dhhs.nc.gov

Resources:

- [Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities Website](#)
- [Health Portfolio Website](#)
- [Community & Partner Engagement \(CPE\) Website](#)
 - [CPE Resources Page](#)
- [MHAC Website](#)

NC Minority Health Advisory Council Post-Session Survey



[Link to survey](#)

Thank you!



**Next NC Minority Health Advisory Council Quarterly
Meeting – December 16, 2026 at 5pm**