

Minutes- Health Equity Commission Meeting

Meeting Details:

Date & Time: Dec 16, 2025 ; 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Location: Zoom

[Public webpage and materials](#)

Join by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89146930915?pwd=V3YxRkNoNzk2MUlwTDdyWHFpTIJXUT09>

Meeting ID: 891 4693 0915; **Passcode:** health2025

Join by phone: 719-359-4580; **Meeting ID:** 891 4693 0915; **Passcode:** 5453817885

Commissioners: *Community (10):* Dindi Gaines, Tina Gonzales, Oswaldo Grenardo, Seyanna Hitt, Ola Kukoyi, Nhu-Minh Le, Sky Patron, Jacquelyn Stanton, ~~Shawn Turk~~ (co-chair), Melanie Wasserman; *State agencies (12):* Sara Blumenthal, Aaron Green, ~~Sena Harjo~~ (co-chair), Alexis Harper, Sandy Ho, Tracy Marshall, ~~Gillian McKnight-Tutein~~, ~~Lacy Monday~~, Marsha Nelson, ~~Aisha Rousseau~~, Jill Hunsaker Ryan (ex-officio), ~~Megan Yonke~~; *Legislative (2):* ~~Rep. Lorena Garcia~~; ~~Sen. Iman Jodeh~~

DAWG Subcommittee Commissioners: Sara Gallo, Tina Gonzales (co-chair), Aaron Green, Sandy Ho, Nhu-Minh Le, Sky Patron (co-chair)

SB-181 Subcommittee Commissioners: Marsha Nelson (co-chair), ~~Gillian McKnight-Tutein~~, ~~Lacy Monday~~, ~~Aisha Rousseau~~

Staff: Arlen Zamula, Beck Furniss, Elijah Ayers, Jesus Rodriguez-Serrano, Kimberly Blackhorse, Lynda Saignaphone, ~~Phuonglan Nguyen~~, Rachel Bryan-Auker, Robert McComb, ~~Sheryl Emery~~, ~~Solace Kent~~, Dorah Labatte, ~~Cyril Bennouna~~, Anne Hill, ~~Megan Comer~~, ~~Meredith Davis~~, ~~Jerad Kozey~~, Ned Calonge, Chris Wells

Interpreters: Elijah Ayers (ASL/CDPHE), Terri Hayes (ASL), Tonya Johnson (Spanish/CDPHE), Diego Pons (Spanish/CLC)

Guests: Vuela for Health, Gyedi Project, Youth Health Care Alliance, Denver Indian Health and Family Services, Tri County Food Bank of the Rockies, Mountain Youth, La Clinica Del Pueblo, The Good Food Collective, Lisa Ciazza, Madison Homuth,

Agenda Topics

- I. HEC Subcommittee: SB-181 (3:00 - 3:30 PM)
 - A. OHE presented the form that will be sent to the state agencies to report updates on their SB 21-181 strategies and measures. The form will be sent out 12/17/25 and will be due 1/16/26.

All public comments must be registered on the [website](#) at least 24 hours before the HEC meeting.

- B. Commissioner Ho expressed they liked the simpleness and cleanliness of the form.
- C. Subcommittee's final adjournment; members are included in other subcommittees for 2026.

II. HEC Subcommittee: DAWG (3:30 - 4:00 PM)

- A. Commissioner Green stated that the Privacy Statement looked great. Commissioner Ho agreed.
- B. Chris Wells expressed that the excerpt that is highlighted as a "possible inclusion" should be included.
 - 1. Commissioners Green, Ho, Le, and Patron agreed with keeping the excerpt in the privacy statement.
- C. Q: Commissioner Gaines asked in the chat- "Any verbiage associated with AI use protection?"
 - 1. A: CDPHE explained this is complex. There is a state AI policy, which has several protections about decision making and human in the loop activities. At this point, it is unclear if the federal executive order would preclude the ability to put that in place. CDPHE recommended not putting additional language on the statement until we have additional clarification.
- D. Q: Commissioner Patron asked if we could provide additional clarification on how systems are protected and which government personnel have access to the data so that people know what is happening with their data. They added that there is mistrust between communities and government, specifically the LGBTQ+ community, and more information would be helpful.
 - 1. A: CDPHE responded that we can add specific information but that will make the document long. CDPHE will look for ways to reference these issues without expanding the statement too much. CDPHE added that we abide by Colorado State policies (OIT), maybe referring to those could be a good overarching set of policies instead of getting into the weeds on the protections for each system.
- E. Q: OHE asked if there was a way to hyperlink this information into the document without having to refer back to them explicitly.
 - 1. CDPHE referred to the data modernization committee to see whether a more complex statement would fall in their purview.
 - 2. CDPHE suggested thinking through this a bit more as there might be implications on data safety if there is too much information on data protections.
- F. OHE asked commissioners to provide feedback directly in the documents shared so that there can be active dialogue in the actual text once updated text has been provided.
- G. Overview of deliverables:
 - 1. Death Registry and Misclassification
 - a) The Tribal relations unit has been working closely with the vital statistics team to develop training for internal health department staff and



external mortuary providers, outreach to mortuary providers (CDPHE has good connections but not regulators), and outreach to national vital statistics and tribal epidemiology centers. Commissioners Green, Ho, Le, and Patron expressed interest in an abridged version of this being presented to the DAWG in February 2026.

2. Data Privacy Statement
3. Clarify AI/AN terminology (eg. Two-Spirit vs. Queer)
 - a) OHE will invite Elton Naswood, Executive Director of the two spirit center to have a conversation with us about better understanding these terms and caveats.

III. HEC General Meeting (4:00 - 5:00 PM)

A. Opening and Operations

1. Commissioner Ho made a motion to nominate Commissioner Green as stand in co-chair for this meeting per bylaws Article VI Section 2a. 12 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

B. SB-181 Equity Strategic Plans Update

1. As mentioned in the subcommittee meeting there was a review of the process and during next year's HEC meetings, each state agency will provide a 10 minute update on their progress.
2. Updates should speak directly to the completion of milestones & measures for each strategy.
3. In advance of these updates, OHE will be sending each agency a tailored Google form on 12/17/25. Responses will be due on January 1/16/26.

C. 2025 Year in Review

1. OHE highlighted all the hard work the HEC completed in 2025 including:
 - a) HEC Operations
 - (1) Filled all 24 seats on the Commission
 - (2) Established a 2025 Work Plan
 - (3) Attended 2 HEC Retreats and Updated Bylaws
 - (4) Participated in multiple presentations with OHE on the health equity report and SB 21-181 state equity strategic plans.
 - (5) The Health Disparities Community Grant Program (HDCGP) grantee conference and strengthened partnerships with grantees
 - (6) Launched the SB 21- 181 State Equity Strategic Plan
 - (7) Advised on the next Health Equity Report that focuses on rural health and will be launched in June 2026.

D. Grants Updates

1. Update provided about HDCGP portfolio including:
 - a) Review of statute
 - b) Grantees, budgets, locations, program overview, bottlenecks and accomplishments
 - c) Highlight of 6 grantees



2. In the comments: Grantee appreciated how bottlenecks and accomplishments were shared
 3. Q: Commissioner Gonzales- How to ensure long term sustainability after grant ends
 - a) OHE A: This is something we will ensure in future RFAs. We will consider long term sustainability of individual grantees/projects and the program overall. In addition - we want to see grantees feel successful along the way. We look at short- and medium-term wins and think through relational change, structural change, and longer term transformative change as it relates to SDoH. These tools will help grantees to be successful in searching for additional funds.
 4. Q: Commissioner Le - what does technical assistance and capacity building look like for grantees? Infrastructure is important to maintain sustainability
 - a) OHE A: With the August EO, we shifted training and technical assistance and evaluation internally in order to prioritize grantees and ensure that they have the funds that they need (reduction lowered to 2.5%). Currently we are focusing on the evaluation component and have put in substantial work over the last few months to ensure evaluation is successful. In addition to this, OHE offers grantees peer to peer learning, fireside chats, encouraging closer collaboration with grantees. OHE wants to build partnerships and intersection between grantees.
 - b) Starting in potentially February we would like to start OHE Office Hours. Ask specific questions to grantees about what they would like from us in terms of support, and how we can support their evaluation and development of metrics.
 5. Commissioner Harper stated that the presentation on grantee wins in 2025 was very informative. She added that she is glad to have an outline of all the hard work from grantees.
- E. Public Comment
1. Rachel Landis (Grantee from the Good Food Collective) expressed gratitude for the support from OHE.

Next Meeting Date Jan 20, 2026